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Flint Region's Expatriates Help to Move Flint Further

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Saginaw Habitat for Humanity celebrates 30th Anniversary Luncheon

Community, Page 19

All-American SVSU Grad to Serve U.S. Navy as a Submarine Engineer

Education, Page 24

Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives

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What Will Your References Say About Your Organization?

FUNdraising Good Times, Page 23



UM-Flint Presents Awards to 11 Flint Entrepreneurs

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Saginaw Awards and Congratulates Dr. Austin

On June 20, 2017, Commissioner Michael A. Webster, Saginaw County Board of Commissioners, presented Dr. Nurame Mitchell Austin, with a Certificate of Recognition for her 38 years of service to The Saginaw Future Economic Development Corporation of Saginaw County. In her acceptance speech, Dr. Austin emphasized her spiritual foundation by first acknowledging that she is, "a child of the King, a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother." It is obvious that she stresses the central importance of placing God first, family,

and then man. She then touted some of her many accomplishments, to include being a retired social worker as an employment placement counselor, retired organist and proud 38-year-member of the Saginaw Future Economic Development Board. Dr. Austin is a servant first. Her years of dedication to God, her family, and her fellow man is more than exemplified by her humble and quiet, yet strong spirit. Dr. Austin has proven herself to be, "a worker who has no need to be ashamed," as written in II Timothy 2:15 ESV. Congratulations, Dr. Nurame Mitchell Austin from The Michigan Banner.

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MISSION

The Michigan Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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Blessing it Forward: a Tribute to Mrs. Rae Lynn Buckley



A God-Fearing Woman My
Tribute to Mrs. Rae Lynn Buckley
By Dahl Gates-Enoch.

I was born and raised in Saginaw, Mich. I am the youngest child of the late Rev. Harold Gates, the former Pastor of Christ Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. Before his passing, my father and I had a very heated conversation with each other. A central pet

peeve of his, centered on the kindness that others may express and the recipient who fails to acknowledge said kindness.

“Show some appreciation,” my father would state. On one occasion, Daddy had blessed me in a huge way. I did not call to let him know that I had received the package. He telephoned me, and his exact words were “Dahl, did you get the package?” I replied, “Yes, Daddy.” He continued with, “Listen, when people do anything for you, pick up the phone, send a card, or do something to show some type of appreciation because no one owes you anything.” He ended with, “I hope you got the message.” He was livid!!

He told me that I had the potential to be an awesome leader, that I have God's favor on my life. He also told me what I needed to do in order to shape my future. He said God was going to send a person in my life this person would see my potential. This person would help me realize the next level in my life, to take it nationwide, so to speak. I did meet this great woman. A God-fearing woman in the form of the late, great Rae Lynn Buckley! She was my mentor.

As a God-fearing woman who loved her husband and family, Rae Lynn exuded Proverbs 31 in its entirety but particularly 31:12 which states, “She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”

One thing that she instilled in me was the task of once discovering your gift, make sure you love what you are doing. Don't expect support from churches or people who you think will be there for you (this includes some family members). She frequently mentioned the support of her husband. She stated he was her rock. Without him, she affirmed, that she could not be the woman she needed to be. She described him as very supportive and very understanding. She shared with me the often hectic pace of her summers, particularly

due to her work with the youth program.

As time went on, we began conversing more and more. She said she would like to set up a television interview with me so that many others could hear my testimony. Rae Lynn genuinely believed in me. I knew this because of how she would ask me about my gifts. My main gift, I said, is in administration. I also have a love of writing. I also have the gift of music. I can write music and make beats. I play the piano and tambourine.

As a child, I was a musician for the Sunshine Band. I really wanted to be the bass player but I played the piano and tambourine. I struggled with shyness though. While sharing all of this with Rae Lynn, she remained very quiet. After I finished, her next words were, “Dahl you are very gifted. You need to be discovered!” She said that for every person that made it, many others had a helping hand (seen or unseen) in their success chain.

I had some of the hardest teachers. They really challenged me, molding me to be all that I could. Miss Zipporah Thompson, Mrs. Betty Johnson, Mr. Borucki, Ms. June Newton and Demona Reed are just a few of the players that make up my chain of success but, Rae Lynn seemingly had a significant overall impact.

Rae Lynn played a large and important part in my success chain. However, God wanted her more than me — She passed.

Rae Lynn impacted me in a powerful way. She encouraged me to tell my story but, that I make sure I shared it with love, and to ignore any negativity and pain that my church folks may rail my way. Rae Lynn was very real and down to earth. If you did not know her thought, she could come across as mean but I believe it was from her uncompromising desire to represent God to the highest!

After interviewing me, she asked if I had ever considered writing a book. I explained that I was already working on one. I shared a portion of what the book consisted of and read a little to her. It begins, I don't understand how so many folk that say they have a relationship with God are some of the most envious, hateful, two-faced folk.

I hear many folk judge how people dress going to church. “Girl did you see what she had on?” My response, “Did you buy her anything? Did you ask her

how was she doing? Did you ever stop to think that maybe she left with what she had?”

The focus should be that they are in a spiritual hospital to be spiritually fed. Even fishermen have the understanding that you can't clean a fish before it is caught. Catch the fish first. Lay the bait with the word of God. It is the word of God that helps to change people. Anything less is people doing the changing through their own selfish manipulation. My motto is my conviction is my conviction and it is not for me to use it to manipulate anyone.

People are getting off of focus, worrying about what people wear. How about going up to that sister or brother that we may not have spoken to and sincerely asking them for their forgiveness. Ask the person sitting next to you how are they doing EMOTIONALLY? Rae Lynn stopped me and told me get the book out, that people will be healed because it is truth. I now have one of the biggest human-kindness ministries.

I learned how to coupon despite being blind. After my stroke, I lost my vision and underwent emergency surgery for the replacement for two corneal transplants. I walked around for two years with stitches in my eyes to hold the corneas in place. At one point, my body began rejecting the corneas. I was in jeopardy of again going blind. God saw me through and delivered me. For my birthday last year, I blessed RCO (Restoration Community Outreach) under the direction of Torrie Smith-McAfee (another BV alumnus). I blessed homeless men that were either newly released from prison or jail, recovering from drugs or had just fallen on bad times.

As I got more into couponing, I met some awesome guys. The one standout that I formed somewhat of a bond with was in a gang and sold drugs. He was shot and eventually died on the operating table. I first met him during my period of blindness. He started blessing me with coupons. The only thing he asked of me was to never use him by selling his coupons but at my discretion, bless those whom I believed would appreciate the coupons. I learned just how much most folks do not appreciate anything. However I do not regret any of my journey. It has opened so many, many doors for me. In honor of Mrs. Rae Lynn Buckley, I am blessing it forward.

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*Events are one-hour tours that include personal stories from staff, patients and volunteers who illustrate the mission of nonprofit community-based Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. Doors open before the tour for light refreshments and sign-in. We will ask for your contact information so that we may call you after the event to get your feedback.

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We encourage readers to send letters, story ideas, comments and questions.

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In the Community

We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.
— César E. Chávez

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

Su Salud

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Jesse Costilla
Migrant Program Manager
Great Lakes Bay Health Centers

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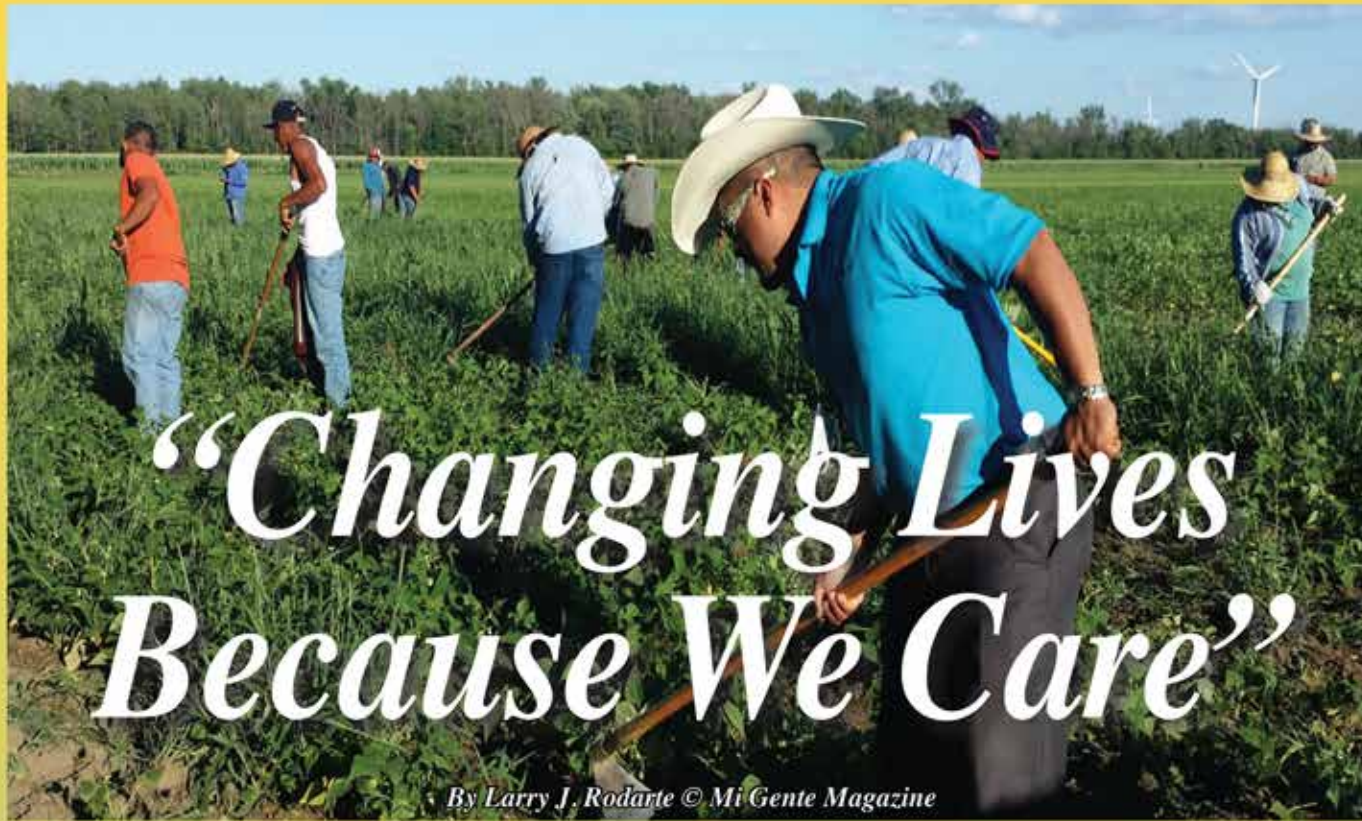
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“Changing Lives Because We Care”

By Larry J. Rodarte © Mi Gente Magazine

They leave their families to work the fields in the north. The migrant trail is different from when Jesse Costilla and his family of nine brothers and sisters would come with their parents from San Juan, Texas. Nowadays, you see many single men coming alone. They are harvesting our Michigan crops. They need health care. They need an advocate — they need Jesse Costilla.

The year 1988 was linked to “gold in Michigan” for Armando and Juana Costilla; they would travel from Texas to Michigan — first in a 1974 suburban truck — from April to late September, picking asparagus, pickles, squash, and zucchini, and hoeing sugar beets until it was time to go back home. This was their life for the next 15 years.

Costilla remembers how happy his parents were to take home the capital they had never seen in their lifetime, especially when they were able to purchase a used 1983 van to better their travel. He remembers vividly the life of a migrant. He knows the life.

The Great Lakes Bay Health Centers GLBHC, formerly Health Delivery, Inc., started out in 1969 when the Saginaw County Health Department received a \$75,000 grant to provide healthcare for

farmworkers. It has grown from a small migrant health clinic to a large group of federally qualified community health centers with nearly 500 employees with 26 year-round health and/or dental centers, including two school-based medical centers serving residents in 15 counties.

STATISTICS

In 2016, GLBHC serviced approximately 1,513 patients in their migrant health facilities, with over 3,000 visits. 92% were Hispanic/Latino, with 81% best served in a language other than English. Of the 1,513 seen, 37% were under 18 years of age, 61% were 18-64 years old, and 2% were 65 and older. 81% were uninsured.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are just two of the medical conditions found within this population. There were 136 patients treated for diabetes and 166 treated for hypertension last year. GLBHC provide medical, dental, mental health, optometry, substance abuse, and dietician services to the migrant patients. These services include HIV, hepatitis B and C, and lead testing, mammography, Pap smears, immunizations, vision screening, fluoride treatments, oral surgery, teeth cleaning, cavity fillings, and birth control.

MIGRANT PROGRAM MANAGER

In 2000, Health Delivery, Inc. hired Costilla as a bilingual translator/phone receptionist. He was committed to the organization, knowing their value in helping the migrant population. He became a medical assistant, then a billing clerk, where he could explain to patients what services they were paying for in Spanish. He earned the position of Front Desk Coordinator with his continued growth and dedication. Then, in 2012, the CEO/president of Health Delivery, Inc., Brenda Coughlin, MD, MPH, asked Costilla to become the new Migrant Program Manager.

“This was a lifetime opportunity to return to my roots and give back, in a significant way, to the migrant farmworker community,” said Costilla, who is married and a father of four. “Pleasantly, I agreed to take on this new journey.”

MOBILE SERVICES

From Standish to Adrian, Crosswell, Lapeer, Capac, the Thumb areas, and as far west to Ionia, Costilla travels with the medical and dental buses to the fields. He tells heartbreaking stories of migrant workers who have never seen a dentist

Continued on page 8



Photo by Laurie Sherman

Migrant Collaborative: L-R: Larry J. Rodarte, Mi Gente Magazine publisher, Bobby DeLeon, Mexican American Council president, Jeffrey Reinartz, communications director Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Jill Armentrout, fund development coordinator GLBHC, Brenda Coughlin, MD, MPH CEO/president GLBHC and Jesse Costilla, migrant program manager GLBHC.

in their lifetime. For some, the age of 40 is old, and they accept their deteriorating health with no concern. It's just their way of life. Their worried eyes betray their smiles of nervousness.

"We head out with the bus around 2 p.m. and are at the camps by 4:30 p.m. for patients to be seen," explains Costilla. "They're not going to leave the fields to be seen, even if the work is backbreaking. We can be done at 10 p.m., and sometimes we're there until 1 a.m. in the morning."

Most of the workers have no transportation, so the mobile services that GLBHC provides is essential. What Costilla finds challenging is educating them on hypertension and diabetes, explaining that the meds they can provide will help them feel better. They are still apprehensive.

There are some who need help with depression and anxiety; the health center provides assistance in this area, too, with follow-up visits.

"It's a tough job, but it's very rewarding; that's what gets me out there every day, knowing these people are harvesting our crops. I'm proud to say I love buying Michigan potatoes and apples, and we

have to realize who is harvesting these vegetables. The best way to say 'thank you' is to make sure they are healthy so they can continue." Costilla said.

"He moved us by telling a story of a man whose life was changed by fixing his teeth. They gave him confidence to smile again. We all come from migrant backgrounds, and we need to collaborate and help our people."

— Bobby DeLeon

Indeed, times are different for the migrants; the political rhetoric in this country towards immigrants and the Mexican populations in general has shifted. Most of those here are legal, yet some are not. This may be the reason why more men are coming north alone. Yet, farmers need this help to harvest their crops — that hasn't changed. Medical services for each visit by GLBHC are \$10 per medical visit, and \$20 for dental. The days of federally funded free services are gone.

PATITO SALES

Costilla says health isn't a priority for the migrants when they first arrive during the season. The cost may seem minimal, but for some, making the trip north is difficult and barely made.

He initiated a plan to meet with leaders in the Hispanic community to see how they could help the migrant workers. Costilla invited individuals to GLBHC's "Together Events" — a one-hour tour at one of their facilities to hear personal stories from staff, patients, and volunteers.

"We attended a tour at Bayside (Bay City facility) where Jesse Costilla talked about the migrants and what he does," said Bobby DeLeon, president of the Mexican American Council. "He moved us by telling a story of a man whose life was changed by fixing his teeth. They gave him confidence to smile again. We all come from migrant backgrounds, and we need to collaborate and help our people."

Enter the Union Civica Mexicana's mighty patito, a deep-fried taco that is the rave in the community and has been instrumental in raising funds for the

72-year-old non-profit organization.

“We have been raising money for our events, scholarships, and hall expenses for years,” said president Angela Blanco. “When approached on the idea of helping our migrant population, we knew how we could help and we’re ready to roll out the masa and sell patitos.”

The group has invited LLEAD, the Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy & Development, to be a part of the collaborative to assist the fundraising for the migrants. With their consortium of members representing the different Latino organizations in the community, the efforts can be heightened. Plans to sell patitos one day out of the summer months are in the works.

Costilla feels the collaboration is going to open doors for the migrant workers at all times. They will be welcomed to be seen and not have to worry about the payment. This grassroots effort by the Latino organizations of Saginaw, LLEAD, is a way of saying thank you for coming to harvest our crops. The effort will cover the cost.

“If it wasn’t for them, we’d be eating fruits from outside of Michigan,” Costilla said. “We want to make Michigan attractive and assist our migrant communities. And we can do this by helping out with these fees.”

Several Latino owned restaurants like Maria’s Restaurant and T & T Concessions are also donating to the cause by donating food product. It really is a community effort for the love of our people and remembering where we come from.



Above: The new \$350,000 dental bus that will travel to elementary schools and migrant sites. Bottom: Homemade Patitos made by the Union Civica Mexicana.

The first fundraising effort will be held June 28 at the Union Civica Hall, 2715 Wadsworth, Saginaw, MI 48602. Look for other upcoming dates in July and August.

If you would like to donate or assist in this grassroots effort, please contact Costilla at 989.922.5658 or at JCostilla@glbhealth.org.

Photos by Larry J. Rodarie

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HEALTH

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority to Host Foster Parenting & Zoo Event

Raise Hope & Foster Dreams Event

Join SCCMHA for the free RAISE HOPE EVENT to learn more about foster parenting and how you can help kids of all ages in Saginaw County. The event takes place on Tuesday, June 27 from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. at Life Church Michigan located at 5200 Tittabawassee Road, Saginaw, MI. Dr. Thomas Haller, WNEM TV-5 Parenting Expert will present on The 6 Best Parenting Strategies. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Amanda Moran, MDHHS Licensing Worker, at 989-293-6561 by June 20.

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Zippity Zoo Da Day

SCCMHA is excited to announce the date of the fifth annual Zippity Zoo Da Day event is Thursday, July 27th from 10-4pm at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Come join us for a free fun and food!

Some of the highlights of the day are magicians, jugglers, musical performances, puppet shows, caricature artists and Paleo Joe! We will have tents for crafts and face painting, even perhaps a few surprises! Free treats include hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, and ice cream.

Last year we had over 3000 visitors from all over the state. Consumers and their families look forward to and plan for Zippity Zoo Da Day all year long and so do we! We appreciate your support in spreading the word, so even more consumers can take advantage of a free day of entertainment.

For more information on these upcoming events visit
www.sccmha.org



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INTERSECTION OF BUSINESS & WEALTH**Flint Region's Expatriates to Help Move Flint Forward**

For the first time ever, the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce and its partners will host Flint Homecoming on August 16-17, recruiting Flint expatriates from across the country to the invitation-only, one-and-a-half-day event.

Loosely modeled after the Crain's Detroit Business event, Flint Homecoming is designed to provide opportunities to reconnect, rediscover and invest in the future of the Flint area. Distinguished keynote speakers, panel discussions, networking opportunities, site tours and more will be offered, providing attendees with a front-row seat to Flint's revitalization and opportunities for expats to be a part of the forward momentum. We are thrilled to

open our doors to returning expatriates, as well as those who have been here all along, to celebrate the next chapter. Herb Washington, former Major League Baseball Player and Owner/Operator, McDonald's restaurants; Dr. William F. Pickard, PhD, Chairman of Global Automotive Alliance, Co-Managing Partner, MGM Grand Detroit Casino; and Chris Rizik, CEO, Renaissance Venture Capital Fund. Flint Homecoming aims to acquaint expatriates with Flint today – the city's progress, its challenges and what's needed to continue to change the narrative about Flint. The event will offer ample opportunity for the exchange of ideas to help shape the vision for the recovery and revitalization of Flint and the

surrounding region.

Flint is on the cusp of a renaissance with growing business investment and tourism, but there's still more to do, said Tim Herman, CEO, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce and Flint Homecoming Co-Chair. In hosting Flint Homecoming, we seek to inspire our expats to get engaged in the city's resurgence, and play a role in continuing to make Flint a great place to conduct business, live, work and play for years to come. Themes of panel discussions and keynote speeches will include:

- Flint As I Knew It
- Flint Water Crisis – Current State;
- Detroit Homecoming – A Vision of Success
- Flint Works For Me. It Can Work For You.
- Philanthropy's Changing Role in Flint's Revitalization;
- Education's Role in Moving Flint Forward;
- Economic Development Strategic Initiatives;
- Entrepreneurism in Flint; and
- Flint's Top 10 Project Wish List.

The water emergency is and will forever be a part of our city's story, but it's not the only story to tell, said Herman. We are asking Flint expats to join us in re-imagining and creating the brighter tomorrow that is already on its way in Flint. Flint Homecoming is made possible through the work and support of the following partners: Diplomat, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, United Way of Genesee County, General Motors, Ruth Mott Foundation, Deloitte, Kettering, University of Michigan-Flint and Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce.

Homecoming Host Committee members range from college/university presidents to business leaders such as Bob Waun, CEO, C3 Ventures Flint to Mark Davidoff, Michigan Managing Partner, Deloitte, LLC to entrepreneur Phil Shaltz, CEO, Shaltz Automation to community leaders such as Ridgway White, President, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Handy Lindsey, CEO, Ruth Mott Foundation. For more information about Flint Homecoming 2017 and to stay updated throughout the event, please visit FlintHomecoming.com.

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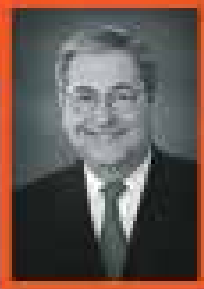
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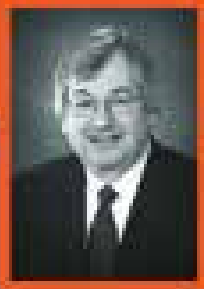
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COMMUNITY

Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity celebrates 30th Anniversary with Luncheon



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Wishing the Michigan Banner congratulations and continued success on your 14th anniversary.

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SVSU Community Writing Center to be introduced at Wirt Public Library in Bay City



SVSU, said the Saginaw Community Writing Center is the first of its kind in Michigan. The new center in Bay City will become the second.

“We are excited to bring the expertise of our SVSU student tutors to Bay County to help all the members of this community develop their writing, whether it be polishing a resume, crafting a scholarship application, or writing a short story,” she said. “At our Saginaw location, over 250 community members have participated in our individual tutoring sessions and writing workshops.”

The Bay Area Community Writing Center will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Wirt Public Library in downtown Bay City. “We are pleased to be able to host the center and collaborate with SVSU with the support of the Bay Area Community Foundation,” said Trish Burns, director of the Bay County Library System.

As libraries continue evolving to meet diverse community needs, centers like this will become more important. The tutoring and workshops that take place in the center are another tool for patrons to use to continue building a better life. For more information about the Bay Area Community Writing Center, contact the SVSU Writing Center at (989) 964-2829.

Saginaw Valley State University has received grant funding to establish the Bay Area Community Writing Center, which will open in September at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library in Bay City.

SVSU received \$16,500 from the Community Initiative Fund and the Youth Advisory Endowment Fund at the Bay Area Community Foundation. The funds will cover two years of support for student tutors from SVSU’s Writing Center. They will offer workshops as well as individual tutoring sessions for members of the Bay County community.

“We are delighted to partner with SVSU and the Wirt Library to provide this service to community residents,” said Eileen Curtis, president and CEO of the Bay Area Community Foundation. The skills the writing tutors will share with individuals to help them become more effective writers will be of great benefit to our community. An opening for the Bay Area Community Writing Center is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 19. It will join the Saginaw Community Writing Center, hosted at the Butman-Fish Library in Saginaw, which began in September 2015. Helen Raica-Klotz, director of the Writing Center at

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE SAGINAW seeking part-time driver, up to 30 hours a week, Monday through Friday and some Saturdays. Hours may vary. Must have a Michigan Chauffeur's License, be able to lift 70 pounds, pass physical, drug test and criminal background check. Email resumé and cover letter to jobs@sshfh.org. EOE.

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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

What Will Your References Say About Your Organization

When people want to know more about your nonprofit, who do they talk to? Who serves as a reference? How can you help ensure your references speak knowledgeably and with specifics? Don't take your references for granted.

Take time to talk with those you ask to serve as a reference. Ask if it is okay to use their name for a specific project or proposal. Permission is important, and references want to know when they may be contacted. It is common for a funder to request three references.

We suggest selecting people who will each say something distinct from the other. What are the three things you want a prospective funder to know about your nonprofit? Do they include organizational management, uniqueness, impact or track record and experience with collaboration. When selecting references, ask yourself these questions: does this person really know the organization.

Do they have a profile that a grant maker will take notice of? Are they known as honest and credible? Consider asking someone who uses your services, has benefitted from your advocacy, or is a volunteer or donor.

The person to stay away from is the one who says "Just write it for me and I'll sign my name." Of course you should provide each reference with materials to draw from, but you want someone who can ultimately use their own words. Here are three examples.

Which would you prefer to be said about your nonprofit?

1. They're good people. They've been around a long time. I know some of the board members. I know some of the people they serve. I've attended some of their events. I get their materials all the time. I served on their board a few years back. My employees served as volunteers at one time. I see them in the paper

now and then.

2. It's a well managed organization. They have a very engaged board. They are visible in the community, especially their staff. Volunteers are excited to participate. Their special events are informative and meaningful. The work they do makes a difference in the quality of life for this community. It's a diverse organization. I feel that my donation means something to the bottom line.

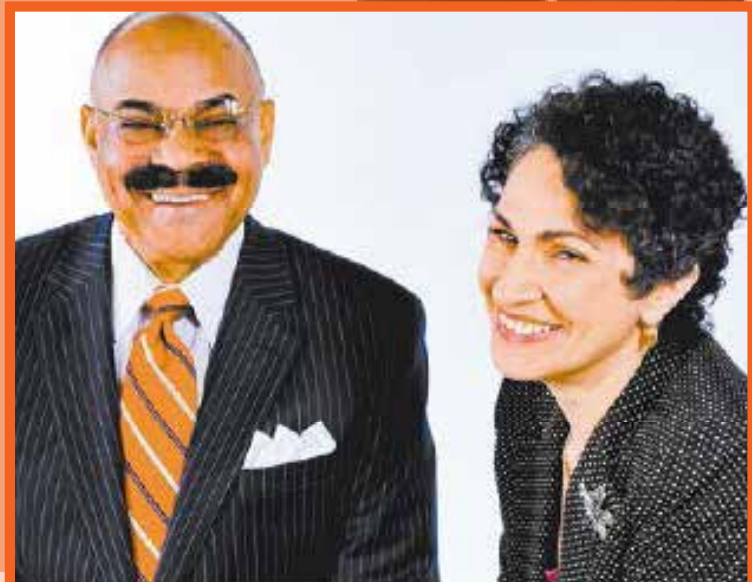
3. What they do is so unique. There is no other organization engaging young people in the way that they do. They think through their programming and collaborate with other organizations. I like the way they engage neighborhood teenagers to help with outreach and mentoring.

The management team is engaged and has been in place for the past three years. They are proactive and have a reserve fund. My phone calls are quickly returned. I'm involved with their fundraising. There are 10 donors I stay connected with. I update them each year on the work of the organization and always ask for their annual gift. Your brand is how people know you, what they say about you, and what they think about you. Check your references!

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Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo

EDUCATION

All-American running career prepares SVSU grad to serve U.S. Navy as submarine engineer



With exceptional discipline and inspired determination, Joey Southgate became an All-American athlete during a personal best-smashing, storybook-ending final run in May as a track athlete at Saginaw Valley State University.

By the end of this week, the Unionville native will begin applying that same discipline and determination toward his training as a nuclear engineer aboard a submarine with the U.S. Navy. It might be an unnerving feeling at first, being in a submarine like that, Southgate said, but this will be a really quality experience. I'm looking forward to it.

The May 2017 SVSU graduate will depart Saturday, June 24, for Newport, Rhode Island. There, he will embark on a 12-week-long U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School a boot camp of sorts followed by two years of training in the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate program. He plans to conclude his 5-year Navy commitment aboard a submarine,

dedicating himself to managing and maintaining the nuclear reactor that keeps the vessel running and its men alive hundreds of feet beneath the surface of the seas.

Southgate has had his sights set on an engineering career for some time and said SVSU's top-notch mechanical engineering program was a big factor in choosing his school. "I've always liked the problem-solving aspect of engineering," he said. "I enjoy math, and engineering has a lot to do with math." Once at SVSU, Southgate thrived in what he described as a down-to-earth, personal, hands-on experience that allowed him to work one-on-one with professors.

One of his mentors was Brooks Byam, professor of mechanical engineering, who served as Southgate's advisor during a senior capstone project that involved designing and building an indoor practice hitting platform for SVSU's golf program. "Joey has a good balance of technical and entrepreneurial skills that

should serve him well in the military," Byam said. "In the military, you also need good mental and physical toughness, and Joey showed that he has that as an athlete."

Southgate showcased that toughness in particular during his final competition as a Cardinal at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Bradenton, Florida in May.

"It was kind of a storybook ending to my career," the three-year team captain said. For weeks, Southgate's earlier performances placed him on the bubble of those athletes hoping to qualify for the championships. He eventually slipped in as the 19th of 19 athletes invited to compete.

Competing in the 10,000-meter run, Southgate approached the contest with a level of determination and confidence he hadn't experienced previously, he said. His mastery of that particular race had become a theme of his senior season campaign. A year earlier, his personal best finishing time was 30 minutes, 40 seconds. By the time he entered May's contest, his latest best was 30 minutes, 2 seconds — a 38-second difference considered sizable for that distance.

But, on the biggest stage of his athletic life, Southgate was ready to finish even faster. "Distance running is a very heavily mental sport," he said. "A lot of people probably don't appreciate the mental preparation that goes into it. I was in a good spot mentally that day." The result was a national championship performance that shaved 18 seconds off that personal best and nearly one minute off his top performance a year earlier.

He finished in 29 minutes, 44 seconds, placing sixth in the race. The distinction earned him a spot on the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association First Team All-American lineup.

"I always wanted to be an All-American," he said. "I thought, That would be the pinnacle of my career, and it was." Southgate learned from a previous SVSU All-American, during his years as a student at Unionville-Sebewaing High School. There, he participated in competitive running sports under the mentorship

of a member of SVSU's Cardinal Athletic Hall of Fame, Ed LaBair, a seven-time All-American and member of two national championship indoor track and field teams while at SVSU in the early 1980s.

LaBair coached Southgate's high school cross country team. "He has been a big influence for me when it came to my running career," Southgate said. "He has been a great leader and motivator for me." That motivation helped Southgate excel in the sport, receiving All-State honors during his sophomore and junior years. Off the course, Southgate's tireless commitment to his studies helped him earn top grades until he graduated high school in 2012. That continued in college — he graduated SVSU with honors (cum laude) and qualified for the Dean's List five teams.

Now Southgate is determined to achieve excellence in his next challenge in life this time, out at sea. While he is the grandson and nephew of U.S. Navy veterans, he didn't consider a life in the military until attending a career fair at SVSU in the winter semester of 2016, when a Navy recruiter connected Southgate's interest in engineering to the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate initiative.

I kind of walked into this program by accident, Southgate said. His enrollment wasn't as simple as walking in, however.



Southgate engaged in a months-long application process that included meeting with Navy officials in Washington D.C. and visiting Naval Base San Diego. He was officially accepted into the nuclear propulsion program in July 2016. During his trip to San Diego, he toured a submarine docked at the naval base. "While the vehicle never submerged, you could get a sense of how small and cramped it was inside," he said. "But it

didn't lose its appeal for me."

Southgate said that appeal includes maintaining the discipline necessary to manage a nuclear reactor responsible for keeping dozens of men alive below water and a nation protected on the surface. "I'm prepared to work hard and do the best I can," he said. "That's what I always do."

Gov. Snyder Announces Winners for 2017 Governor's Service Awards

LANSING, MICH. – Saginaw's Richard Garber has been named one of 49 winners of the 2017 Governor's Service Awards.

The winners are individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations that were selected for their commitment to volunteerism, service or philanthropy. Snyder announced the 49 winners on Thursday, June 29, 2017.

"These individuals and organizations are role models for other people to follow. The impact they have on other people's lives is incredible," Snyder said. "They show us how to overcome obstacles and do good things for other people. They demonstrate tremendous spirit and we are thrilled to recognize them."

The Governor's Service Awards winners will be honored during a special ceremony hosted by the Michigan Community Service

Commission on Monday, Aug. 21, at the Detroit Opera House. The event will also commemorate the Michigan Community Service Commission's 25th anniversary.

The winners include:

Gov. George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award: Evelyn Brown (Detroit)

Lifetime Humanitarian Award: Richard Garber (Saginaw), William Holmes (Ypsilanti), Larry Hines (Muskegon), John Barfield (Ann Arbor)

Volunteer of the Year: Bonnie Raffaele (Sault Ste. Marie), Treger Strasberg (Birmingham), Tarence Wheeler (Farmington Hills), Sherman Neal (Detroit)

Senior Volunteer of the Year: James Bennett (Hamburg), Patricia Dishaw (Crystal Falls), William DeChavez (Sterling Heights), James Feliciano

(Marquette), Magnolia Bodley (Kalamazoo)

Youth Volunteer of the Year: Abigail and Lillian Diuble (Manchester), Robby Eimers (New Haven), Mac-Rufus Umeokolo (Bloomfield Hills), Aidan Sova (Jackson), Neha Seshadri (Ann Arbor), Sarah Maisano (Clinton Township)

Mentor of the Year: Paula C. Dirkes (Berkley), GM Cares team – Dawin Wright (Rochester Hills), Marilyn Gripper (Southfield) and Tom Parkhill (Rochester Hills), Eric Miller (Detroit), Samuel Wells (Flint), Bobby Johnson (Detroit)

Outstanding Volunteer Program: Crim Fitness Foundation (Flint), Accounting Aid Society (Detroit), IM Kids 3rd Meal (Ionia/ Montcalm), Bryan's HOPE (Waterford), Henry Ford Allegiance Health (Jackson)

Outstanding National Service Program:

Power of We (Lansing), AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program (Detroit), MI GEAR UP VISTA (Mt. Pleasant), Michigan's Habitat for Humanity AmeriCorps Program (statewide)

Corporate Community Leader: Firekeepers Casino Hotel (Battle Creek), Comcast (statewide), Emergent BioSolutions (Lansing), Griffin Properties (Grand Rapids), Whirlpool (St. Joseph), Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union (Alpena)

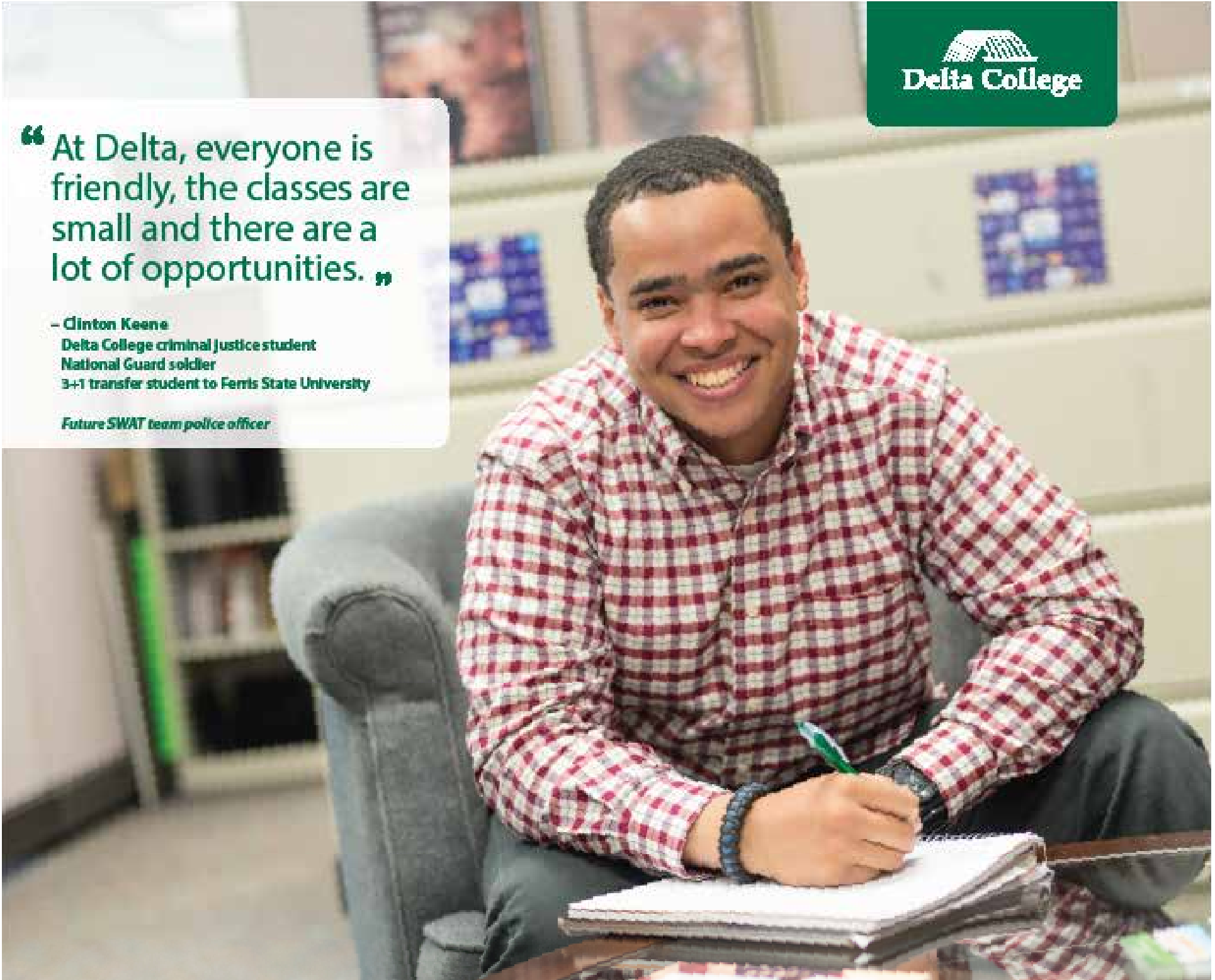
Education Service Leader: Mott Community College (Flint), Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo), Books for Benefits (University Of Michigan, University Of Michigan-Dearborn, Michigan State University and Wayne State University) Troy Athens High School (Troy), Cody Rouge Action Alliance (Detroit), Ionia Youth Advisory Council (Ionia)



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- Clinton Keene
Delta College criminal justice student
National Guard soldier
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Future SWAT team police officer



Clinton Keene, Delta College criminal justice student, Public Safety officer and soldier in the National Guard, is excited about his future in law enforcement.

His ultimate goal is to join a SWAT team – an elite group of police officers called in for special situations. It's not easy to get into, but he's up for the challenge.

He's got big dreams. And, he's on his way to reaching them.

YOU CAN DO IT, TOO.

GO AHEAD, THINK BIG!

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Saginaw Awards and Congratulates Dr. Austin

Continued from Page 1



Salutations for The Michigan Banner



“We congratulate The Michigan Banner on 15 years of serving our community, providing important coverage on issues vital to our community. The Banner has long recognized the many ways in which SVSU engages with our community to improve

public safety, health care, education, business and many other elements that contribute to our overall quality of life. We wish you continued success.”

— Don Bachand, President,
Saginaw Valley State University



An alternative is defined as a selection that precludes any other possibility. The Michigan Banner has distinguished itself as just that. A media outlet that provides information and content which is not found in any other source. We are grateful, as a community, for The Banner giving us

another view. God's best to you Mr. Buckley and staff as you continue to empower us with information.

— Pastor Dempsey Allen
Jacob's Ladder Ministries



Congratulations on 15 years of successfully sharing the news of positive developments and accomplishments within the Great Lakes Bay Region. Wishing you many, many more years of success. Cheers!

— Carol Cottrell



Saginaw MAX System of Care wishes to congratulate Jerome Buckley and The Michigan Banner staff on fifteen years of success in the Greater Saginaw Region. Everyone wants success but it only follows those who truly dedicate themselves to the hard

work and commitment required to achieve it. In the face of many challenges, The Michigan Banner has consistently provided the community with positive news; with stories that inspire us to collaborate and build relationships necessary to maintain a safe and healthy environment for the children and families that we have the privilege of serving. We wish you many years of continued achievement and success.

— Wardene B. Talley
Project Director, System of Care



“While a student at Morehouse College in 1947, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote: ‘Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths. To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of

the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.’ I believe SVSU and The Michigan Banner share a common goal of educating our community in line with Dr. King’s ideals. Congratulations on reaching your 15th anniversary.

— J.J. Boehm, Director of Media and
Community Relations, SVSU



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson
Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children, ages three to five, in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social and other services.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families.

EHS programs enhance children’s physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents’ efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

Together Head Start and Early Head Start have served tens of millions of children and their families.

At Saginaw ISD Head Start our attentive staff is available Monday through Friday to answer all your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100 percent satisfied.

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For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit:
www.saginawheadstart.org

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org

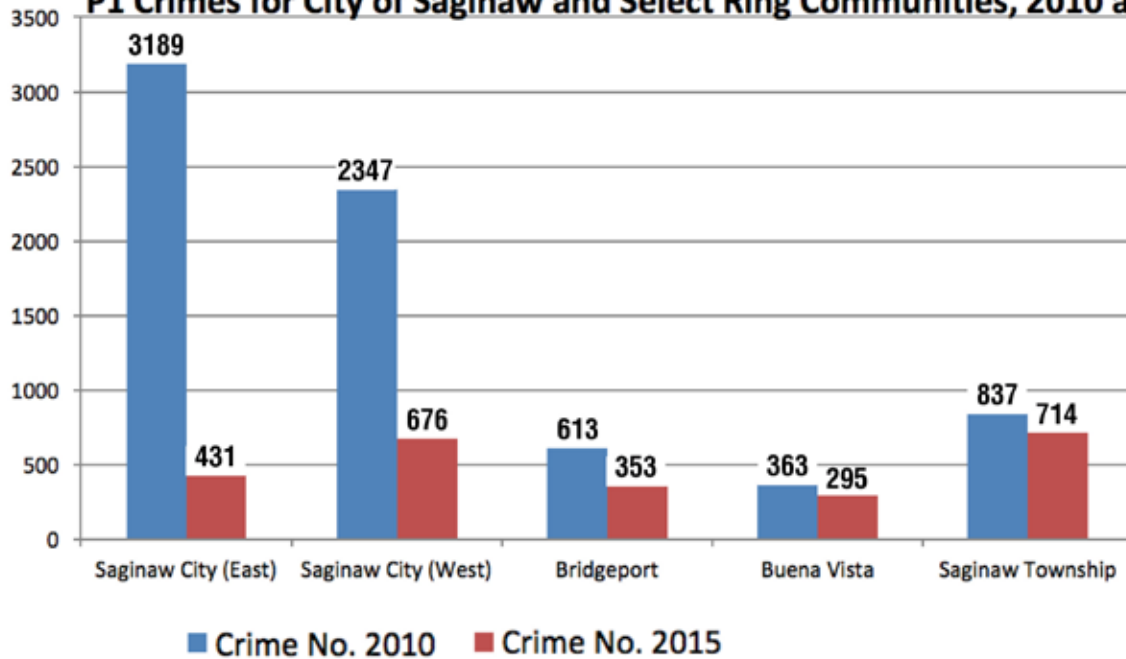
“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”
Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrsmn., Dist. 43.

“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”
-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

COMMUNITY

SVSU Study Shows Saginaw Has Seen Major Gains in Safety

P1 Crimes for City of Saginaw and Select Ring Communities, 2010 and 2015



Research and analysis by a pair of Saginaw Valley State University professors shows that the City of Saginaw has seen a startling reduction in major crimes in recent years, and that neighboring communities also are safer.

Working with the Saginaw County Crime Prevention Initiative, Andrew Miller, SVSU associate professor of geography, and Evelyn Ravuri, SVSU professor of geography, studied crime data for the City of Saginaw, and Bridgeport, Buena Vista and Saginaw townships. For research purposes, the east and west sides of Saginaw were examined separately, because of their demographic differences according to U.S. census data.

Over a five-year period, the number of part one crimes in the east side of Saginaw fell by 86 percent, and the west side of Saginaw saw crime reduced by 71 percent. Overall, major crimes in the city dropped by 80 percent. In 2010, a total of 3,189 part one crimes were reported for Saginaw’s east side, compared to 431 in 2015. The west side saw the number of part one crimes fall from 2,347 in 2010 to 676 in 2015. “Safety is a primary concern for the city and our residents,” said Tim Morales, city manager for the

City of Saginaw. “Everyone should feel safe in their home, in their neighborhood, and throughout the city. The Saginaw Police Department, City Council and Administration, the community, and our partners in the county, state, and federal government are dedicated to making Saginaw a safer city.”

Morales added that Saginaw leaders embrace the work that remains to be done. “We are pleased with the results we’ve seen so far, and hope to continue these trends. A safe city is also vital to attracting new businesses and residential development, which is also essential as we seek to bring jobs to the city.”

While the drop in crime was most pronounced within city limits, Bridgeport Township saw major crimes drop by 42 percent (613 to 353) over the same five-year period. Crime in Buena Vista Township fell by nearly 19 percent (363 to 295), and Saginaw Township saw a crime reduction of nearly 15 percent (837 to 714). The FBI categorizes part one crimes, which include the most serious offenses, such as homicides, assaults, burglaries and robberies. Miller and Ravuri began studying crime data to evaluate the effectiveness of blight removal in Saginaw. Their research shows the 884 federally-funded housing

demolitions that occurred from 2013 to 2015 are responsible for approximately 20 percent of the overall crime reduction. (See SVSU study shows blight removal a significant factor in Saginaw’s drop in crime: svsu.edu/newsroom/news/2017/june/svsustudyshowsblightremovaldropincrime/28-ucomm-svsustudyshowsblightremovalfactordropincrime.html)

“The demolitions were focused in certain areas for a reason because the crime was there,” said Ravuri. Numerous other factors also contributed to improved safety levels.

An increase of Michigan State Police troopers in the city, starting in 2012, undoubtedly played a part. The professors also believe increased involvement by neighborhood associations had an impact. “It shows the fact that people don’t want to live like this,” said Miller. “We’re now statistically able to show this, even though before, we were just able to map it and notice a connection. Now, we’re proving it. We’re showing that this community is fighting back.”

The professors’ latest findings are the culmination of four years of studying crime in the city and the region. Miller and multiple students first determined where crime hot spots were, and he then brought on Ravuri, an expert in urban redistribution and population dynamics, among other topics. “This entire project has really been about understanding what Saginaw is, who it is,” Miller said. “That improved understanding benefits law enforcement in the fight against crime.”

The SVSU researchers share data analysis with Saginaw County’s police chiefs, showing where crime is moving, among other things. Saginaw Township Police Chief Don Pussehl leads the county chiefs association. “It’s very informational to me so that I can take a look at that area and determine what my patrol officers can do to be able to prevent further crime from occurring in that area and address the issues that are happening there,” he said. “It’s been very helpful for us to address those findings, keep an eye on things and prevent further spread of criminal activity.”

POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY



Pipes at 1,871 Flint Homes Replaced So Far through Mayor's Program

FLINT, MICH. — Lead-tainted service lines at 973 homes have been replaced so far in Phase 4 of Mayor Karen Weaver's FAST Start initiative. The work is part of the mayor's plan to replace lead-tainted pipes at 6,000 Flint homes in 2017.

Crews from four area companies are replacing lead and galvanized service lines leading from the street to the water meter in residents' homes during this fourth phase of FAST Start, extending the mayor's efforts to restore safe, clean drinking water to Flint residents. Overall, service lines to 1,871 homes have been replaced since FAST Start began in March 2016.

In addition, crews discovered copper service lines at 479 homes that did not need to be replaced. The FAST Start initiative plans to soon begin checking the composition of 4,000 service lines using hydro-excavation so that pipe replacement crews can avoid digging up copper service lines and

concentrate just on homes with lead and galvanized pipes.

To be eligible for service line replacements, residents must have an active water account. They also must have signed a consent card giving permission for the work to be done. In rental homes, both the owner and the tenant must sign consent cards. Residents are urged to sign the consent cards as soon as possible, so crews working in their neighborhood can replace their service lines.

Crews will be working in the following areas from June 26 through July 7 (no work will be done Monday, July 3, or Tuesday, July 4):

Goyette Mechanical Co.: Greenway Avenue, Patterson Street, Sloan Street, Bagley Street, Swayzee Street, Brown Street, Cumings Avenue, Chicago Boulevard, Edith Avenue, Fenton Road, Bloor Avenue, Brunswick Avenue and Camden Avenue

W.T. Stevens Construction: West Flint Park and East Flint Park, Monteith Street, Kansas Avenue, Simcoe Avenue, Neubert Avenue, Algonquin Avenue, Arrow Lane, Blades Avenue, Hillcrest Avenue, East Stewart Avenue, Victoria Avenue and Ogema Avenue

Lang Construction: East Pasadena Avenue, West Pasadena Avenue and East Newall Street.

Waldorf and Sons: Illinois Avenue, Iowa Avenue and Indiana Avenue

The goal is to have all of Flint's lead-tainted service lines — nearly 20,000 — replaced by 2020, with 6,000 pipes replaced annually over the next three years.

More information about the FAST Start initiative can be found on the City of Flint FAST Start Facebook page, as well as on Instagram, Twitter and the City of Flint website www.cityofflint.com. Questions about FAST Start can be directed to the FAST Start office by emailing faststart@cityofflint.com.



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www.greatlakespace.org
jdarby@greatlakespace.org

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LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

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Pastor Otis Washington
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Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
www.messiahsg.org

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**New Life Baptist Church**

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New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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Assistant Pastor Rex Jones
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COMMUNITY

UM-Flint Presents Awards to 11 Flint Entrepreneurs



FLINT, MICH. — The University of Michigan-Flint's University Outreach has announced winners of an entrepreneurship competition held June 24 in Flint. The competition was part of a celebration held at Berston Field House, to mark the culmination of four business boot camps held in Flint from February through June 2017.

A total of 49 certificates were awarded to graduates of the IN on the Road business boot camp. Graduates were invited to present their business ideas in a Pitch & Prize competition for \$4500 in prizes.

Youth Winners of the Pitch & Prize included:

- Tyrone Smith – Mother and Sons Cleaning Service
- Rayven McQueen – Tutoring for peers at her elementary school
- Aaliyah McQueen – Basketball camps and merchandise for serious youth players
- Clayton Robinson – 3D Printing service

Adult Winners of the Pitch & Prize included:

- Venus Nash – Sewing Cafe
- Joyce Cade-Hitchye – Of Impact, Veterans Referral Service
- Everett Roberts – BEEncouraged &

Empowered, Inc.

- Tiffany Parsons – Be Smoothie mobile truck
- Karl Collyer – Happy Little Greens Farm
- Terry Kinzie – Organic Lawn Care
- Torina Johnson – Purple Lady Nursing Service

Judges included Paula Nas, Director of University Outreach; Harry Blecker, Business Growth Coach for Michigan's Small Business Development Center; DeWaun Robinson, entrepreneur and COO of Urban Renaissance Center; and Luke Lloyd, retired professional basketball player, and entrepreneur.

For years, University Outreach has offered popular business workshops at the Innovation Incubator, nicknamed IN, located on the UM-Flint campus. IN on the Road turned the training into a 5-session workshop series, which was offered at convenient locations in Flint neighborhoods.

The IN on the Road business boot camps were presented at Joy Tabernacle in February; Holmes STEM Academy in March; Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint in May; and Asbury United Methodist

in June. Community members took advantage of the intensive training to learn how to start a business and become financially literate. The boot camps were offered at no charge to the public thanks to funding support from the Ruth Mott Foundation and the MI-SBDC I-69 Trade Corridor Region.

Graduates of the course offered positive remarks about the boot camp. "The course provided the tools for deeper thought and considerations to get beyond the idea phase," said one graduate. "Course materials were great for class and future planning," said another participant. "Having business owners come to classes was the number one most useful thing about the course."

Participants also are eligible to receive bus passes to travel to University Outreach's Innovation Incubator for additional business assistance after the boot camp.

More information about the IN on the Road program is at go.umflint.edu/IN or contact Nic Custer at ncuster@umflint.edu or 810-424-5454 for more information.

About the Innovation Incubator

The University of Michigan-Flint University Outreach connects campus and community to support learning, collaboration and partnerships. One of its programs, the Innovation Incubator, helps students and community members start businesses and non-profits. The public is invited to use the co-work space free of charge weekdays at Northbank Center, Suite 207, 432 N. Saginaw Street.

Since 2008, about 5,878 people have been positively affected by the Incubator program and its client startups' products and services. Of these, about 1,841 people have taken advantage of Incubator training sessions. To date, about 24 businesses have graduated from the Incubator program. At least 134 jobs have been created by the Incubator and its client startups. About 45 percent of the number of jobs created were for underprivileged community members.

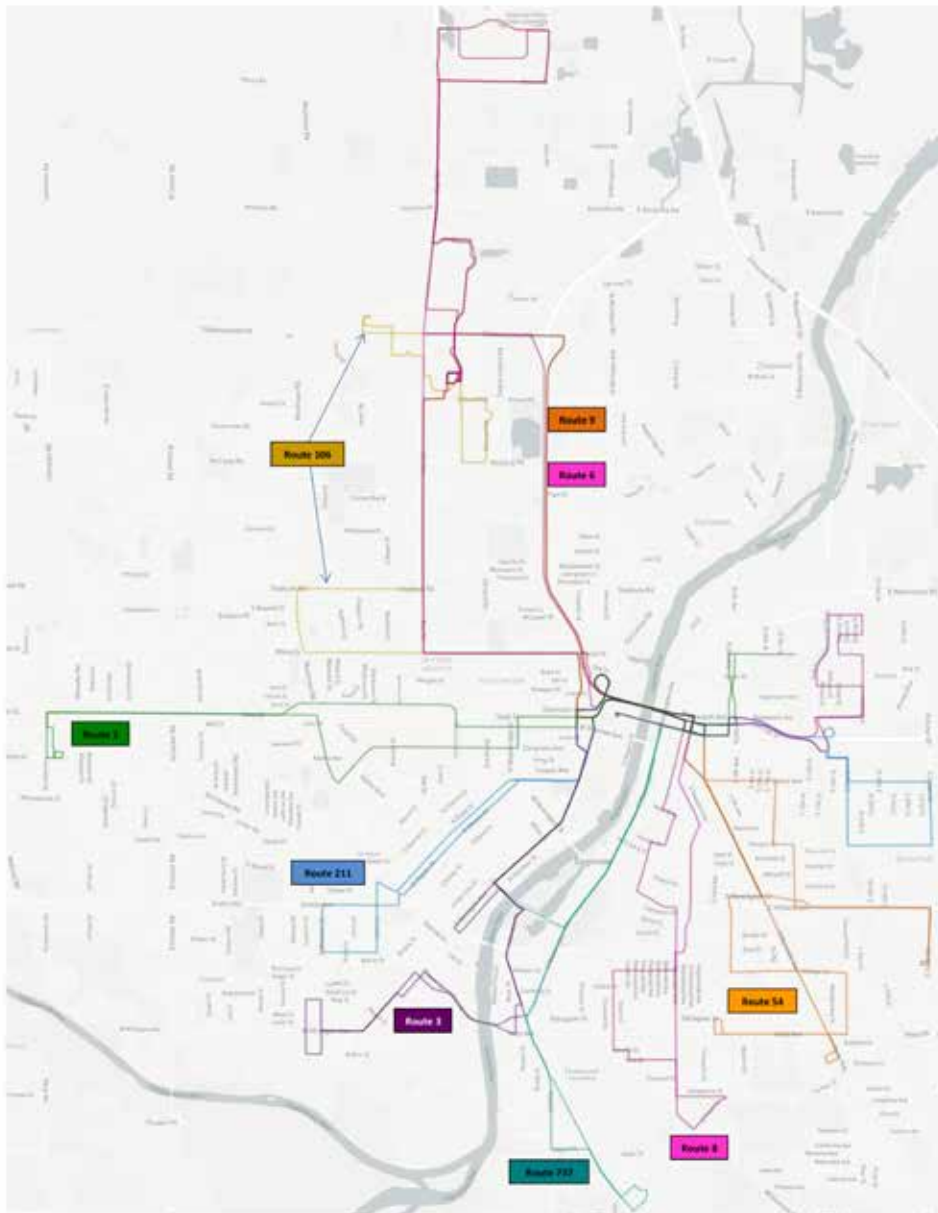
Stars to Start New Route System August 21, Board Approves Service Change

Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) is on track to start a new bus route system on August 21. After taking into consideration public comments and other input, the STARS Board on Monday, June 26 approved a major service change in the form of the new route system. Maps of the new route system are available at the STARS Transit Center customer service desk and will be available online at www.saginaw-stars.com starting Thursday, June 29.

NEW STARS FIXED-ROUTE SERVICE MAP:

START DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 21 2017

- Route 1: STATE – WALMART – FARWELL
- Route 211: PERKINS – OUTER – WOODBRIDGE – GRATIOT
- Route 3: MICHIGAN – FORDNEY
- Route 54: GENESEE – JANES – HOLLAND
- Route 6: BAY ROAD – SVSU
- Route 737: WASHINGTON – MICHIGAN – RIVERVIEW
- Route 8: JEFFERSON – WARREN – VETS
- Route 9: CARDINAL EXPRESS
- Route 106: TITTABAWASSEE – SHATTUCK



Route 1: STATE – WALMART – FARWELL



First Leg: STATE – WALMART (Outbound / Inbound)



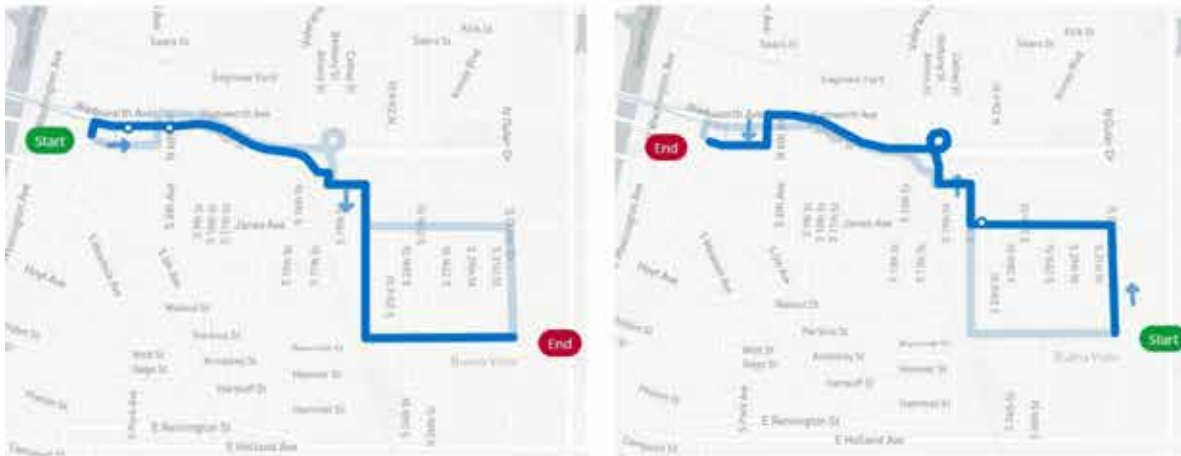
Second Leg: FARWELL (Outbound / Inbound)



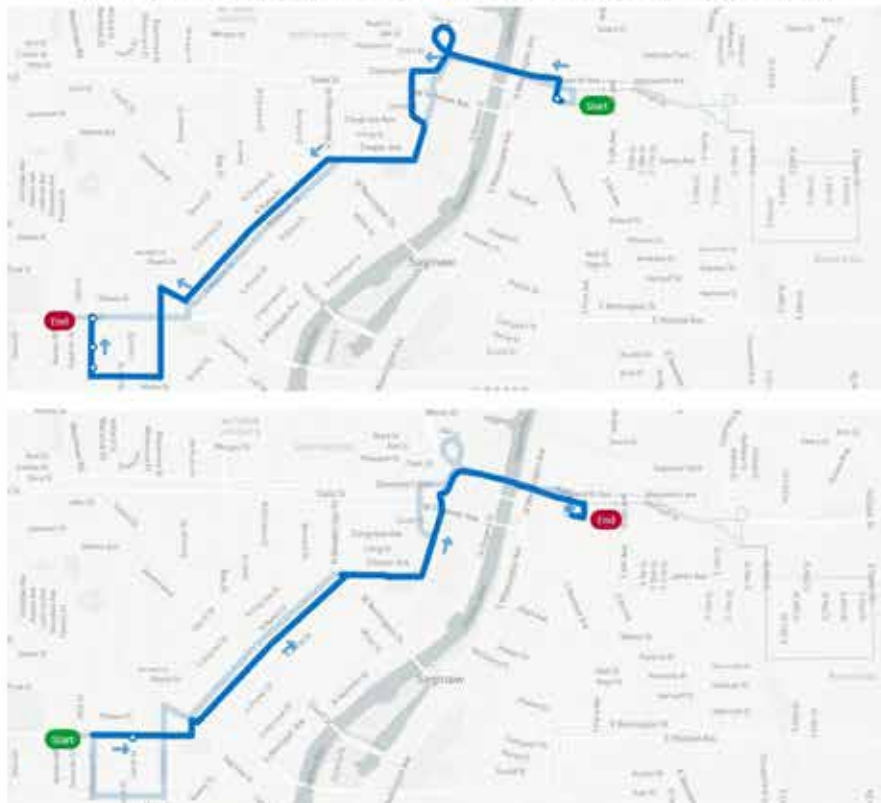
Route 211: PERKINS – OUTER – WOODBRIDGE – GRATIOT



First Leg: PERKINS – OUTER (Outbound / Inbound)



Second Leg: WOODBRIDGE – GRATIOT (Outbound / Inbound):



Route 3: MICHIGAN – FORDNEY



Route 54: GENESSEE – JANES – HOLLAND



First Leg: GENESSEE (Outbound / Inbound)



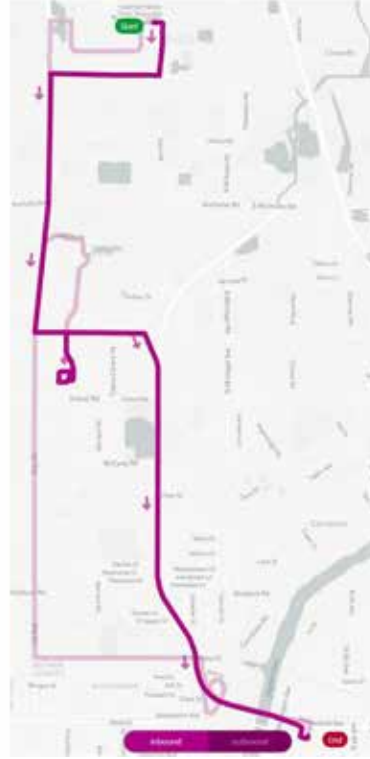
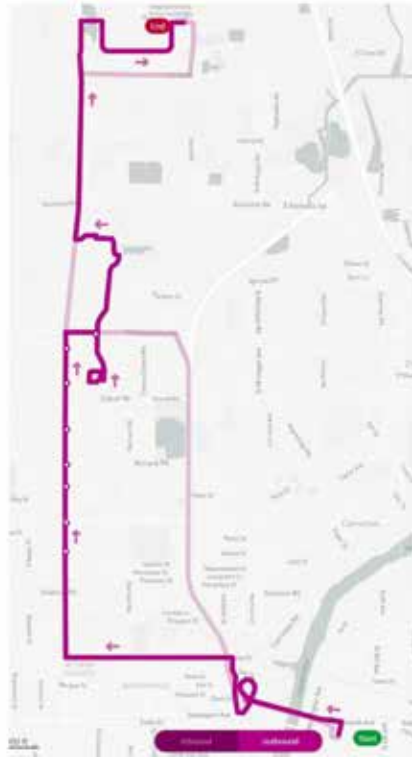
Second Leg: JANES – HOLLAND (Outbound / Inbound)



Route 6: BAY ROAD - SVSU

Outbound:

Inbound:



First Leg: JEFFERSON - WARREN (Outbound)

First Leg (Inbound):



Second Leg: VETS (Outbound)



Second Leg: VETS (Inbound)



Route 737: WASHINGTON - MICHIGAN - RIVERVIEW

**First Leg:
WASHINGTON - MICHIGAN
Outbound:**

**Second Leg: RIVERVIEW - WASHINGTON
Outbound:**

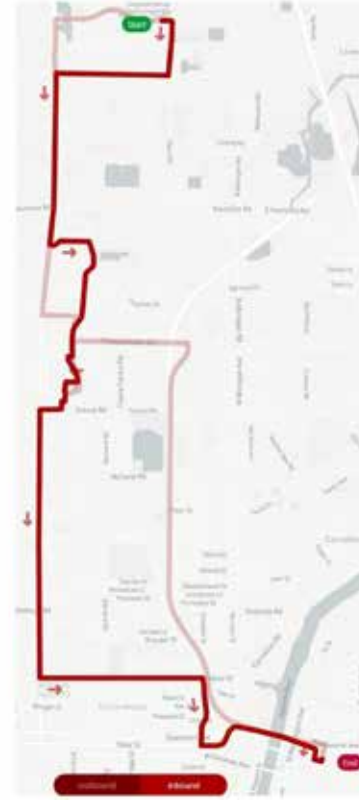
Inbound:



Route 9: CARDINAL EXPRESS

Outbound:

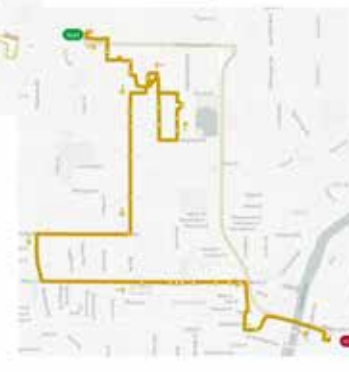
Inbound:



Route 106: TITABAWASSEE – SHATTUCK

Outbound:

Inbound:





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PIC OF THE WEEK

The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce graduated the 31st Leadership Saginaw Class on June 8. Congratulations class of 2017!



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Leadership Saginaw County, a personal and community leadership development program, was formed by the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce out of a recognized need that Saginaw County must develop and strengthen its own leaders.





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MI Renaissance Zone

- ✔ Pay No State Income Tax through 2026
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Assuming a household income of \$200,000 and estimated property value of \$200,000:

- ✔ State of Michigan income tax savings
Current rate is 4.25% - \$8,500
- ✔ City of Saginaw income tax savings
Current rate is 1.5% - \$3,000
- ✔ Property tax savings at reduced rate
From 46 mills to 13 mills - \$3,250
- ✔ **Estimated Annual Savings - \$14,750**



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