



MICHIGAN'S PREMIER MOTORCOACH CONNECTION
BETWEEN EAST LANSING, ANN ARBOR,
BRIGHTON & DETROIT METRO AIRPORT



e-news

SEPTEMBER 2022



Dion Frischer

Revealing Our Second Contest Winner

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In April, we launched our “Great Connections 2.0” essay contest with a chance to win a \$500 gift card top prize, or one of five \$100 gift cards as runner-up prizes. (Of note: We notify each winner in the month their entry is to be published.) Nearly 175 passengers submitted short stories about how Michigan Flyer connected them with a special person, place, or adventure. Last month, we announced the [first \\$100 award winner](#). We'll continue sharing their entries, saving the top award for last.

This month it's Dion Frischer of Ann Arbor, Mich., who during the pandemic transitioned from in-person French courses to remote classes. “I'd been an

exchange student in France when I was in high school, and being able to practice the language online practically saved my life during that difficult time.” She credits her “phenomenal” teacher for paving the way to the unique experience she talks about below, and hopes to revisit France once again. “It's the one thing on my bucket list.”

Michigan Flyer's contest is not the first she's ever entered. She was once a finalist in the Pillsbury Bake-Off™ for her orange almond chocolate mousse--and has won other cooking contests. “I saw last month's winner and thought I didn't win—that they'd all been notified. So, it was a big surprise.” She plans to use her \$100 Amazon

gift card to buy kitchen items for someone moving from a shelter into a more permanent home. Dion, who frequently uses Michigan Flyer, still keenly remembers her first time on board. "I was amazed when I got on the bus. The drivers were so friendly and helpful. The seats were so comfortable, and there was WiFi! Plus, the price is so affordable." Here's her entry:



Dion Frischer and friend Ginette at the restaurant

A French Review

By Dion Frischer

"At the age of 72, I decided to take an adult French class after not having studied or spoken French for 50 years. I rediscovered my passion for that language, so when the teacher brought in a representative from a French immersion language school in Quebec City, I decided to spend a week at that school the following summer. To improve my language skills even more, I decided to lodge in the home of a woman named Ginette, who spoke only French and who became a delightful friend. I decided to use Michigan Flyer-AirRide to get to Detroit Metro for my flight to Quebec because I knew from experience that it was

extraordinarily convenient and comfortable in comparison to driving to the airport. Using Michigan Flyer also saved me \$100+ over the fee for airport parking. When I got to the language school, I learned that they had just initiated a student talent show for the last day of each session. I had also taken up tap dancing 'in my old age,' so I decided that it would be fun to pay for a private tap lesson in French from a dance studio in Quebec City. So, with the \$100+ I saved by using Michigan Flyer, I managed:

1. To take Ginette out for an authentic Quebec meal to thank her for hosting me.
2. To wow everyone at the student talent show with a tap dance that my teacher had choreographed to a Quebec folk tune."



Travel Alerts

Ann Arbor's Blake Transit Center Bypassed on U-M Football Saturdays

If you're planning a Saturday trip with Michigan Flyer-AirRide between Ann Arbor and East Lansing or Detroit Metro Airport this fall, please know that on U-M home football game Saturdays some of our runs will bypass the BTC on the way to and from the airport. This will affect some of our runs before, during, and after the following home games:

Sept. 24: U-M vs. Maryland, **Noon**

Oct. 15: U-M vs. Penn State, **TBA**

Oct. 29: U-M vs. Michigan State, **TBA**

Nov. 12: U-M vs. Nebraska, **TBA**

Nov. 19: U-M vs. Illinois, **TBA**

However, please note that some Michigan Flyer-AirRide runs will continue to stop at the BTC on these days. It's easy to find out which ones: Just check the "**Book a Trip**" feature on our [website](#).

New Nonstop DTW Flights to Phoenix on Frontier Airlines

Starting this November, low-fare carrier Frontier Airlines will begin new daily nonstop service between Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). Using a sample Thanksgiving trip that departs Detroit at about 7 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, and returns at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26, we found roundtrips readily available at \$350—and with nonstop flights each way!

Just be aware that this carrier offers passengers “the ability to customize travel to their needs and budget.” This means that adding one checked bag and ticket refundability to the free personal item allowed could bump up your overall cost by about \$160. Still, Frontier’s many options are well worth exploring.

D2A2 Expands Weekend Express Service Between Detroit and Ann Arbor

The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan has announced that its Detroit-to-Ann Arbor Express Bus (D2A2) has doubled its weekend trips. The [new D2A2 weekend schedule](#) provides eight round trips between the two communities from 7:30 a.m. to midnight. The added trips give Ann Arbor-area residents more access to downtown Detroit’s dining, entertainment and cultural venues on Saturday and Sunday.



DTW is Now Part of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program

Any passenger with a physical, mental or neurological disability that may not be obvious can now choose to discreetly identify themselves at Detroit Metro Airport by wearing a Sunflower lanyard or wristband. The Sunflower symbol alerts airport workers that special attention or additional assistance may be needed.

The [Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program](#) is recognized by more than 160 airports worldwide. DTW customers who would like to obtain a Sunflower lanyard or wristband should email Community Outreach Manager Matt Virost at matthew.virost@wcaa.us. Note that the program

doesn’t give passengers priority in lines, and travelers must still notify their airline if they need a wheelchair or other accommodations. Also, you can request assistance at TSA screening checkpoints or by calling the TSA Cares helpline ([855-787-2227](tel:855-787-2227)) before your trip.



Crystal Patton

Meet Driver Crystal Patton

For almost a decade, Crystal Patton worked for J.C. Penney across from the headquarters of our parent company, Indian Trails, in downtown Owosso. Every so often, our employees who shopped there, and got to know her, would suggest she join the company.

Crystal finally did so after the store closed that location in 2020. “I wish I’d changed jobs 10 years sooner,” she says, “even if just for the money and benefits that Indian Trails pays.”

Having joined our team in June 2021, Crystal found that professional driving took her on new adventures,

and enabled her to meet new people and learn interesting things she might otherwise never have known.

The Training

"I was always a good driver," she says, "so obtaining a Commercial Driver License was the most important part my training. I enjoyed listening to the stories of veteran drivers, and learning from them. They've seen and done it all!"

During Indian Trails' six-week training program for new drivers, she also learned the history of our 112-year-old company and—most importantly—how to properly operate a 56-passenger motorcoach.

Crystal—who also drives a Michigan Flyer bus between East Lansing, Brighton, Ann Arbor and Detroit Metro Airport—says she feels especially proud when passengers tell her how much they enjoy the smooth ride with her behind the wheel.

New Folks, New Adventures

Coming off a decade at J.C. Penney, Crystal was well prepared to deliver great customer service, which is essential for an Indian Trails driver.

"I've always been a people person, and love hearing passengers' stories," she says, fondly recalling a time when she drove a busload of farmers on a charter trip to Pontiac, Ill. "They were a great group who were interested in the earth and learning even more about cultivating crops." Crystal has also greatly enjoyed taking groups to the Cedar Point amusement park, and transporting pro and college sports teams between their games and Detroit Metro Airport.

Crystal deeply appreciates the recognition she receives for a job well done at both Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer. But the best kudos come from her dad: "He's so very proud of me and thinks what I'm doing is so neat, and that I'm always trying to do my best and looking to advance."

In her time off, Crystal enjoys bike riding, kayaking, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.



How Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer Help Drive the Economy

Most of our readers know that the deluxe, 56-passenger motorcoaches operated by Indian Trails and Michigan Flyer are different from city transit or school buses. But when you see one of our buses pass by, do you recognize what an enormous boost they give our regional and statewide economy?

For starters, according to the American Bus Association Foundation, "Nearly \$102.4 million in total economic activity in Ingham County, Mich., can be attributed to the motorcoach group tourism industry." A majority of that boon is due to our company's tourism segment. And you may be surprised to find out how much more our operations benefit the economy in this [short article from FOCUS Magazine](#), published by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Top Coming Events—We Can Get You There!



East Lansing

[The Second City - Out of the House Party](#)

With alumni like Bill Murray, Tina Fey, and Steve Carell, this raring-to-go cast of comedians will take you for a laugh-packed adventure. From improv games to classic sketches, this experience is a great way to laugh your way into the new normal. It's at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27- Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Pasant Theater of the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., East Lansing, on the Michigan State University campus. Admission is \$46 plus a \$5.50 per ticket fee.

[Diana Krall](#)

The only jazz singer to have eight albums debut at the top of the Billboard Jazz Albums chart, Diana Krall has garnered two Grammy® Awards, 10 Juno® Awards, as well as nine gold, three platinum and seven multi-platinum albums. Her unique artistry has made her one of the most recognizable musicians of our time. As The New York Times noted, she possesses “a voice at once cool and sultry, wielded with a rhythmic sophistication.” Catch her performance at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9, in the Cobb Great Hall of the Wharton Center for Performing Arts (address above.) Admission \$45-\$104

plus a per ticket fee of \$5.50-\$8.50.

Check out more local coming events with the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar:

<http://www.lansing.org/events>.



Ann Arbor

[Kelly Ripa: Live Wire Tour](#)

Join Daytime Emmy-Award winning host Kelly Ripa and friends for the release of her new book, LIVE WIRE! Entrepreneur, host, actress and producer, she's been a beloved household name for nearly two decades. Ripa's wide-ranging career on and off camera started on “All My Children” and spans some 30 years at ABC. Hear about her love story with Mark, the sexism she faced in the industry, her Jersey pride, and more than a few incidents involving self-induced humiliation. Tickets

include access to an in-conversation event with Kelly and special guest Mark Consuelos, plus a copy of her book. It's at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Admission \$50-\$75.

For more entertainment in and around A2, see the Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: <https://www.visitannarbor.org/splash/events>.

Brighton

Like other communities in Livingston County, Brighton offers a multitude of events to delight visitors of all ages. Explore them with the Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau events calendar:

<https://visitlivingstoncounty.com/events/>.



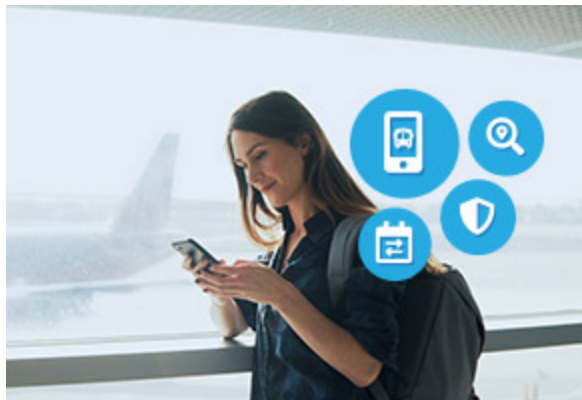
Detroit

[Amy Schumer](#)

Creator, star, writer and executive producer of the award-winning sketch series “Inside Amy Schumer,” she made her motion picture breakthrough with the self-written comedy, “Trainwreck.” Schumer has won the Critic’s Choice Award for Best Actress in a Comedy and was nominated for a Writers’ Guild Award for Original Screenplay. Among other things, this prolific performer has teamed with Goldie Hawn in the mother-daughter comedy “Snatched,” starred in and produced the comedy “I Feel Pretty,” and has made numerous

stand-up appearances and shows for television. Her Detroit performances are at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Masonic Cathedral Theatre, 500 Temple Street. Please note: This show is for folks 18 and older. Tickets \$59-\$150.

To learn what else is happening in Detroit—and there’s literally something for everyone—check out the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau calendar of coming events: <https://visitdetroit.com/events/>.



Stress-Reducing Travel Tips

[Change Your Reservations in Two Quick Steps](#)

[Know How to Find us at DTW's McNamara](#)

[Terminal](#)

[Invest in Travel Insurance for Peace of Mind](#)

[Download Our Free App to Track Your Bus in Real Time](#)

Help Others by Reviewing Us Online

Please visit one of these websites to let others know about your Michigan Flyer-AirRide experience and help them understand how our service might improve their travels.



Professional Drivers Wanted: \$3,000 Sign-On Bonus!

Indian Trails, Inc.—which staffs Michigan Flyer with professional drivers—is now accepting applications for full-time motorcoach drivers. These positions pay a starting hourly rate of \$20.40, plus a \$3,000 sign-on bonus and a rich set of benefits. You can even earn \$18 an hour while learning from the best in our 6-week driver training program, then confidently pilot one of the motorcoaches in Michigan's newest and largest fleet.



Indian Trails is a 112-year-old, family-run company with values like fairness, honesty, teamwork, and service excellence. If you share these values, we encourage you to apply, even with no previous commercial driving experience. Learn more about the job [here](#). The requirements and application can be found by [clicking any of these openings](#).



Happy Autumn, Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples' Day!

🍂 First Day of Fall—Sept. 22

Astronomically speaking, today—Thursday, Sept. 22—is the autumnal equinox or first day of autumn in Earth's Northern Hemisphere (North America, Europe, most of Asia, and northern Africa). After this, the Sun begins to rise later and set sooner. Summer is gone and winter is slowly but surely coming on, though it won't arrive until the Winter Solstice on December 21.

🍂 Columbus Day—Oct. 10

The second Monday of October (Oct. 10 this year) marks Columbus Day in the United States. It honors the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, who launched the ships Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria from the coast of Spain in 1492, intending to sail west to China, India and the Spice Islands of Asia. Instead, after 10 weeks, he landed in the Bahamas on Oct. 12, 1492, becoming the first European to arrive in what is now the U.S. In 1934, Congress declared Columbus Day a federal holiday, and it has since evolved into a celebration of Italian-American heritage.

🍂 Indigenous People's Day—Oct. 10

Tribal nations occupied the territory now known as the mainland United States for centuries before the first European explorers and settlers arrived. In fact, these Native Americans had populated the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Gulf of Mexico to northern Canada.

Since 1968—when Gov. Ronald Reagan signed a California resolution calling for an “American Indian Day” to honor and celebrate their traditions, cultures, and contributions—several states have followed suit. These include Nevada, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Washington (“Native American Heritage Day”), and Tennessee (“American Indian Day”), with varying dates. In 2021, President Joe Biden signed proclamations declaring that both [Columbus Day](#) and [Indigenous People's Day](#) be celebrated on the second Monday in October.

Why Drive?

Booking is easy, [click here](#) to view schedules on



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www.michiganflyer.com



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