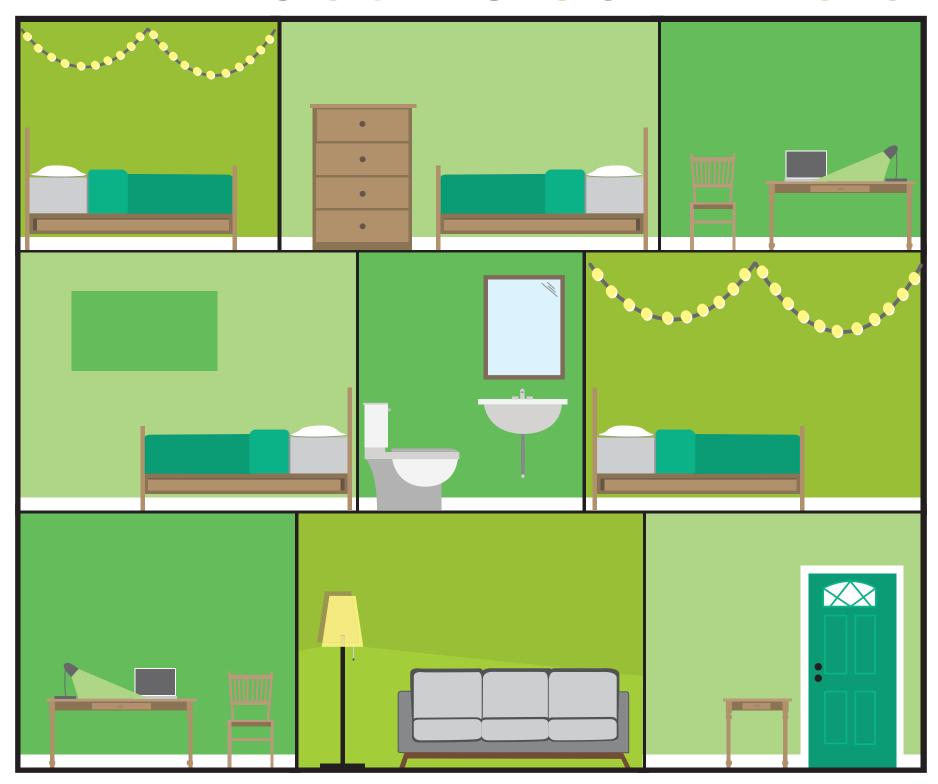
## The State News FALL HOUSING GUIDE 2019



### YOUR GUIDE TO ON AND OFF CAMPUS LIVING

### QUIZ: What kind of roommate are you?

Find out if you're an annoying, cool or okay roommate with this five-question quiz

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### Who you should room with based on astrology

What does your zodiac sign have to do with roommate compatibility? Everything

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### COLUMN: Woes of a commuter student

'I am an MSU senior and I have never stepped foot in a Michigan State dorm room. Yes, we exist'

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### The Premier Off Campus Housing Steps from Michigan State University



With high-end amenities and the freedom of off-campus living in a convenient location, Hub East Lansing goes beyond traditional student living.

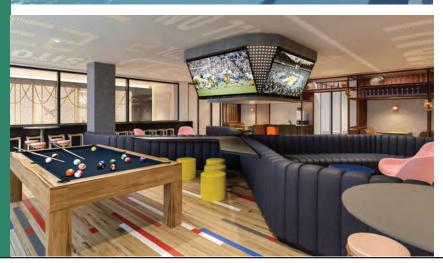


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### QUIZ: What kind of roommate are you?

BY CHANDRA FLEMING
CFLEMING@STATENEWS.COM

It's 2 a.m. and you're going home after a night of partying. What do you do?

**A.** Sleep over at a friend's dorm.

**B.** Go to your dorm, but don't tell your roommate where you've been (it's none of their business).

C. Text your roommate 10 minutes before you walk in and let them know why you're coming home late.

2. It's 45 degrees outside. You like a cold room so you keep the fan on. Your roommate asks you to turn it off. What do you do?

**A.** Ask your roommate if you can at least have it on the lowest setting.

**B.** Keep it on and ignore them ... they're not your

C. Just open the window.

3. Your roommate wants to have their significant other over for a couple days but the significant other has an odor problem. What do you do? **A.** Politely joke about them needing to make sure to take showers.

**B.** Steer clear of your room for the whole time they're over.

**C.** Be brutally honest and tell them no because you can't deal with the smell.

4. The toilet in your room clogged up and you accidentally flood the bathroom. The water leaks into your room onto your roommates shoes. What do you do?

**A.** Throw your roommate's shoes in the washer and hope for the best.

**B.** Throw your roommate's shoes down the trash chute and tell them somebody barged in and stole the shoes because they forgot to lock the door.

**C.** Leave your roommate's shoes alone and act like you don't know what happen to them.

5. You just caught your roommate eating the last

piece of your favorite food. What do you do?

**A.** Tell your RA — you need a room switch because you have had it up to here with this roommate!

**B.** Confront your roommate and start going off about everything you dislike about them.

**C.** Don't confront them about eating your food but on the next day, eat their snacks

#### Results:

Chose mostly A's? You are the "okay" roommate. A little rude, a little petty yet still well-mannered and respectful.

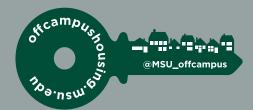
Chose mostly B's? You are the "annoying" roommate. Not really compatible wen it comes to living with anyone, likes to argue and is normally the one who starts the arguments.

Chose mostly C's? You are the "cool" roommate. Wants to keep the drama down but also wants to be treated fairly.

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### WHO YOU SHOULD ROOM WITH OUR ASTROLOGICAL SIGN

BY KAITLYN KELLEY KKELLEY@STATENEWS.COM



What does your zodiac sign have to do with roommate compatibility? **Everything.** Allow this to be a guide in your quest to find a roomie for the upcoming semester or school year!

### **ARIES**

Aries are eager, dynamic people.

A potential challenge you might face in living with a roommate is listening to opinions that might not align with your beliefs.

You might want a roommate who balances out your high amount of energy.

Sign(s) you should room with: Gemini, Taurus, Virgo

#### **TAURUS**

Typically trustworthy and intelligent, as a Taurus, you value honesty and tend to want to block out drama in relationships.

Although you're determined and hardworking, you might not have the motivation to do things that others demand of you.

Sign(s) you should room with: Aries, LEO Cancer, Sagittarius

#### **GEMINI**

As a Gemini, you're good about reading social cues and adjusting your attitudes accordingly. An issue that might appear in a roommate scenario is bottling up your feelings when disagreements arise

between you and your roommate.

And - no offense - but Geminis can sometimes come across as twofaced. This might cause problems with roommates who aren't as adept at dealing with conflict.

Sign(s) you should room with: Aries, Scorpio

#### **CANCER**

Cancers are filled with emotion and intuition - they can read those vibes.

Because you can easily detect others' feelings and emotions, you might run into problems with assuming others can too. People can't read your mind. You might have to confront your fears and address your emotions.

Sign(s) you should room with: Taurus

Leos are a fire sign! They're bold, brave and blunt.

As a Leo, you like to lead, so you might take on trying to coordinate activities with your roommate.

Sign(s) you should room with: Pisces, Sagittarius

### **VIRGO**

Virgos are known to be kind, creative. smart and optimistic.

You might come across as shy at first, but you're totally not shy at all! It just takes a while for you to warm up to people.

You're probably the roommate who wants everything in your room to be perfect and DIY-inspired.

Sign(s) you should room with: Aquarius, Aries, Capricorn, Libra

#### LIBRA

Libras are air signs, and they're known for being incredibly loyal, responsible and maybe a little indecisive.

As a Libra, you might benefit from having a roommate who balances out your creative ideas and indecisiveness and provides you with more concrete ideas and motivation.

Sign(s) you should room with: Capricorn, Sagittarius, Scorpio, Virao

#### **SCORPIO**

Known for being independent, intimidating, intense and seductive,

Scorpios might need a roommate who is outgoing and able to handle these qualities.

You might not be great at releasing and showing your emotions - you tend to hide them from people. But you're good about telling it how it is.

Sign(s) you should room with: Gemini, Libra

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Ah, the Archer. You're probably adventurous, creative, brave and

You're independent and don't mind getting things done on your own.

You might want a roommate who makes an effort to reach out because you might not.

Sign(s) you should room with: Aquarius, Capricorn, Leo, Libra, Taurus

#### CAPRICORN

Capricorns are hardworking, diligent, practical, organized and maybe stubborn - but usually for good reasons.

In a roommate, you might want someone who can help you think outside the box and challenge your perspectives.

Sign(s) you should room with: Aquarius, Libra, Pisces, Sagittarius, Virgo

#### **AQUARIUS**

Aquarius are quirky, unique people. They're definitely dreamers.

Essentially, as long as someone isn't a meanie, you'll get through rooming with them one way or another.

However, you might want to look for roommates in terms of what you would want in a friend.

Sign(s) you should room with: Aquarius, Capricorn, Pisces, Sagittarius, Virgo

#### **PISCES**

They're known as the sensitive, empathetic ones. Pisces want to be everyone's friend.

As a Pisces, you might want a roommate who will be there to listen to you vent once you get home from class. And you'll want to be there to listen to your roommate's problems, too.

Sign(s) you should room with: Aquarius, Capricorn, Leo

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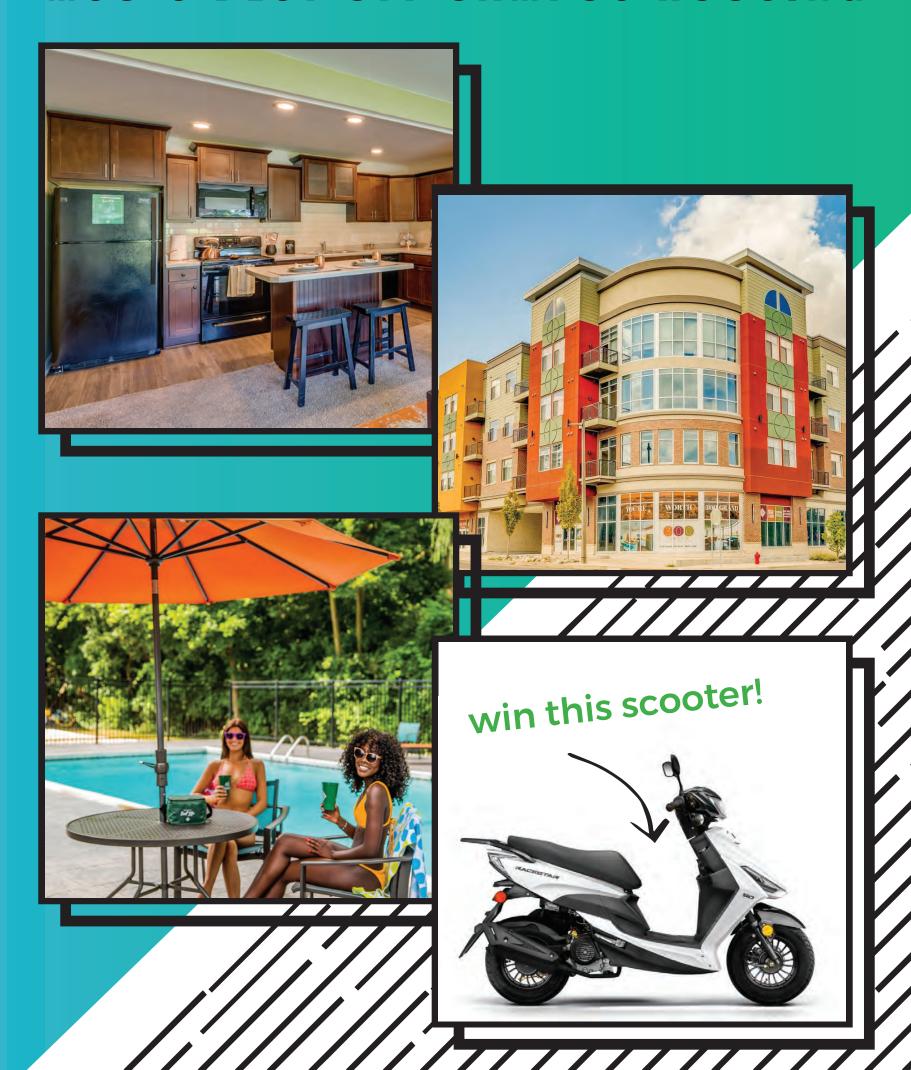


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### MSU'S BEST OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING



### COLUMN

### What's it really like to move in with your best friend?

BY SAMYA OVERALL

College is hard. From the initial process of moving in to the adjustment of going to classes (wait, which bus do I get on?), college can feel like you are riding a bike. And the bike is on fire.

A whole other aspect to the college adjustment is learning to live with a roommate. Rooming with your best friend can be the best thing for you to do — or the worst.

I decided to room with my best friend, who I've known since my sophomore year of high school. After being on campus for a month, I've learned that it was simultaneously everything I expected and not at all what I expected.

### **HAVING LIMITED ALONE TIME**

Hanging out with your best friend on weekends with the occasional sleepover is one thing. Living under the same roof is another. There's a certain unspoken obligation to do everything together, from meals to hanging out to doing homework.

On one hand, you think, 'Why wouldn't I want to spend all my time with my favorite person?' You have inside jokes, shared looks and a mutual bond that comes from being best friends. I

thought I would love to hang out with the same person all the time.

However, allowing yourself to have alone time ensures you don't get sick of each other. My best friend and I usually only get one meal together and do our homework separately. We save "together time" for mornings and friend hangouts, like our weekly Thursday dinners with the rest of our friend group.

I think balancing friend time with alone time makes living with your best friend 10 times easier. Separating for small periods of time often allows us to miss each other. After all, distance makes the heart grow fonder.

### **SOMEONE TO CONFIDE IN**

I'd say one of the best things about rooming with your bestie is that you always have someone to talk to. Aced that difficult calculus test you've been studying for? She's there to celebrate with you. Terrible day at work? She's down with getting combos and watching Netflix.

Knowing you always have a shoulder to cry on, someone to rant to or a person to laugh with makes the college process easier. Having a random roommate means not having access to that familiarity, which can be crucial when adjusting



Journalism freshman SaMya Overall and human biology freshman Kailen Cooper pose for a portrait together in their dorm room at Hubbard Hall on Oct. 2. PHOTO BY SYLVIA JARRUS

to the madness that is college.

The balance comes with making sure your best friend doesn't become your in-house therapist. They have their own problems and no one, not even your very best of friends, wants to be overwhelmed with someone else's problems.

#### **SENSE OF HOME**

Especially if you are from the same hometown, rooming with your best friend gives you a sense of home, even when you are feeling homesick.

Both of you can reminisce about high school, cry at midnight about missing old friends and know exactly who they are talking about when they say, "They are back together ... again."

Having someone who reminds you of home helps with the feeling of homesickness that my-

self and other freshmen know too well. It feels great to know that not only am I not alone, but my best friend knows pretty much exactly what I'm going through.

Rooming with your best friend will always raise red flags. What if we stop being friends? What if we are the type of people who just can't live together? However, with careful planning and an honest look at yourself and your flaws (not just theirs), rooming with your best friend can be amazing.

I'll never regret rooming with my best friend. I've made many memories since move-in day that just wouldn't be the same without her there. So if you are willing to make living together work, room with your bestie. It's the best thing I've done at MSU.

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### COLUMN

### **WOES OF A COMMUTER**



BY WELLS FOSTER
WFOSTER@STATENEWS.COM

I am an MSU senior, and I have never stepped foot in a Michigan State dorm room.

Yes, we exist.

For many, the mental image of college is one of dorm life. Living on campus is seen as the quintessential college experience.

Being on your own for the first time, living with a roommate and having all of your friends nearby sounds like a dream, and for a lot of college students, on-campus living is perfect. However, there does exist a large section of students who don't live within the confines of an MSU dorm room — commuter students.

Some commuter students are familiar with dorm life, living just slightly off campus in apartments within throwing distance of their classes. Others can take a CATA bus to class or hop on a bike and get to their 10 a.m. classes with few issues. A lot of us live pretty far away from campus, however, and getting up at the crack of dawn for a 10 a.m. class is a necessity.

My first semester at MSU had me commuting close to an hour and a half each way, meaning three hours of my day were spent listening to podcasts. The 35-minute commute could often be 40 or 45 minutes if there was any kind of traffic backup. An accident on the highway was a surefire way to make me almost 20 minutes late to class.

I grew up and lived with my parents in Laingsburg, a small town of about 1,000 people. I spent the first two and a half years of my college life a 35-minute drive away from East Lansing — 25 minutes on a good day with no traffic. That doesn't sound that bad, until you factor in parking.

My personal mortal enemy—parking. MSU offers very little accessible parking. I would park in Commuter Lot 89, and my first classes would be in Berkey Hall. After a 30-minute bus ride, my total commute became two hours and ten minutes. If I missed the bus, though, I was really screwed for a while.

I found more accessible alternative

parking spaces later in the semester, but they weren't always reliable, and many required payment. The parking ramp near the Communication Arts and Sciences Building and the Natural Resources Building is my current favorite spot. Parking there cuts out a decent chunk of my commuter time. No more bus, no more long waits. I can walk directly to my class.

That's all well and good, until I get a ticket for an expired meter. I tried paying with the Park on MSU app, but I could never get it to open on my phone, and it kept rejecting my credit card on my desktop.

An alternative solution to taking the bus every day would be parking my car and biking or walking to class, but I've been highlighting accessible parking because I am disabled. I was born with Sever's disease, a childhood birth defect that causes extreme heel pain. It's supposed to go away during puberty, but not always.

I'm currently undergoing surgery to rectify this, but in the meantime, walking to class from a commuter lot is just not feasible.

And if I'm being honest, even able-bodied students shouldn't have to walk that far to class. It can be dangerous during the colder months

and thunderstorms or any kind of inclement weather.

But there's more to being a commuter student than foot pain and long commutes. Many professors expect students to live on campus and structure assignments and due dates around that assumption. The amount of times I've heard, "This assignment shouldn't take long, it's only x amount of minutes from campus," is enough to fill an entire overpriced textbook.

Most fail to understand that many of their students have three fewer hours for assignments than their oncampus counterparts. It becomes a real source of stress.

Despite my constant complaining, I would still much rather live off campus. The dorm life is not for everyone. I like having a space to call my own. Being in control of your domicile is empowering — I just wish MSU would do more to accommodate us. More parking sounds nice, but doesn't seem realistic. Perhaps more bus routes?

Who's to say.

Now, I live near Frandor. It's about a five to 10 minute drive to my classes now, but I still have to pay for parking or get a parking pass and take the bus.

It's still a hassle.

# Top 10 ways to save money

BY CHASE MICHAELSON

CMICHAELSON@STATENEWS.COM

Moving off campus can be oddly overwhelming. As painful as the dorms were, you always knew where you were going to eat, do laundry and other housekeeping tasks. Now that you're no longer living in the dorms, you're going to want to make your money go a little further. Here are some tips to make that happen.

#### 1. RAMEN

This is an obvious one, right? The biggest difference between living on campus and off campus in terms of out-of-pocket costs is food, and the temptation to go to Chipotle or McDonald's for every meal is tremendous. Every time you eat Ramen (or Lean Cuisine or whatever other cheap in-house food) instead of buying food from a restaurant, think of that as money earned.



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#### **FALL HOUSING GUIDE**

### 2. GET THE LEGS PUMPING

Uber charges rack up quickly if you're not careful. Particularly during the months when it's bearable outside (September, October, March, April), walk as many places as you can. If you're headed to the bars or to a party, try to at least walk there or back and Uber the other way.

#### 3. COUPONS

It's not just for your Aunt Ethel. When you're about to go grocery shopping, make a plan and see if there are any coupons you can use to buy what you were already going to. Grocery shopping costs a lot of money, and any time you can lessen that load, you just gotta do it.

### 4. BUY IN BULK

Consider getting a Costco or Sam's Club membership — it's about \$60 a year, and if you live off campus, you probably have the room to store more things. You could theoretically stock up on non-perishables and toiletries with one trip that'll last you the whole year (for a much smaller unit cost) and then not have to buy them again. That's cost-effective.

### 5. TAKE IT EASY WHEN GOING OUT

Have a plan when you're going out on how much you're willing to spend, and if you can't afford it, do not buy rounds of drinks for your friends. You might feel like a baller in the short-term, but it's gonna be brutal on the bank account the next day. Plus, headaches! Remember, at bars, water is free. Take advantage.







### 6. CATA

Taking the bus is a really cost-effective way to get places if you're not in a hurry. It's quicker than walking — obviously — and if you don't have a car, it's way cheaper than an Uber. Plus, CATA gets a bad rep. They're on time a lot more often than they get credit for, and most of the drivers are really friendly. It's not a bad option.

#### 7. CUT THOSE CORDS

The dorms have free cable, which is a nice bonus, but let's be honest — paying for cable isn't worth it. Use your parents' (or somebody else's parents') password to stream whatever show you're binging, and if you want to watch sports, Reddit is your best friend.

### 8. FILTERED, NOT BOTTLED

Plastic water bottles are bad for the environment and the cost adds up. Buy a Brita filter for your water, then buy one reusable water bottle so you're drinking water for free. Very few things in this world are free — take advantage of what is.

### 9. PRINT AT AN APARTMENT COMPLEX

Need to print stuff out for a class? If you live in an apartment complex, they might have free printing in the office, and if you don't live in an apartment complex, ask one of your friends who

### 10. GO FURNITURE SHOPPING SOMEWHERE THAT ISN'T **TARGET**

You might think of thrift shops as a place where you can get overalls or cute wine glasses, but consider that you could buy furniture there also. You can get pretty cheap furniture that's not damaged.

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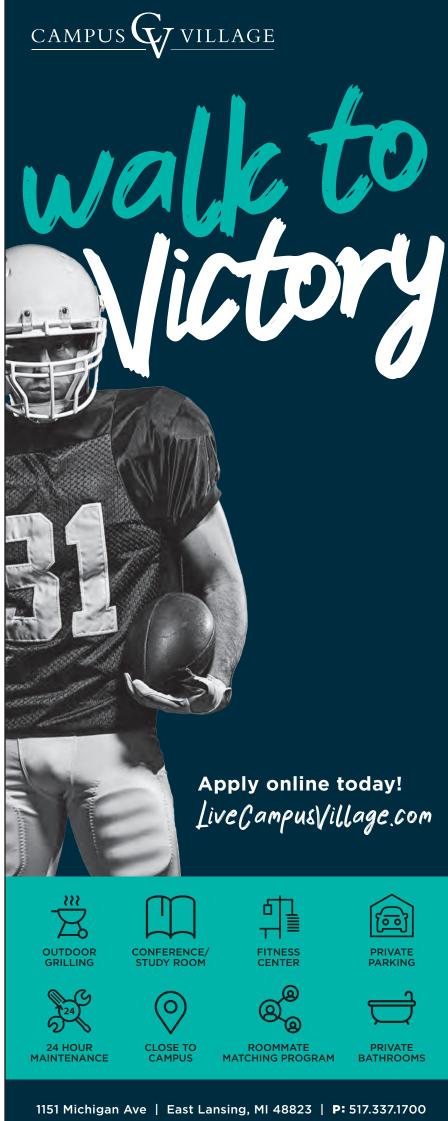
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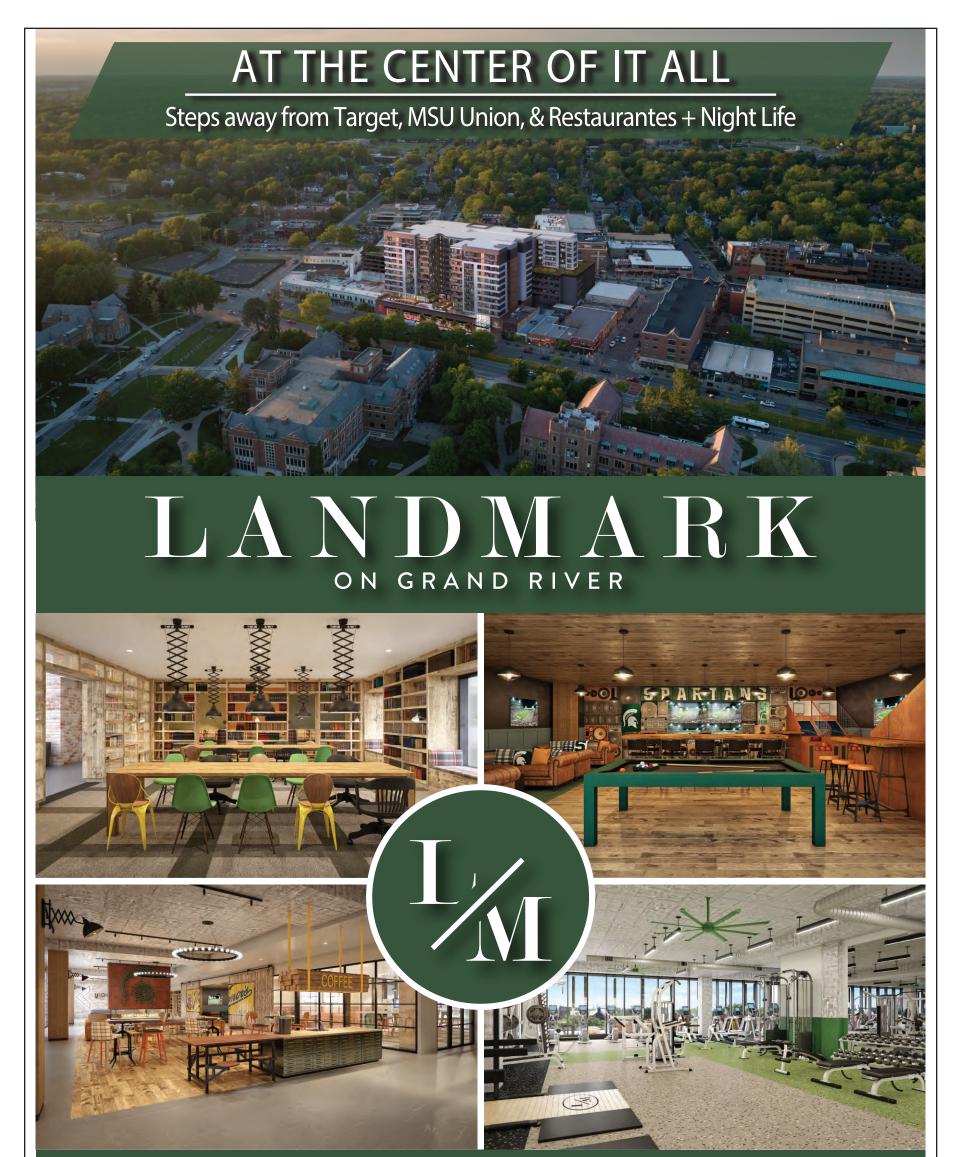
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