


# THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 15 years of Positive News!

HAPPY EASTER!

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**Saginaw County Mental Health Authority to Celebrate Everyday Heroes**

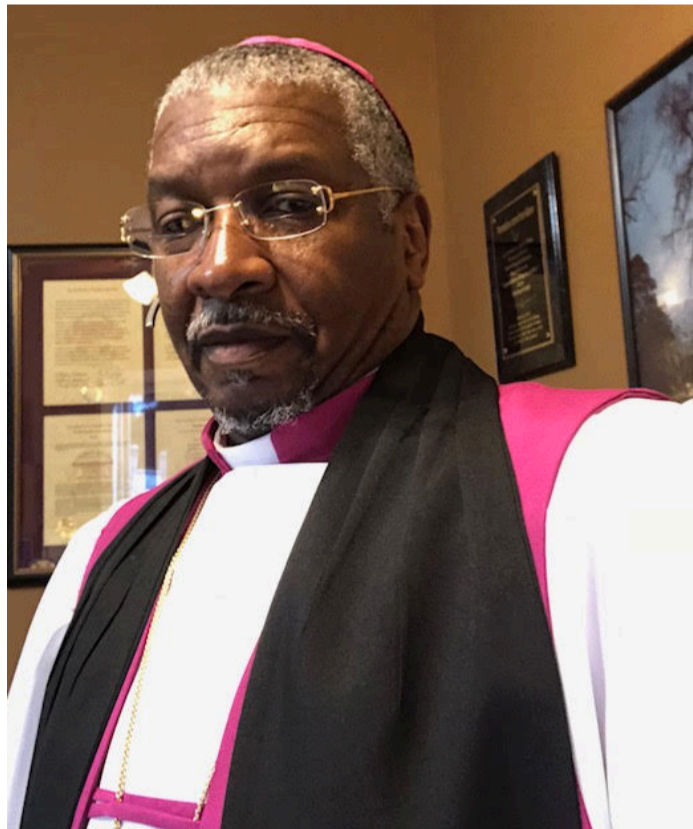
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## Rev. Larry D. Camel to Receive National MLK Jr. Drum Major Innovation Service Award



*courtesy photos*

Rev. Larry D. Camel, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw was selected to receive the Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Drum Major Innovation Service Award. The prestigious award is given out by the U.S. Department of Education Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, in collaboration with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African-Americans (WHIEEAA). The award is given to volunteers who perform extraordinary everyday acts of service focusing on

innovative approaches to serving our students. The term service, included leading through outreach, mission-driven service, volunteerism, ministry, etc. focused on innovative educational experiences for students. Reverend Camel will be recognized at an event on April 3, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the U. S. Department of Education, in Washington, DC located at 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, DC 20202.

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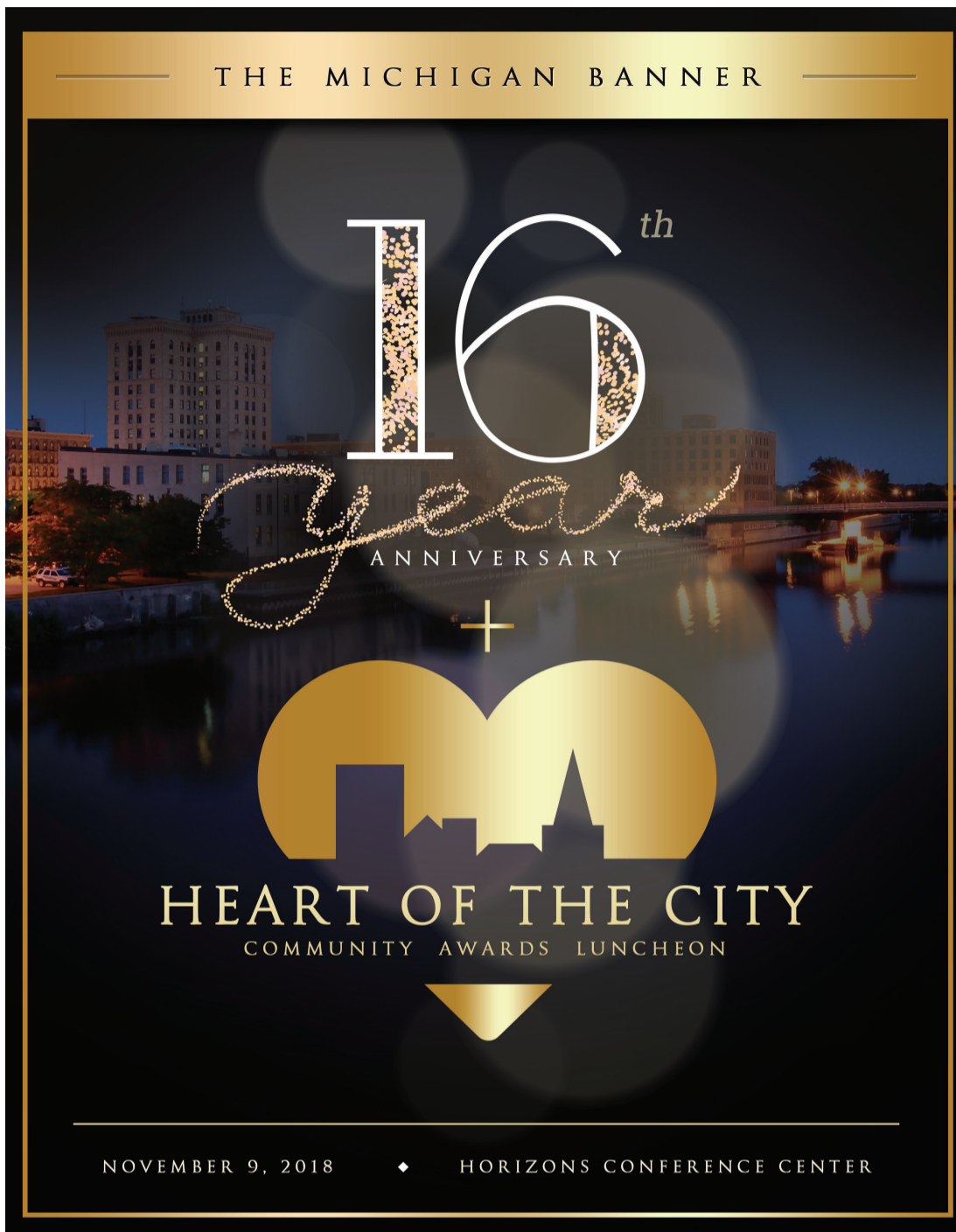
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The Michigan Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore,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

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# THE QUEEN OF HEARTS

By Joann L. Washington

## INDIGO SOUL STORY COLLECTION



Mrs. Anna Belle Johnson was a sweet, soft-spoken widow that lived alone in a magnificent old hobble stone mansion, in a quaint enclave in Indian Village, in Detroit before the turn of the century. The house was surrounded by a most enchanted garden of roses, marigolds, lilies, flowering shrubbery and even heady sunflowers from the south of France.

There was something genuine and magical about her garden, and Mrs. Anna Belle Johnson. It was said she indeed possessed a heart of gold, and left it open for all to share.

"Tea and cakes Mrs. Rose Smith? Would you care to join me in tea and cakes?" chimed Anna Belle.

Mrs. Smith was a bitter aged woman that lived next-door to Anna Belle Johnson on Burns Avenue. She lived with her plump bulldog Gruffy.

"No! I haven't got time for those silly little tea cups...nor those sickening sweet cakes, or you pestering me so early this morning, Anna Belle Johnson!" The woman spoke hastily with a whiny quiver in her voice, stroking her dog.

The old woman snarled hastily before slamming her door shut. It was rather queer, through the years; it became increasingly difficult to distinguish Mr. Smith from her dog.

Mrs. Anna Belle Johnson had a soft heart when it came to children, every day after school she invited all the children in the world it seemed, to play in her spacious yard. How the children adored dear sweet old Anna Belle Johnson. She would gather them in a big circle and tell them tales of long ago, when she was a girl. She would fill the young children's minds with tales of her late husband Edward Lee Johnson III. Oh! How their bright eyes danced when she verbalized their adventures on the high seas...in exotic places like India, and Africa.

Once she was even captured by a band of sandbagger's in a bizarre ancient city called Cairo Egypt. There, she was actually made into a slave girl, until purchased by a dashing wealthy English chap, her husband, Edward. He paid a fair price for her--then fell madly in love with her, so he took her for his wife. His parents disapproved of their marriage, but Edward didn't mind.

How the children enjoyed Saturdays afternoons with Anna Belle Johnson, especially when she served them tea and cakes

Each Saturday morning, Mrs. Anna Belle Johnson went to the farmers market for fresh vegetables, and farm fresh cutlets...and of course to buy, tea and cakes.

"Good day to you Anna Belle Johnson. My, you're looking well!" Tom Williams, the butcher said, smiling while he pushed his glasses up firmly on his pug nose.

"Good day to you Tom Williams! What a fine day it is...makes you glad to be alive to see it! Tom! I have a wonderful idea! Why don't you stop by for tea and cakes! Tom...please come by my place... for tea and cakes." She smiled, and her dark green eyes twinkled.

"Well...by golly I just might do that Anna Belle Johnson. Now, you just have yourself a great day."

"Oh! Yes! Yes! Indeed...that I will so! Shall I look for you next Saturday Tom..? You have yourself a very pleasant say Tom Williams, good bye."

Dear old Anna Belle Johnson wore a crown of thin sliver hair elegantly upon her head. Her emerald eyes sparkled when she spoke, they told of secrets that she kept close-at-hand.

Hordes of screaming children littered the neighborhood, both rich and poor when it was learned that Anna Belle Johnson purchased a backyard filled with swings, sliding boards, monkey bars, everything a child could ever dream of. It was true...Anna Belle Johnson indeed possessed a heart of gold, and one grand yard!

Mrs. Smith and her little bull dog both sat in the squeaky swing on her front porch when Anna Belle Johnson passed their way.

"Good day to you Mrs. Smith. My, what a lovely day it is! Would you care for some tea and cakes, Mrs. Smith? Tea and cakes?"

"I have my reading to finish Mrs. Johnson! It's awfully torrid out here today. My...my arthritis bothers my legs something fierce in this kind of dreadful heat! Oh! Just look at poor Gruff! Those

nasty old fleas bite viciously in this sweltering heat! And another thing! Anna Belle! Those yelling brats you invite from all over Gods knows where, make too much noise, Anna Belle Johnson!! You better make them be quiet...because all that fuss hurts poor little Gruff's ears. You had BETTER make them be quiet or...or. I'll call the law! Now I must hurry and water my prize roses, this sunlight is bad for them...and it kills my grass."

Mrs. Smith hurled her frail crooked body from the swing and vanished under the thick grove of pink and white blossoms, with Gruff fast at her heels.

The children of all colors, shapes, and sizes, were scattered about the huge yard. Mrs. Anna Belle Johnson sat gazing at the youngsters here and there. The afternoon came quickly, without a cloud in the clear blue sky. The warm breeze teased the hem of her cotton dress, as she sipped the tall cold glass of ice tea.

When Mrs. Rose Smith saw Anna Belle Johnson she gasped, and slightly toppled backwards holding her chest for a moment.

"Good day to you Mrs. Smith! Would you care to join me this fine afternoon...I'm serving tea and cakes. It's a new day Mrs. Smith, come and sit with me. Let us enjoy the beauty of the day, and of course...the tea and cakes."

Rose advanced slowly towards Anna Belle Johnson for a better look.

"Why Anna Belle Johnson, what have you done to your hair? And your face is so smooth! You look different!"

"Why don't you just relax Rose Smith? Sit with me for a while. Come on out of the sun and let of enjoy ourselves."

"This horrid sun gives me age spots, and the most dreadful headaches. I must hurry and water my begonias before they just wither away. Look here Anna Belle Johnson! I'm going to find out sooner or later what you're up to, so you might as well let me in on your little secret."

**TO BE CONTINUED... IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!**

# Flint & Genesee Chamber's Annual Meeting Highlights 2017 Results and a Region Energized for Growth



The economic momentum for Flint and Genesee County has taken hold. That was the overriding message from Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce 2018 Annual Meeting, "Building the Future," held today at the Holiday Inn Flint-Grand Blanc Area.

"Our strategy is working," said Chamber CEO Tim Herman, to the more than 400 assembled guests. "While the type of change that we need here in Flint & Genesee doesn't happen overnight, we can look back over the past three years and see that economic momentum has taken hold."

A solid example of that progress is the decision by Lear Corp. to invest \$29 million to build a seat manufacturing facility on a portion of the former Buick City property. It is the first major automotive supplier manufacturing facility built in Flint in more than three decades. Construction is well-underway and the plant will employ around 600 people once it reaches full production.

Jason Scott, global vice president of Lear's GM Seating Group, addressed the gathering as the keynote speaker. Scott provided an update on the Flint project and talked about the importance of culture, leadership and talent retention.

Talent recruitment, development and retention is a key issue for the region, particularly as the job market continues to improve, Herman added.

"Employers are challenged with finding enough people with the right skillsets, which is an area in which the Flint & Genesee Chamber can assist," he said. "That's why talent is a major component

of our 2018-2020 strategic plan."

Herman also shared several data points as evidence of the region's momentum, including:

- The number of jobs grew by 4,330 in Genesee County over the past five years.
- Total wage growth increased 19.4 percent over the past five years.
- The unemployment rate rose slightly from the previous year, from 5 percent to 5.7 percent, with more people returning to the labor force.
- Home prices rose 14.86 percent in 2017 over 2016.

Following are 2017 accomplishments directly related to the Chamber's economic development, tourism and education efforts, and other programs and services:

#### Capital Investment and Jobs

- Supported more than \$296 million in total investment and government contract value
- 15 investment projects generated an estimated \$36 million in annual payroll
- 1,108 jobs created and retained
- 186 assistance projects; 132 existing businesses assisted; 285 entrepreneurs and start-ups assisted

#### Education and Talent Development

- 2,307 students served through YouthQuest
- Served 2,737 students through 99 career prep workshops
- Graduated 623 teens and adults TeenQuest and

#### Career Edge

- Hired 388 teens through the Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) Job Fair

#### Small Business Support and Community Engagement

Conducted 146 workshops, which served 4,614 firms and trained 8,073 employees  
45,847 individuals attended 374 events  
76 workshops/webinars/member engagement opportunities held, with 1,365 total attendance  
23,200 volunteer hours logged by Chamber staff and partners

#### Destination Flint & Genesee

- Over \$133 million in tourism economic impact due to overnight hotel room rentals in Genesee County
- Lodging revenue rose 2 percent and occupancy increased 1 percent
- 19 Art of Achievement honorees recognized for outstanding business and community leadership
- 1,100-plus participants experienced the Flint area through "Be A Tourist in Your Home Town" event
- More than 300 active Certified Tourism Ambassadors in Genesee County

The Chamber's new strategic plan is designed to further improve the region's economic wellbeing and quality of life. The four primary goals are:

1. Be a relentless force for facilitating economic growth in Genesee County.
2. Build a strong business community that furthers the collective and individual success of businesses in Flint & Genesee.
3. Support the success of our region's growing workforce with K-12 career preparation programs and adult talent development
4. Improve the perception of Flint & Genesee to increase tourism and drive business in the region.

"We believe these goals and our strategies will help us create the kind of place where people want to be and businesses what to locate to and grow," said Herman.

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# THE LATINO BANNER

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**7-Eleven Adds Authentic Mexican Baked Goods**  
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*14th Annual*  
**MICHIGAN HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## ECONOMIC FORUM BREAKFAST



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Director – Head of MOPAR Purchasing & Supplier Quality, FCA



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**TONY TOMCZAK**

Chief Procurement Officer, DTE Energy

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH 2018**  
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7:30am - 8:00am Networking | 8:00am - 10:00am Procurement Panel

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EXPERIENCE MORE.

GLBHI Class of 2017

The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute is Now Recruiting for the 10th Anniversary Class

Established in 2009, the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute is a community leadership development training program in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The program provides individuals the opportunity to develop the skills and relationships to become effective leaders and provides a program that prepares and supports highly skillful visionary leaders who improve their lives and the community. The Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute is now accepting applications for the 10th Anniversary cohort, 2018-19 training program.

For program information and class dates, please visit our web site at [www.glbhispanicleadership.org](http://www.glbhispanicleadership.org) or email [glbhli@svsu.edu](mailto:glbhli@svsu.edu)

Special Thanks to our Major Sponsors:

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

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2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month. Submission Procedure: Mailed or e-mailed to the [latinobanner@gmail.com](mailto:latinobanner@gmail.com). Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF



# 7-Eleven Sweetens Private Brand Packaged Bakery Lineup with Authentic Mexican Baked Goods

IRVING, Texas /PRNewswire/ -- ¡Que delicioso! 7-Eleven, Inc. is nationally expanding its offerings of Hispanic Packaged Bakery items and is introducing its new 7-Select® private brand line after months of testing in Mexico and Texas. Appealing to a variety of taste preferences, three traditional Mexican sweet bread options are being offered at participating 7-Eleven® stores:

- Panquecitos: Golden, soft and sweet vanilla mini loaf cakes
- Roles de Canela: Cinnamon rolls with raisins
- Panque con Nuez: Sliced pound cake with chopped pecans

For a limited time, the Panquecitos and Roles de Canela (two servings each) are two for \$3. Regular suggested retail price is \$1.69. The larger Panque con Nuez (four servings) has a suggested retail price of \$2.59.

The United States is home to almost 58 million Hispanics, representing 18 percent of the country's population with significant spending power. Hispanics are a dominant 7-Eleven demographic and a majority fall in 7-Eleven's sweet spot – millennial-aged and younger.

"Like the U.S., Hispanics make up a significant and important part of 7-Eleven's clientele," said Jack Stout, 7-Eleven senior vice president over private brands. "More than half live in the three states where 7-Eleven has a very strong and growing store presence – California, Florida and Texas. 7-Eleven tries to ensure that we offer products that our customers want to see on our shelves, conveniently and priced competitively."

Extensively tested in Mexico for flavor, texture, aroma and appearance, the goal was to meet or exceed consumers' expectations.

"As an organization, we continuously look for innovative ways to bring products to market that reflect the ethnic diversity that mirrors the communities in which we operate," Stout said. "Quality and value are always part of the equation. We want to offer products our customers may already be looking for in a grocery store, but conveniently and with better value while they

fill up with gas or grab coffee."

7-Eleven offers several products that cater specifically to its Hispanic customer base. Customers can expect hot food options like empanadas or papusas as well as fresh food options 7-Select dip packs with chips and salsa. Beverage options include Horchata and single-origin coffee sourced from Mexico, as well as Hispanic candy.



courtesy photo

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# MALDEF

## LATINO STATE OF THE UNION

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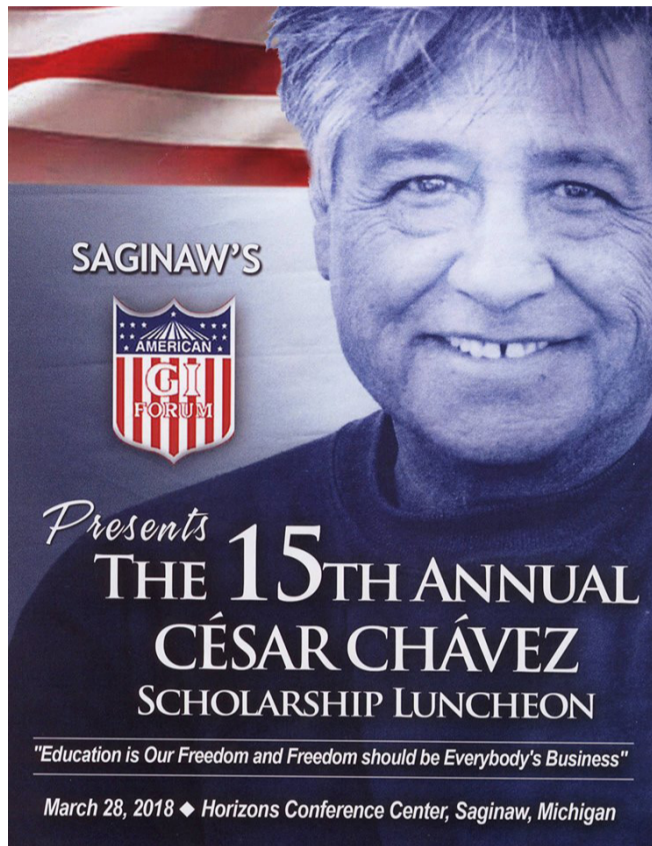
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WEDNESDAY

5:45PM - 7:30PM EST - PROGRAM & PANEL  
7:30PM - 8:30PM EST - RECEPTION

For more information, please contact Heaven Ocampo at (213)629-2512 xt. 143 or via email at [hocampo@maldef.org](mailto:hocampo@maldef.org)

# Seen on the Scene

3/28/18 - American GI Forum of Saginaw Cesar Chavez Scholarship Luncheon



# Believe. Do.

When a community works together, anything is possible. That's why we strive to create opportunities through jobs, education, and promoting the responsible use of our technology.

**That's why we proudly support the Michigan Banner and congratulate its team on the occasion of the Banner's 15th anniversary!**



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# Rev. Larry D. Camel to receive Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Innovation Service Award



courtesy photo

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Born on February 29, 1952, Pastor Larry “Hurricane” Camel is a “native-son” of Saginaw, Michigan. He was raised on the city’s north side and matriculated through the Saginaw Public School System. Pastor Camel, successfully, completed his education by graduating from Arthur Hill Technical High School in June of 1970.

Pastor Camel continued on in his life’s endeavors after high-school. And on June 30, 1979, he married his beautiful wife, and the first-lady of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Mrs.

Shirley J. Camel. He is a, devoted, husband and the father of two (2) wonderful daughters; Beyonca Carruth and Jasmine Camel. He was employed, by General Motor Corporation’s Grey Iron/Delphi, from 1973-2006, and after a thirty-three (33)-year service investment, he retired.

In 1995 he joined Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Roy Manning, and dutifully served as an active and faithful member. It was during this time, that Rev. Camel acknowledged the “GOD-ordained” calling to Ministry, over his life, and accepted that call in 1996. Then after, loyally, serving in his role and, committedly, carrying-out the responsibilities as “Reverend” Larry D. Camel and an associate minister under Pastor Manning for three (3) years, The Lord spoke and Reverend Camel obeyed. On October 31, 1999, Rev. Larry D. Camel became “Pastor” Larry D. Camel and the founder of “New Birth Missionary Baptist Church”.

New Birth’s first “physical” address was 1412 N. 12 th Street, co-located at First Ward Center. But GOD had just begun to rain showers-of- blessings on Pastor Camel and his congregation. For it was in 2001, that The Lord moved mountains and opened doors, which enabled New Birth to move to its current location and his ministry has continued to prosper and grow. Pastor Camel has received numerous awards, recognitions and declarations for his commitment to bettering, and tireless efforts in improving, the city of Saginaw community residents. In November 2011, Saginaw’s NBC 25 News nominated Rev. Larry Camel for “The Griot’s 100”; MSNBC’s, annual, list of the top 100 African-Americans, nationwide, making historical differences in their communities. And because of this great achievement, Pastor Camel received the “City of Saginaw Community Recognition Award” from the Saginaw City Council on February 21, 2011. The council offered its highest congratulations to Pastor Larry Camel and referred to and revered him as a “History-Maker in the making” as co-founder of Parishioners on Patrol of Saginaw and founder of the Next Generation of Leaders Youth Group. The mayor was quoted as saying, “You have definitely

made a positive impact in our community.” Then because of his efforts and effectiveness in addressing the issues crime and violence and recognition for his dedicated acts of benevolence in the Saginaw community, on October 5, 2011, Pastor Camel was honorably appointed to the Crime Prevention Coalition of Saginaw County.

In addition to overseeing the growth and development of his church and ministry, actively pastoring a local congregation and continuing in his many humanitarian acts, Pastor Larry Camel is, also, co-founder and C.E.O. of Parishioners on Patrol of Saginaw; a faith-based and community-focused organization which works in partnership, with the Saginaw Police Department, to help reduce crime and violence in our community. Young people, and the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams, are near-and- dear to his heart. Because of this, Parishioners on Patrol of Saginaw entrenched itself in the mentoring, training and overall development of youth through the formation of its “Next Generation of Leaders Youth Group”. With an unwavering belief that a personal relationship with GOD is central to the success of a young person’s life, Pastor Camel has designed this mentoring program to operate, in conjunction, with his church’s ministry. Parishioners on Patrol of Saginaw was recognized for their many efforts and contributions in keeping Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream alive through their outreach in the community, along with, regularly patrolling the streets and evangelizing to the residents of the Birch Park, Crossings and Vista Villa neighborhoods, when on January 19, 2009, Pastor Camel was presented with the “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Award”.

Parishioners of Patrol of Saginaw continues to reach out and connect with the Saginaw community by holding numerous food distributions and partnering with other organizations to provide additional basic services which are vital to local community residents. As of October 13, 2011, Parishioners on Patrol of Saginaw had fed over 35,000 people in Saginaw County and it continues to do so each year. Food Distributions continue to be a staple and frequent outreach activity of the organization and are, now, conducted on a large-scale with a minimum of two to three (2-3) semi-truckloads of food distributed during a single event. And because of the undisputed structure, efficiency and effectiveness of the distribution process developed by Pastor Camel, Parishioners on Patrol of Saginaw has established itself as the “go-to” organization when other persons and organizations desire to successfully host this activity.

HEALTHFORMATION 4 U PRESENTS



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# HEALTH

## Saginaw County Mental Health Authority to Celebrate Everyday Heroes



### We See them every day.

It's not hard to find heroes. They are in our midst every day. They are people who meet, and rise above some of life's toughest challenges. They are people who make a difference -- in their lives, in the lives of other people, in the fabric of our community.

Please join us for a celebration of the accomplishments of many of those people who have made a difference. They are our Everyday Heroes, and they have made a huge impact on Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority and the many people it serves.

On Thursday, May 24, 2018 the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority will host the 15th Annual Everyday Heroes Banquet from 6:00-10:00pm at Horizons Conference Center.

The Everyday Heroes Banquet honors and celebrates consumer successes & personal growth as well as community volunteers and organizations who contribute to the mission and vision of SCCMHA.

Tickets to the event are \$27.50 per person and are available at [www.sccmha.org](http://www.sccmha.org). In addition to the program, guests will enjoy a plated dinner.

SCCMHA is still looking for individuals or organizations that are interested in advertising or sponsoring the Everyday Heroes Banquet. Interested sponsors can call (989) 797-3501 or email [rmulder@sccmha.org](mailto:rmulder@sccmha.org).



# Midland and Bay County, Among 25 Counties Awarded \$20,000 to Help Stop Hepatitis A Outbreak

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently issued \$500,000 in grants to 25 local health departments to help combat Michigan's hepatitis A outbreak.

Local health departments were issued \$20,000 each to increase vaccination outreach to high-risk populations and include:

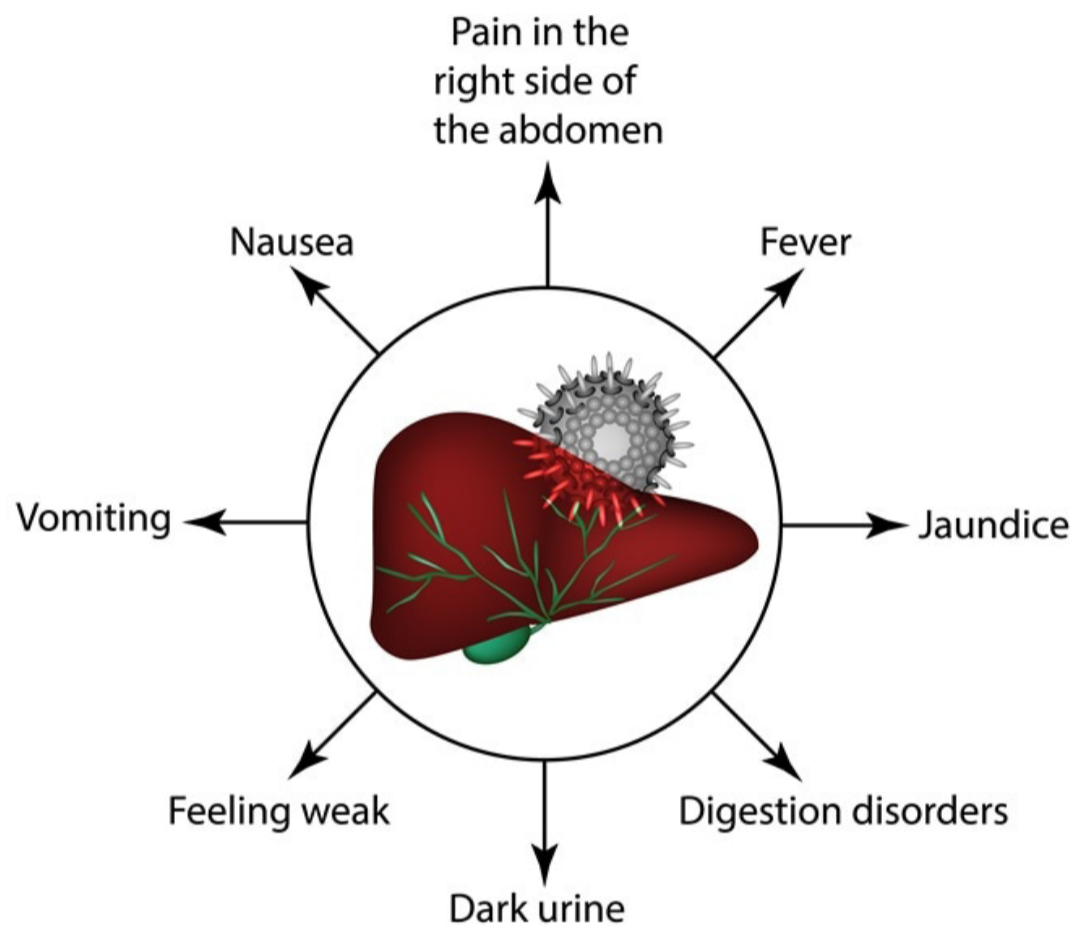
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- Chippewa County Health Department
- Midland County Health Department
- Public Health Delta & Menominee
- Public Health of Muskegon County
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- Health Department of Northwest Michigan District Health Department #2
- Ottawa County Health Department
- District Health Department #4
- Tuscola County Health Department
- Huron County Health Department
- Van Buren-Cass District Health Department
- Ionia County Health Department
- Western Upper Peninsula Health Department
- Jackson County Health Department

Those with a history of injection and non-injection drug use, homelessness or transient housing, incarceration and men who have sex with men are thought to be at greater risk of contracting the disease.

“This has been the largest person-to-person hepatitis A outbreak in Michigan's history, with more than 780 cases,” said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Increasing vaccination outreach to high-risk populations across the state is essential to stopping the spread of hepatitis A in Michigan.”

The funding is part of a \$7.1 million appropriation

## SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS A



approved by the Legislature in late 2017 to address the hepatitis A outbreak. It can be used for staffing to conduct educational and vaccination outreach efforts. Twenty health departments that are part of the outbreak jurisdiction have already been awarded \$2.5 million. This latest round of grants covers the remainder of the state's local health departments. To be considered part of the outbreak jurisdiction a county must have two or more cases of hepatitis A related to the outbreak strain. The 25 health departments receiving this most recent round of funding are not currently part of the outbreak jurisdiction.

Hepatitis A is a serious, highly contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is found in the feces (poop) of people with hepatitis A and spread by eating contaminated food or water, during sex or by living with an infected person.

Hepatitis A symptoms can include:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Belly pain
- Feeling tired
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes
- Dark urine
- Pale-colored feces (poop)
- Joint pain

Getting vaccinated, practicing good hand washing and avoiding sex with infected partners are ways to prevent getting infected. The hepatitis A vaccine is available at local pharmacies, through healthcare providers and at local health departments.

For more information about hepatitis A, including a calendar of vaccination clinics, visit [Michigan.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak](http://Michigan.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak).



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# Michigan Tobacco Quitline offering free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges through May 31



LANSING, Mich. – Thinking about quitting tobacco? The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is expanding its telephone coaching and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) program to all Michigan residents through May 31.

During this time, the Michigan Tobacco Quitline will offer a free, two-week supply of nicotine gum, patches or lozenges for all new enrollees who want to quit smoking or chewing tobacco. Tobacco users who would like to quit may call the Quitline phone number at 800-QUIT-NOW (800-

784-8669). Enrollment is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Quitline serves all ages, however, callers seeking NRT must be over 18 and meet basic health requirements. Enrollees will receive a coach who will assist them in setting a quit date, choosing a nicotine replacement product that is right for them and making an individualized quit plan. The coach will provide support with up to four telephone coaching sessions scheduled around the caller's quit date.

"Callers using NRT along with coaching, such as through a telephone-based service like 800-QUIT-NOW, can increase their chances of becoming smoke-free by five times the rate of someone quitting cold turkey," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Providing access to free NRT during this promotion might just be the jump start someone needs to quitting smoking tobacco for good."

The Michigan Tobacco Quitline is an evidence-based service providing free telephone coaching for the uninsured, pregnant women, residents enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, veterans, cancer patients and American Indians. More than 100,000 calls have been received since the service was launched in October 2003.

The Quitline offers English, Arabic and Spanish-speaking counselors, as well as interpretive services for a wide variety of languages. For more information about the Quitline, call 800-QUIT-NOW or visit [Michigan.gov/tobacco](http://Michigan.gov/tobacco).



# \$18M in federal grants available to public and non-profit groups to provide services to crime victims Elder abuse services RFP announced, due April 19

LANSING, Mich. – Local organizations across the state will be able to apply for \$18 million in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants to provide services to crime victims over the next three months, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced.

The MDHHS Crime Victim Services Commission has posted the first of five Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for VOCA Victim Services funding. The RFP focuses on services for victims of elder abuse.

The Division of Victim Services is accepting proposals from organizations that would provide direct services, resources and care to elder abuse victims. The purpose of the \$3.75 million elder abuse grant is to provide services for those who are sexually, physically, emotionally and financially abused. MDHHS will award three- to

five-year U.S. Department of Justice grants of \$50,000 to \$750,000.

Questions about the RFP for victims of elder abuse can be emailed to [MDHHS-CVSC-VOCA-GRANTS@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-CVSC-VOCA-GRANTS@michigan.gov) and must be submitted by Friday, March 30, 2018 by 5 p.m. The deadline for proposals is Thursday, April 19 by 3 p.m.

The remaining four RFPs will be available in April and May and will focus on supervised visits and safe exchange, sexual assault services, tribal victim services and children's advocacy center development. The release dates for those RFPs are April 5 for supervised visits and safe exchange, April 19 for sexual assault services, May 3 for tribal victim services and May 15 for children's advocacy center development.

Applicant agencies must be public or non-profit

organizations – including faith-based entities and American Indian tribes – that provide direct services to crime victims. The purpose of the funding is to expand and enhance services to victims of crime, such as responding to the immediate needs of crime victims, reducing psychological consequences of victimization and helping restore victims' sense of dignity and self-esteem.

For more information or to apply, visit the MI E-Grants Website at [Egrams-mi.com/dch](http://Egrams-mi.com/dch) and select the "About EGrAMS" link on the left panel to access the Crime Victims Agreement training manual. The RFP is located under "Legal and Policy Affairs" in the Current Grants section.

For more information about Michigan's Division of Victim Services, visit [Michigan.gov/crimevictims](http://Michigan.gov/crimevictims).

# BUSINESS & WEALTH

## Greater Michigan Construction Academy Receives Grant



*courtesy photo*

Midland, Michigan (March 2018)- The staff and the Board of Directors of The Greater Michigan Construction Academy (GMCA) are pleased to announce it has received a \$182,120 Grant from the Herbert H. and Grace A Dow Foundation to support the development of a pre apprenticeship program with a target on providing accessibility for training to underrepresented populations in its training footprint.

The grant will address the increasing gap between those populations with limited access/opportunity and few if any compatible skills to meet job opening demands in the near future in commercial/residential skilled trades. GMCA will recruit, train and place pre apprentices into the construction industry. The training will provide not just necessary skills but also NATIONAL certifications and credentials that will increase employability skills, promote continued learning, and pay increases for enhanced competencies. The curriculum focuses on what weaknesses in math, reading, communications, soft skills and other impairments that may be barriers to employment.

“While there are many initiatives making some strides in filling the gap in the skilled trades industry this is an area we’ve excelled in for over 40 years. We’ve appreciated partnerships in the past, but GMCA is much better at directly recruiting and training those interested in the building trades and not simply being a conduit” said Jason Johnson, chairman of GMCA. “This grant from The Herbert H and Grace A Dow Foundation provides the funding tools for the next two years that will offer accessible training to citizens that haven’t had the opportunity. We’re going to fix that”.

The Greater Michigan Construction Academy is a 501c3 non profit organization and is a nationally certified training program using the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) curriculum making the training portable nationwide for students completing modules. The curriculum is recognized by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Apprenticeship Training.

*courtesy photo*

## Duclos Insurance Agency Awarded Prestigious Honors by Valued Workers' Compensation Insurance Co. Partner

My Member Insurance Agency (MMIA) today announced that Duclos Insurance Agency recently received the “Most Profitable Agency” award from Accident Fund Insurance at its recent regional agency meeting. This award is given to the insurance agencies that have placed the most profitable Workers’ Compensation Insurance business of all agencies in the State of Michigan.

“Receiving this award from Accident Fund Insurance Company is a true testament of the outstanding work of our employees and the excellent safety programs in place of our business customers. Our customers’ commitment to the safety of their employees is a huge factor to the success of their business and we appreciate their focus in this area.” – Bob Robinson, Sr. Vice President of Commercial Lines, MMIA

Accident Fund Insurance Company is the leading provider of Workers’ Compensation Insurance in the State of Michigan. Nationally, Accident Fund partners with 1,300 independent insurance agencies. Licensed to conduct business in all 50 states, Accident Fund provides Workers’ Compensation Insurance for more than 60,000 companies with a primary focus on states in the Midwest and Southeast.

On January 3, 2018 My Member Insurance Agency, LLC announced the acquisition of Saginaw, MI-based Robinson & Wortman, Inc DBA Duclos Insurance Agency, Inc. Founded in 1949, Duclos Insurance Agency provides a full range of insurance and financial solutions to individuals and businesses in the Great Lakes Bay Region and throughout Michigan. As an independent insurance agency, Duclos represents many great regional and national insurance companies, including Accident Fund insurance Company.



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# Treasury: Tax Professionals Should Be On Alert For Data Theft Scams



*courtesy photo*

The Michigan Department of Treasury is joining the Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and the tax industry to warn tax professionals to be on alert for possible taxpayer data theft scams in the final weeks of the income tax filing season.

“Tax professionals should enhance their data safeguards immediately,” said Deputy State Treasurer Glenn White, head of Treasury’s Tax Administration Group. “Nationally, there has been a rise in cybercriminal thefts of taxpayer data from tax professionals. By reviewing internal controls, creating a data security plan and being cyber vigilant, tax professionals can take a stand against these criminals.”

So far this filing season, the Internal Revenue Service is reporting a steep upswing in the number of reported thefts of taxpayer data from tax practitioner offices. Across the nation, 75 firms have reported taxpayer data thefts in January and February, nearly a 60 percent increase from the same time last year.

Much of this increase follows one scam—the erroneous refund scheme—that affected thousands of taxpayers and numerous practitioners earlier this filing season.

January through April is the prime season for

cybercriminals to attack tax practitioners, but data thefts can occur at any time. Tax professionals should be on high alert and implement strong security measures as the April 17 deadline approaches.

Cybercriminals try to take advantage of this extremely busy time of the year when tax professionals are in greater contact with taxpayers and are in possession of more data.

Signs that tax professionals may be a victim of data theft include:

- Client e-filed returns begin to reject because returns with their Social Security numbers were already filed;
- The number of returns filed with tax practitioner’s Electronic Filing Identification Number (EFIN) exceeds number of clients;
- Clients who haven’t filed tax returns begin to receive authentication letters (5071C, 4883C, 5747C) from the IRS;
- Network computers running slower than

normal;

- Computer cursors moving or changing numbers without touching the keyboard;
- Network computers locking out tax practitioners.

Tax professionals who experience a security incident or a breach resulting in data disclosure should immediately report the incident to the Internal Revenue Service and Michigan Department of Treasury.



*courtesy photo*

## SVSU honors leading companies and business people during Best in Business awards ceremony

Saginaw Valley State University honored businesses, entrepreneurs, faculty and alumni dedicated to enriching the business climate of Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region during SVSU's 5th annual Academia Awards Best in Business ceremony Friday, March 23.

Recipients of the business and alumni awards were chosen by an advisory board for SVSU's College of Business & Management. The faculty award honorees were selected by SVSU students.

The recipients of the business awards include the following:

- Star of the West Milling Co. received the Outstanding Business Award, presented to a company with a record of steady employment and strong corporate citizenship. Star of the West Milling Co., founded in Frankenmuth, is the 12th-largest flour milling company in the United States.
- Rowleys Wholesale earned the Outstanding Family Business Award, which is given to a family-owned company that demonstrates a commitment to community-minded business practices. The Bay City-based business distributes automotive equipment such as tires and car wash chemicals.
- Dick Garber, president of Garber Management Group, received the Outstanding Business Leader award, presented to an individual whose interests and actions contribute to the cultural and economic growth of the region. Garber is a third-generation owner of the company, with operations that include automotive dealerships in four states as well as the Saginaw Spirit hockey franchise.
- The Outstanding Entrepreneur Award was presented both to Al Thieme, founder and chairman of Amigo Mobility International, and Beth Thieme, vice president and chief executive officer of the company. The award honors individuals whose successes include both sales as well as support for the surrounding community. The Bridgeport Township-based business produces mobility scooters that better the lives of individuals with physical disabilities.

The SVSU faculty members recognized at the ceremony include the following:

- Amy Hendrickson, assistant professor of law, who received the Excellence in Teaching for Full-Time Faculty Award
- Mazen Jaber, associate professor of marketing, who received the Excellence in Service Award
- Shiva Nadavulakere, associate professor of management, who received the Excellence in Research Award
- L. Mark St. Clair, an adjunct instructor of economics, who received the Excellence in Teaching for Adjunct Faculty Award

Alumni recognized at the event include the following:

- Tammy Bernier, the co-owner and CEO of Duperon Corp. who earned a bachelor's degree in management in 1993, for the Outstanding Alumna Award
- Kylie Bos, who earned a bachelor's degree in management in 2016, for the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award
- Patrick Dolan, who earned a master's degree in business administration in 2017, for the Outstanding Graduate Student Award

SVSU's College of Business and Management is among the 5 percent of business schools worldwide who are accredited by AACSB International; this is widely considered to be the gold standard for business school accreditation.

## Chippewa Nature Center in Midland Hires Historical Interpreter



Chippewa Nature Center (CNC) welcomed Cathy Fitzpatrick as its Historical Interpreter, effective March 26. In this role, Fitzpatrick will develop and implement historical programs that connect visitors to the regions' natural resources and the people who have lived and worked here in the past. She will interpret the cultural and natural history of the Saginaw

Valley through field trips, workshops, festivals and programs.

Fitzpatrick holds B.A. degrees in history and Spanish from Ohio University, and an M.A. in public history and museum studies from North Carolina State University. Her professional experience includes roles as an exhibit research and design associate at Khayrallah Program of Lebanese-American Studies, museum educator/interpreter at Mordecai Historic Park, program manager and events coordinator at Borden Building at Fred Fletcher Park, program manager and interpreter at Historic Oak View County Park, and exhibit research and design consultant at Historic Oak View County Park. She most recently held the position of interpreter and naturalist for Huron-Clinton Metroparks in Brighton.

Fitzpatrick joins a staff of creative, energetic professionals who work together to connect all people with nature through educational, recreational and cultural experiences. She has a passion for sharing the past in a relevant, engaging way with children and adults. Fitzpatrick shares, "Back in 2004, my family took a trip out west to a bunch of the National Parks. It was at Mesa Verde National Park where I was participating in the Jr. Naturalist program when a Ranger bent down, whispered a fact into my ear, and I got to tell the whole tour group. It was then that I fell in love with sharing history and nature with people, making it accessible. I have since spent my life fulfilling that goal."

CNC's historical assets include an 1870s homestead farm complete with a log cabin, root cellar, timber frame barn, one-room schoolhouse, maple sugarhouse, wigwam and a wide variety of historical and reproduction items highlighting Native American natural resource use, the Great Lakes fur trade, Michigan lumbering and early farming. These assets are shared through public programs, school programs, outreach presentations, self-guided experiences and festivals.

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# EDUCATION

## SVSU Welcomes Scholar on Academic Performance of Boys and Men of Color



*courtesy photo*

Saginaw Valley State University will host a public talk by a leading scholar on the academic performance of boys and men of color. J. Luke Wood, the Dean's Distinguished Professor of Education in the College of Education at San Diego State University, will speak in SVSU's Curtiss Hall banquet rooms Tuesday, April 3 at 5 p.m.

Wood serves as the director of the joint Ph.D. program in education between San Diego State and Claremont Graduate University. He also serves as director of the Ed.D. program in

community college leadership. In addition, Wood is co-director of the Community College Equity Assessment Lab, a national research and practice center.

Wood's research focuses on factors affecting the success of boys and men of color in education. He has been featured by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, New York Times, Chronicle of Higher Education, Huffington Post, Fortune Magazine, Los Angeles Times, Miami Herald, San Francisco Chronicle and C-SPAN.

SVSU has incorporated Wood's work into its student retention initiatives. Earlier in the academic year, SVSU's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs hosted a free public course offered through San Diego State University titled "Black Minds Matter." The 8-session series is designed to encourage dialog and understanding regarding the issues facing black boys and men in education. SVSU students, faculty and staff attended the sessions.

As a scholar, Wood has authored and edited 14 books. His most recent books include "Supporting Men of Color in the Community College" and "Teaching Boys and Young Men of Color." Wood also has authored over 120 publications, including more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Wood completed a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies, and a master's degree at Arizona State University. He also completed bachelor's and master's degrees at California State University, Sacramento.

The lecture at SVSU is free and open to the public. It is supported through SVSU's Dow Visiting Scholars program, an endowment established by The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to enrich our regional cultural and intellectual opportunities by featuring the insights and perspectives of highly distinguished guest presenters. Wood's talk is co-sponsored by the SVSU's offices of Multicultural Student Affairs, Student Affairs, and School/University Partnerships.

For more information, visit [svsu.edu/publiclectures](http://svsu.edu/publiclectures).



**SAGINAW VALLEY**  
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# Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for New Delta College Saginaw Center



*courtesy photos*

The launch of construction on the new Delta College Saginaw Center took place Monday, March 26, with a groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site in Downtown Saginaw.

Speakers included, Dr. Jean Goodnow, President of Delta College, Senator Ken Horn, Representative Vanessa Guerra, Mayor Dennis Browning, Representative Dan Kildee, and Rev. Dr. Robert Emrich, Delta College Board of Trustees Chair.

Dignitaries involved in the ceremonial groundbreaking include:

- Nick Bovid – Delta College Director of Facilities
- Senator Ken Horn – State of Michigan - 32nd District
- Representative Vanessa Guerra – State of Michigan - 95th District

- Representative Dan Kildee – U.S. Congress - Michigan 5th District
- JoAnn Cray – President of Saginaw Future
- Andre Buckley – Delta College Trustee
- Tim Morales – Saginaw City Manager
- Dennis Browning – Mayor, City of Saginaw
- Earl Selby - Delta College Trustee
- Dr. Jean Goodnow – President of Delta College
- Rev. Dr. Robert Emrich – Delta College Chair & Saginaw Trustee
- Karen Lawrence-Webster – Delta College Trustee
- Herb Spence – Spence Brothers Construction
- Michael Nash – Delta College Trustee
- Bob Van Deventer – Saginaw Chamber of Commerce

“We’re very excited to begin construction of this building,” said Dr. Jean Goodnow, Delta College President. “By investing in a new Saginaw Center,

we are planning for the next two or three decades of education and service to this community.”

Construction will begin immediately with the new three story, 35,000 square foot building anticipated to be occupied by June 2019, with the first classes being offered in the fall 2019 semester. After a few years of incremental growth, it is projected that 1,100 students could attend the Saginaw Center annually.

The College is seeking LEED® (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification by designing, constructing, and operating the new center to meet measurements of sustainability for high performance in human and environmental health. This includes sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

The \$12.74 million capital construction project is made possible through partial funding from the state of Michigan, as well as Delta College’s Plant Fund reserves. The property for the new Saginaw Center was purchased from the City of Saginaw. While located in the Downtown area, the Center will be within easy access for everyone in Saginaw County and beyond.



# Mott Community College President receives NAACP Award

Mott Community College President, Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea was honored with the Lenore Croudy Distinguished Leadership Award by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Flint Chapter, on Saturday, March 10, at their 36th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

“I am humbled and surprised to have been chosen by the Flint Chapter of the NAACP for this award, especially as it has been re-named in honor of my former Board Chair at Mott Community College, Lenore Croudy,” said Walker-Griffea. “For me, it represents the power of knowing our history and of working together for civil rights and equality,” she added.

Walker-Griffea likened the impact of the NAACP on her life with the impact MCC has had on the greater Flint community for almost 100 years. “Just as the NAACP has worked for generations to ensure that African Americans’ civil rights are protected and that we are given equal opportunities to succeed,” she said, “so has Mott College touched many lives for the better. We are all working together to build a stronger community, that is the legacy of the NAACP, Lenore Croudy and Mott Community College.”

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. Founded February 12, 1909, it is the nation’s oldest, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. The NAACP has more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world serving as the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, leading grassroots campaigns for equal opportunity and conducting voter mobilization.



*MCC students Machai Jamison and Dennis Mitchell congratulate Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea*

## SVSU seeking nominations for 'Heroes in Education'



Getty Images

Saginaw Valley State University is seeking nominations for its third annual Heroes in Education awards.

"Think for a moment about your child's most influential teacher," said Craig Douglas, dean of SVSU's College of Education. "That may be a person who should be nominated, but teachers aren't the only heroes in schools. It could be the custodian who went out of her way to open a locker, or the secretary who helped bandage a scraped knee. All of these individuals are candidates for Heroes in Education recognition. We are looking for those educators who go above and beyond the call of duty."

Six educators will be selected for recognition from those nominated; nominations may be submitted by anyone. Students, parents, colleagues, and community volunteers have submitted nominations in the past.

Nomination forms are available online at <http://www.svsu.edu/collegeofeducation/forms>. Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Thursday, March 29.

The 2018 recipients will be honored during a ceremony at SVSU Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

The previous Heroes in Education recipients are:

- Charles Arnett, band and orchestra teacher at Chandler Park Academy
- Sally Burkey, assistant cook at Freeland High School
- Jerry Carmien, service worker at Kolb Elementary School in Bay City
- Kelly Frank, teacher at Tawas Middle School
- Scott Garcia, custodian at Genesee STEM Academy
- Katie Jenkins, teacher at Carrie Knause Early Childhood Learning Center in St. Louis
- Gary Karney, teacher at List Elementary School in Frankenmuth
- Kathryn (Kathy)Layer, teacher at Great Beginnings Childcare in Saginaw
- Joseph Peet, teacher at Kingston Elementary School
- Lawanda Purches-Waller, parent liaison at Genesee STEM Academy in Flint
- Todd Switala, coach and volunteer at Sterling Elementary School
- Everton Williams, director of operations at Pontiac Academy for Excellence

## Saginaw: "March for Our Lives", Demands School Safety



facebook

At 11:00 am at Krossroads Park in Kochville Township on Saturday, March 24th, over 800 students and community members around the city came together in unity as an act to spark some change within schools around the country. The Saginaw local branch of the national "March for Our Lives" campaign stands with the victims of the mass school shooting epidemic to demand for safer schools. Students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, FL began this movement (set in Washington D.C.) shortly after they fell victim to the latest mass school shooting in the U.S.

Students spoke on the currency of this issue and welcomed Congressman Dan Kildee, former local judge Kyle Higgs Tarrant, local 911 executive director, and Michigan State Police. Organizers say coming together to promote unity and security within schools nationally is the ultimate goal.



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.

**Saginaw ISD Head Start**  
Claytor Administrative Building  
3200 Perkins Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
Phone 989.752.2193  
Fax 989.921.7146

**Office Hours**

Monday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Tuesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Wednesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Thursday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Friday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

For additional information concerning  
Saginaw ISD Head Start visit:  
[www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://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. Congrmn., 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**

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# FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

## Does Class Bias Blind Our Decision Making?

Recently we had the opportunity to participate in a workshop called A Framework for Understanding Socio-Economic Differences facilitated by Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D. It was an eye-opening session. Here's just a little of what we learned.

A community needs all of its members. We – as residents, community leaders, elected officials, and government employees – have to value the needs and aspirations of all our members. That means keeping a focus on the needs of people living in poverty, those who are middle class, and those who are wealthy.

Access to resources contributes to stability, and the differences between those who are resourced and those who are under-resourced play out in all aspects of life. According to Dr. Payne there are nine different types of resources, the most recognized being financial resources. The others are equally important and include emotional, mental, and spiritual resources; physical health; and our support systems, relationships and role models.

Two other resources are “knowledge of the hidden rules” and ability to use “formal register.” Each social and economic class has hidden rules. We usually learn them when we break them! Formal register refers to the ability to speak and write in language that is typically used in work situations and school.

*Copyright 2018 – Mel and Pearl Shaw  
Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit [www.saadandshaw.com](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.*

When people don't use “formal register” in these situations they can be misunderstood – and sometimes suffer dire consequences – due to preconceptions that middle class people may have about how people speak and what that means.

Stability and access to knowledge are the bedrock of today's middle class. Achieving and sustaining stability makes us “middle class.” All of us – regardless of our class – manipulate time and money in an attempt to achieve stability. How we manage our time and life is now a form of knowledge, and access to that knowledge is a new form of privilege.

Race and class are not synonymous. African Americans are not by definition poor, or from poor families. White people are not

by definition middle class or wealthy. Yes, there are distinct correlations between race and class, but if we don't recognize the distinctions we cannot see ourselves and our community.

Even though you might be African American, you cannot assume you understand the culture of poverty and how people living in poverty today make decisions and why. You may think you know, but you may have forgotten. Middle class assumptions are exactly that – assumptions.

Learn more about Dr. Payne's work at [www.ahaprocess.com](http://www.ahaprocess.com)



*Mel and Pearl Shaw | Courtesy Photo*

# COMMUNITY

## Students from 40 programs competed at 9th Annual Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Career Development Conference in Lansing



*courtesy photo*

Lansing, Mich. – It was a day of inspiration, competition and camaraderie at the 9th Annual Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Career Development Conference (CDC). Approximately 250 students from across the state joined over 100 employers, community volunteers, and key stakeholders in Lansing on Thursday, March 29th to compete in events showcasing employability and leadership skills. Students from River Rouge High School, Starkweather Academy, and Hartford High School took home the day's top honors.

The annual CDC is a capstone of Jobs for Michigan's Graduates' (JMG) year-long programming, allowing students the opportunity to demonstrate employability skills learned throughout the program. During the event, volunteers from across the state judged employment-inspired competitive events, such as interviewing skills, problem solving, and public speaking, all aimed at preparing students for the workplace. JMG, a program of Youth Solutions, Inc., equips young people with the skills needed to overcome barriers and ensures Michigan's youth

win in education, employment, and as citizens. JMG is building a youth talent pipeline from high school graduation into employment for over 2,900 young people across 43 Michigan cities.

According to Kristin Harrington, Executive Director of Youth Solutions, the future for Michigan's youth is filled with opportunity, energy, and promise. In her opening remarks, Harrington commented on her satisfaction in knowing "Jobs for Michigan's Graduates has created a comprehensive and collaborative way for young people to 'win,' with outcomes and impact that have laid a crucial foundation for Michigan's talent re-awakening." These outcomes include a 98% statewide graduation rate and 71% of graduates going onto employment.

Harrington cited a robust partnership with the State's Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED), most recently around Governor Snyder's "Marshall Plan for Talent," as a crucial partnership in the ongoing success of JMG programming. In five years of collaboration, JMG and TED have increased the number of

students served through JMG programming by 600% - from 400 young people to over 2,900. TED Director Roger Curtis accepted the "Advocate of the Year" Award on behalf of the Department. Commenting on the successful partnership, Director Curtis said, "Michigan's young people are our next generation of talent, and it's important we invest in their success. Programs like Jobs for Michigan's Graduates help ensure students have access to explore, and learn the skills needed for, high-demand and good-paying careers across the state. And when we talk about investing in programs that build a 21st century talent pool ready to fill the hundreds of thousands of jobs that will be open in the future, we're talking about programs like JMG and their proven track record of success."

During the event, AAA Michigan – The Auto Club Group was also honored for their above-and-beyond commitment to youth talent development as "Employer Champion of the Year." Most recently, the company offered over 100 JMG students with workplace mentoring opportunities. In his acceptance of the award, Keith Mobley, Director of Corporate Contributions and Community Relations at AAA Michigan noted, "We are honored and humbled to receive this award. It is simply our culture to look for opportunities that we can be more involved with the community and give assistance where it is certainly needed."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit received the "Outstanding Partner of the Year" award for their commitment to supporting education, workforce, and mentoring programs for JMG youth. In acceptance of the award, Jeannine Gant, CEO, stated, "We are really excited about what is going on in Michigan right now and the opportunity that youth have to find meaningful livelihoods."

**Continues on Pg 36, Michigan's Graduates**

# Join the Girls on the Run Movement



*courtesy photo*

Girls on the Run Saginaw Bay is accepting new site and coach applications for the Fall 2018 season in Saginaw, Bay, Arenac, and Tuscola Counties.

Girls on the Run inspires girls in 3rd – 8th grade to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Each session is led by trained, volunteer coaches who guide and mentor girls through the fun, uplifting curriculum. The 10-week season concludes with all participants walking or running in a celebratory, non-competitive 5k (3.1 mile) event. No running experience is necessary to coach or participate.

Program registration will open online August 20. The season will begin September 10 and conclude with the 5k on November 17.

Visit [www.gotrsaginawbay.org](http://www.gotrsaginawbay.org) or contact Jennifer Naegele at [jnaegele@undergroundrailroadinc.org](mailto:jnaegele@undergroundrailroadinc.org) or

989-399-0007 ext. 104 to learn more about starting a team at your school or facility, coaching, or registering your girl.

Girls on the Run Saginaw Bay was founded in 2009. It is affiliated with Underground Railroad, Inc. and is one of over 225 councils under the parent organization Girls on the Run International. Its mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. The council serves girls in Saginaw, Bay, Arenac, and Tuscola Counties. Learn more at [www.gotrsaginawbay.org](http://www.gotrsaginawbay.org).



Get ready!! It is time to mark your calendar for the premier cooking event of the year.....These Men Can Cook! We are rolling out a brand new name for this signature event with a brand new look and logo too. The name may be new, but the event stays as great and fun as it has always been. Now is the time to start planning your recipe, saving the date and telling your family and friends.

## EVENT DETAILS

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, April 19, 2018
<b>Location:</b>	Apple Mountain Resort
<b>Time:</b>	5:30 p.m. Cocktails and Conversation 6:00 p.m. Parade of Chefs 6:15 p.m. Food Tasting and Festivities 7:45 p.m. Announcement of Winners

As one of our chefs, you prepare one of your favorite dishes and then share sample servings with the guests attending the night of the event. We draw a large crowd, but you are only responsible for providing 30-40 sample size servings. You and the other chefs will have stations all set up in the main room and then the fun really begins. It is an event like no other in Saginaw and we know you will want to be a part of this year's festivities.

Proceeds from this event benefit the programs of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to: Ashley Lister, Chairperson at [alister@wildfirecu.org](mailto:alister@wildfirecu.org) or call 989-249-8292 or Kristina Kukla, Co-Chair at [marketing@saginawbayorchestra.com](mailto:marketing@saginawbayorchestra.com) or call 989-755-6471.**

LOCAL UPCOMING EVENTS



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*Tom Metiva, Trustee for Tittabawassee Township  
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# When They Couldn't Afford Internet Service, This Detroit Group Built Their Own

J. Gabriel Ware

Dwight Roston is drilling on the roof of a home in Detroit's Islandview neighborhood on the city's east side. Roston is part of a team that is setting up a wireless internet connection. The home is just one of 150 designated households in the city to receive free internet service by the end of the year.

In 2016, a coalition of media, tech, and community organizations launched the Equitable Internet Initiative, a project that will result in the construction of wireless broadband internet networks across three underserved Detroit neighborhoods. Leading the initiative is the Detroit Community Technology Project, a digital justice project sponsored by Allied Media Projects. Each network will provide wireless internet service to 50 households per neighborhood, according to Diana Nucera, executive director of DCTP.

"During the economic and housing crisis, communities had to fend for themselves," Nucera says. "Media and technology play such a vital role in economic opportunities, but the tech industry doesn't really think about community organizing."

That's why, she explains, "we developed this approach called community technology."

Detroit has one of the most extreme digital divides in the country, with more than 60 percent of low-income residents without broadband in their homes. According to a recent report from the Brookings Institution, residents in low-income or rural neighborhoods are the least likely to have broadband subscriptions.

Even discounted municipal or corporate broadband subscriptions, if available, are not necessarily alternatives for many families. After all, affordability is relative.

Last year, the United Nations declared internet access a human right. But like running water, which was also declared a human right by the U.N., it is considered a paid service in the United States. In 2016, a U.S. federal court ruled that the high-speed internet service can be defined as a utility, such as gas and electricity.

And as is the case with access to most utilities, there is a large gap between those who can afford internet service and those who cannot. This digital divide, which includes lack of access to computers, is a barrier to success in day-to-day life tasks, so much of which is done online—from paying bills and other financial management to obtaining voting information, from completing

homework to communicating with a child's school.

The coalition raised just under \$1 million from local and national foundations to finance the Equitable Internet Initiative. Funds were used to hire employees, buy equipment, and internet bandwidth. They purchased three discounted wholesale gigabit connections from Rocket Fiber, a Detroit-based high-speed internet service provider. Their contract with Rocket Fiber allows the coalition to share its connection with the community—a provision not allowed by other companies.

Each neighborhood is represented by a partnering organization, whose locale is used as the central connection hub for service. In Islandview, it's the Church of Messiah, a non-traditional Episcopal church. An antenna sits atop the roof and receives a point-to-point wireless connection from Rocket Fiber, which is then shared to the 50 designated households.

The community members are responsible for installation. DCTP trains a representative of the partnering organization, who then trains five to seven neighbors to install the equipment. These digital stewards, who Nucera says had no previous technical experience, are responsible for "building the networks." They mount CPE (customer premise equipment) dishes on top of the homes, which receive a signal from the hubs. Finally, they run cables from the dishes to the routers inside the homes.

Roston, a digital steward, says the work was foreign to him.

"Being a digital steward was completely out of the range of what I usually do," he says. "I was so used to using the internet—all the software and everything—but I didn't know how internet networks work."

So far, he's helped with getting 19 of the 50 designated households in the Islandview neighborhood online.

Wallace Gilbert Jr. is responsible for recruiting Roston. Gilbert is the assistant pastor of the Church of Messiah, and he's also a digital steward trainer. He has worked in tech for 30 years and for the past several years has been teaching neighborhood youth to build and repair personal computers to take home. Digital literacy is among the needs of the community that the church provides.

One day Gilbert noticed quite a number of the children were using the church computers to complete homework assignments. "I asked one of the fellas why was he using the computer [at the church] when I know I helped him build a high-end computer," he

explains. "He told me that he didn't have the internet at home."

It was then, Gilbert says, he realized that the computers were useless if the youth couldn't access the internet.

The Federal Communication Commission's Broadband Task Force reported that approximately 70 percent of teachers assign homework requiring access to broadband. According to the same report, 70 percent is also the rate of school-aged children in Detroit who don't have internet access at home.

A mission of both The Church of Messiah and the Detroit Community Technology Project is to increase young people's access to and facility with technology. This is why Gilbert and the church joined the Equitable Internet Initiative.

Nucera says the three-neighborhood project is about 50 percent complete. The coalition's contract with Rocket Fiber expires next year, but another internet service provider has agreed to extend service for an additional three years. The next and final phase of the project involves developing a business model so that the residents will continue to have internet after the second contract ends.

This element of self-determination is also motivating, Roston says.

"You don't ever want to give somebody something that they did not have and couldn't do without and then take it away from them," he says.

The bottom-up approach of having residents directly involved in building the internet, Nucera says, is a model that also strengthens community relationships, increases civic engagement, and redistributes political and economic power to otherwise marginalized neighborhoods.

"If the community has ownership of the infrastructure, then they're more likely to participate in its maintenance, evolution, and innovation," she explains. "That's what we believe leads to sustainability."

The project is a model for any neighborhood, though, even at a small scale.

"I don't want people to think that this can only be done with a million dollars," Nucera says. "There's different scales to this model. Two neighbors can come together and share internet, and they continue adding people to the network until it grows as to how big as they want it."

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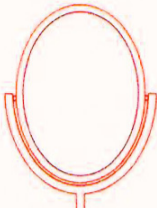
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## Learn How To Build Your Family Tree the Saginaw Genealogical Society

**When:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Where:** Church of Jesus Christ  
Latter Day Saints, 1415 N Center,  
Saginaw, MI 48638

**Cost:** Free

**Public is welcome**

Do you need help building your family tree? Have you done some research but don't know how to organize it or share what you have found? Are you sure you have the correct relatives? Meet with the Saginaw Genealogical Society as we discuss how to correctly search for your relatives, document your family tree and share your findings with your family. Creating your family tree is a lot more than just collecting names and dates. Let the Saginaw Genealogical Society show you how to create an accurate, lasting legacy.



## From pg 30, Michigan's Graduates



*courtesy photo*

Other event recognitions included the "Student Leader of the Year" Award to DeAnthony Purnell of Flint and "Alumna of the Year" to Natasha Rzanca of Marquette. Purnell is a current program leader, recognized for his over 33 hours of community service, attendance at all employer-led talent tours, leadership role in the classroom, and ability to maintain

employment while participating in a number of student groups. Rzanca is a 2015 graduate of Gwinn High School and JMG alumna who has stayed closely connected to the program. Since graduating, Rzanca has balanced full-time post-secondary education and employment, been promoted at her job, and obtained an Emergency Medical Technician certificate. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education at Northern Michigan University.

Winners by event category included:

Interview Skills - Individual Award: Rebecca Long (Windover High School) and Tiffany Middleton (Woodcreek Achievement Center), 1st Place; Jade Palmer (Starkweather Academy) and Aaron Washington (Covenant House Academy-Detroit), 2nd Place; Nolan Hensen (Flint Southwestern) and Tamara Cody (Covenant House), 3rd Place.

JMG Bowl – Team Award: River Rouge High School, 1st Place; Windover High School, 2nd Place; Escanaba High School, 3rd Place.

Public Speaking – Individual Award: Doncor Archie (Starkweather Academy) and Jonathan Gonzalez (SER Metro Detroit), 1st Place; Thomas Moscardelli (Starkweather Academy) and Faith Sams (Woodcreek Achievement Center), 2nd Place; Harmony Nelson (Starkweather Academy) and Hannah Wyman (West Michigan Works!), 3rd Place.

Product Marketing – Individual Award: Rosita Alonso (Hartford High School) and Jashawn Gaines (Kinexus Bridge Academy), 1st Place; Tavon Hale (Cody – Detroit Institute of Technology College Prep High School) and Aaron Washington (Covenant House Academy-Detroit), 2nd Place; Doncor Archie (Starkweather Academy) and Tamara Cody (Covenant House Academy-Detroit), 3rd Place.

Creative Problem Solving – Team Award: Hartford High School and Michigan Works! Southeast, 1st Place; Southeast Michigan Community Alliance and Osborn High School, 2nd Place; River Rouge High School and Waverly High School, 3rd Place.

Team Building – Team Award: River Rouge High School and Waverly High School, 1st Place; Harford High School and West Michigan Works!, 2nd Place; Starkweather Academy and SER Metro Detroit.

Chapter Marketing Event – Team Award: Hartford High School, 1st Place; River Rouge High School, 2nd Place; Hartford Alternative Education and Woodcreek Achievement Center, 3rd Place.

The event was made possible thanks to sponsorships by the State of Michigan Talent Investment Agency, State of Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kinexus, and Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Additionally, Michigan Works! partners play a leading role in the program with special recognition to Capital Area Michigan Works!, GST Michigan Works!, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, West Michigan Works!, Michigan Works! Southeast, Michigan Works! Southwest, Upward Talent, Networks Northwest, Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium, SEMCA, and the Michigan Works! Association.

# NON-PROFIT DIRECTORY

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jdarby@greatlakespace.org

**Great Lakes Bay Health Centers**

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**Houghton-Jones Task Force**

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Saginaw, MI  
989-752-1660

**Lighthouse Outreach Center**

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989-928-9096

**Mobile Medical Response**

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Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-758-2900

**Samaritas Community Center**

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Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-5805

**Pit and Balcony Theatre**

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Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-754-6587  
www.pitandbalconytheatre.com  
pitandbalconytheatre@yahoo.com

**Public Libraries of Saginaw Butman-Fish, Hoyt, Wickes & Zael Libraries**

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Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-755-0904  
www.saginawlibrary.org

**Restoration Community Outreach**

1205 Norman  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1886 / fax 989-753-2880  
rcosag@yahoo.com

**Saginaw County Business & Education Partnership**

1213 South Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-399-0016

**Saginaw County Community Action Agency, Inc. (CAC)**

2824 Perkins Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7741

**The Saginaw Community Foundation**

1 Tuscola, Suite 100  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-755-0545

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— Romans 15:7



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# FAITH-BASED DIRECTORY

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535 Cathay St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-7011

## Bread of Life Harvest Center

Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart  
3726 Fortune Blvd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-790-7933

## Christ Disciples Baptist Church

Founder Pastor Eddie Benson  
Pastor Genevieve Benson  
3317 Lapeer Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2444

## Christ Fellowship Baptist Church

Rev. Robert Davis, Jr.  
818 N. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-4435  
PastorD818@gmail.com

## Corinthian Baptist Church

Pastor Roy L. Manning  
104 S. 10th St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-1820

## Faith Harvest Church

Bishop Ronald E. Chipp  
1734 N. Mason  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-4200  
www.faithharvestministry.org  
office@faithharvestministry.org

## Grace Chapel Church

Pastor James Nelson  
2202 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3212

## Greater Renaissance

Pastor Cedric R. Cheatham  
1535 S. Warren Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-1455  
260-515-6456

## Greater Williams Temple

Bishop H.J. Williams  
608 E Remington St  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-5291



## Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dempsey Allen  
1926 Fairfield Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-6601

## Life in Christ Ministries

Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.  
2915 S. Washington Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-401-4465  
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

## Messiah Missionary Baptist Church

2615 Williamson Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
Pastor Otis Washington  
Phone: 989-777-2636  
Fax: 989-777-2640  
messiahmbc@att.net  
www.messiahsg.org



## Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Pastor Marvin T. Smith  
1114 N. 6th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8064



## New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries

Pastor Otis Dickens  
2312 S. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3650



## New Birth Missionary Baptist

Pastor Larry D. Camel  
3121 Sheridan  
Saginaw, Michigan  
989-327-1755



## New Covenant Christian Center

Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8485

## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey  
1721 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7600



## New Life Baptist Church

Pastor Rufus Bradley  
1401 Janes St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1151

## New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.  
3610 Russel St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-0801

## Ninth Street Community Church

Pastor William L. Scott Jr.  
Assistant Pastor Rex Jones  
1118 N. 9th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-7366

## Prince of Peace Baptist Church

825 North 24th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2841  
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

## St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Pastor Connie Sassanella  
915 Federal Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
Phone: 989-754-0489  
Worship: 9:30 AM  
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com



## Saginaw Valley Community

Pastor Richard Sayad  
3660 Hermansau  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-752-4769

## St. Lukes CME Church

1121 Tusola  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-755-0351

## The Potters Touch Ministries

Pastor Kareem J. Bowen  
1402 North 6th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-9406  
facebook.com/ThePottersTouch



## Transforming Life Ministries

Pastor William Brown  
3024 South Washington  
Avenue

Saginaw, MI 48601-4353  
989-754-9573



## True Vine Baptist Church

Pastor Paul E. Broaddus  
2930 Janes Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-0751

## Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

Rev. Christopher V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
989-755-7692

## Wolverine State Baptist Church

615 S. Jefferson Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48607

## World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries

Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.  
2405 Bay Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-752-7957

## Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Rodrick Smith  
721 Johnson  
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# POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

## Kildee, Stabenow, Peters Announce Funding to Address Drinking Water Contamination in Federal Budget Bill



*courtesy photo*

Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) today announced that the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget bill includes funding to address ongoing drinking water contamination issues in communities across Michigan. The appropriations bill now goes before the full House and Senate. The lawmakers:

- Secured \$10 million to fund a health study on the impacts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposure, which is critically needed to establish stronger federal standards defining safety levels for PFAS exposure.
- Increased funding to investigate and clean up contamination at active and decommissioned military bases. The Department of Defense may use this funding to clean up contamination at bases across the country, including Michigan's Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Camp Grayling, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, and Escanaba Defense Fuel

Supply Point.

- Doubled the size of USDA Rural Development emergency water grants to eligible communities affected by drinking water contamination, from \$500,000 to \$1 million. This will allow eligible communities impacted by this crisis to qualify for double the funding to connect homes to municipal drinking water or build a water source, intake or treatment facility.

“Working with Senator Stabenow and Peters, we were able to include important investments in this bill to address drinking water contamination issues across Michigan,” said Congressman Kildee.

“Funding a national health study about the dangers of PFAS contaminants will help ensure that veterans and residents exposed to the chemicals get the care they need. Additionally, doubling the size of federal emergency water grants for places like Oscoda will mean that communities can act more quickly to provide safe drinking water. I’m grateful to the entire Michigan delegation for their work to address this dangerous chemical.”

“I’m deeply concerned about this growing problem and the number of families and service members who have been exposed,” said Senator Stabenow. “What’s even scarier is that we don’t know the full extent and long term impact of exposure to these chemicals. I’m fully committed to working with federal, state, and local partners on short- and long-term assistance for those who have been affected.”

“Families, servicemembers and veterans across Michigan face unknown health risks from exposure to contaminated water, and this health study is an important step towards understanding the potential impacts of these dangerous chemicals,” said Senator Peters. “I’m also pleased we were able to secure additional funding to begin to provide relief and help communities clean up

contamination at known sites around the state. I’ll continue working with Senator Stabenow and Congressman Kildee to ensure that Michigan families have access to safe and reliable drinking water sources.”

Stabenow, Peters, and Kildee have repeatedly pushed the Department of Defense (DOD) to address contamination in drinking water. Peters worked to include language to authorize a health study in the National Defense Authorization Act, which became law in December 2017. Last month, the lawmakers joined a bipartisan group of members from the Michigan delegation and sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee and a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking for the study to be fully funded. In December 2017, the lawmakers also sent a letter encouraging a strong Environmental Protection Agency role to address water contamination across the state.

PFAS chemicals were used for decades to make products resistant to oil and water. Now a growing number of communities across Michigan are uncovering alarmingly high levels of PFAS in soil, ground, and drinking water. For example, in the Belmont area, PFAS has leached into the water table from an old Wolverine Worldwide tannery dump. The company used the chemicals decades ago to waterproof the leather on shoes before improperly dumping the waste. Firefighting foam that contained some types of PFAS was also commonly used at military bases, exposing local residents and veterans living nearby.

These substances break down very slowly in the environment and remain in the blood and organs of exposed humans and wildlife for years. Exposure to these chemical compounds is linked to cancer as well as thyroid, kidney, liver, and reproductive problems. This problem is of such severity that the State of Michigan recently created a PFAS Action Response Team.



# Gov. Snyder's Request for U.S. Small Business Administration Assistance Approved for Four Lower Peninsula Michigan Counties



*courtesy photo*

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved his request for a physical and economic disaster declaration for four Michigan counties. The declaration means residents and businesses affected by severe flooding in February are eligible to apply for financial assistance.

The declaration covers Arenac, Berrien, Ingham, and Kalamazoo counties and the neighboring counties of Allegan, Barry, Bay, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Eaton, Gladwin, Iosco, Jackson, Livingston, Ogemaw, Shiawassee, St. Joseph, and Van Buren.

“I am pleased the Small Business Administration will provide financial assistance to individuals and businesses affected by the severe flooding,” Snyder said. “The availability of these loans will bring some relief to those working to recover and rebuild.”

Based on information provided by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD), state officials requested representatives of the SBA to conduct a preliminary damage assessment of the

affected area to document damage to homes and businesses that sustained uninsured losses of 40 percent or more. This assessment was conducted from March 16-20.

The SBA disaster assistance program provides low-interest disaster loans for uninsured losses incurred by homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, inventory and business assets that have been damaged or destroyed. The SBA tailors the repayment of each disaster loan to the borrower’s financial capability.

The SBA will establish a disaster loan outreach center in the affected area for one-on-one assistance. Loan applications will also be made available online or by mail.

Additional information about the SBA disaster assistance program is available at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

Snyder declared a state of disaster on March 12 for 17 counties and two cities after heavy rainfall and snow melt on Feb. 19-21 resulted in widespread flooding damage, making state aid and financial assistance available to communities in the disaster area.

## Driver Responsibility Fee elimination is a great day for drivers

Secretary Johnson expressed her enthusiasm when Gov. Snyder signed legislation on March 2 to fully eliminate Driver Responsibility Fees.

Smiling driver

“What a great day for Michigan drivers,” Johnson said. “I want to thank Gov. Snyder, all the lawmakers who voted for this and all the work my staff has put in over the years to get rid of this automatic double-penalty that was hurting hard-working Michigan families. Too many Michigan drivers lost their license because of Driver Responsibility Fees that didn’t promote public safety but did make it harder for people to pick up their kids from school or get to work.”

As a state representative in 2003, Johnson voted against Driver Responsibility Fees. As secretary of state, she has pushed for repealing the Driver Responsibility Fee law, successfully advocating that lawmakers eliminate the most common fees in 2011, create a community service option for certain fees in 2015 and begin phasing out all fees.

Driver Responsibility Fees are an additional fee automatically charged for various traffic violations, including non-moving violations, on top of regular traffic citation fines and court costs. Unlike traditional court fines and fees in which a judge can take into consideration a driver’s ability to pay and order alternatives, such as payment plans or community service in lieu of payment, the automatically assessed Driver Responsibility Fees cannot be waived or reduced by a judge.

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# SPORTS

## Team Meet & Greet, Fan Fest Planned for Opening Day Festivities



# FAN FEST

## THURSDAY, APRIL 5TH

- GATES OPEN AT 4PM
- FULL CONCESSION STANDS OPEN
- PLAYER AUTOGRAPHS FROM 4-5PM
- INFLATABLES ON THE CONCOURSE
- \$1 FAMILY FEAST NIGHT
- \$2.50 DOMESTIC DRAFTS FROM 4-6PM

MIDLAND, Mich. - The Great Lakes Loons will kick off their 12th season of baseball in Midland on Thursday, April 5th, against the Lansing Lugnuts. Fans are invited to celebrate Opening Day with Fan Fest! Gates will open two hours before the scheduled 6:05 p.m. first pitch with the entire concourse packed with activities.

Concessions will be open serving all the ballpark favorites, including \$1 hot dogs, 16oz Pepsi products, Better Made chips and ice cream sandwiches as part of \$1 Family Feast Night presented by Chemical Bank. Fans can also take advantage of Opening Day Happy Hour specials with \$2.50 domestic draft beers from 4-6 p.m.

Inflatables and other activities will be set up inside the stadium for kids of all ages to participate

in; players from the 2018 roster will be signing autographs from 4-5 p.m.; live music will be performed at the ballpark prior to the start of the game.

TEAM MEET AND GREET SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 3RD

All members of the Chemical Bank Founders Club are invited to the annual Team Meet and Greet held in the Great Lakes Reserve on Tuesday, April 3rd at 6 p.m.

Fans can interact with the players and coaching staff, plus hear comments from returning manager John Shoemaker. Fans can join the founders club by purchasing any of the Loons full-season, half-season or mini-plan ticket packages.



loons.com

# Wolverines Take Down Loyola Chicago to Advance to NCAA Championship Game



wbckfm.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas. -- A relentless second-half defensive stand and some special play from Moritz Wagner propelled Michigan to the national championship game as the Wolverines downed Loyola Chicago by a score of 69-57 at a sold out Alamodome Saturday night (March 31).

Michigan, which extended its single-season record for victories (33-7), will play in its seventh national championship game with the Wolverines going against Villanova.

Leading by seven points at the break, Loyola (32-6) immediately went to work in the second half, using a traditional three-point play to claim a 32-22 lead to open the stanza.

Michigan quickly started to regain its footing. Duncan Robinson broke a 2-for-15 team shooting skid from long range with a transition triple to creep within 34-27 at the 17:30 mark.

After Loyola regained a double-digit lead at 41-31 on a pair of buckets from Clayton Custer, U-M continued its charge as Jaaron Simmons connected from the corner in front of the U-M bench to make it a 42-27 game with 11:25 to play.

Coming out of the under-12 timeout, Custer sank a pair of free throws but Robinson brought the U-M faithful to their feet when he stuck a second-chance triple from the wing to prompt a Loyola

timeout at the 10:06 mark with the score at 45-42.

A driving layup from Jordan Poole kept the deficit at three, 47-44, when play stooped for a Loyola injury. Michigan's defense dominated from that point forward with Poole's bucket part of a 12-0 run during which the defense forced five straight Loyola turnovers.

The first turnover ignited a raucous Michigan crowd as Wagner delivered a clutch triple from the corner to knot the game at 47 with 6:44 to go.

Poole then gave U-M the lead, 49-47 -- its first lead since early in the game -- with a pair of free throws and John Beilein's defense then forced its third straight turnover followed by a driving reverse baseline layup from Charles Matthews to make it a 51-47 lead with 5:48 to play.

After forcing its fifth straight takeaway, Wagner struck again with a traditional three-point play with less than five minutes to go.

Ben Richardson tried to bring Loyola back when his jumper cut the deficit to 56-51 at the 2:50 mark, but Wagner answered again with a triple from the top of the arc, followed by a driving layup from Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman. After a Loyola bucket, Michigan put the game out of reach when a long outlet pass found Matthews wide open for a dunk. By the time the cheers had

waned, Michigan had rattled the Ramblers with a 21-6 decisive spurt.

Michigan forced 17 turnovers against a team that averaged 12 per game during the season. Similarly, a 40-percent shooting team from long range managed just a 1-of-10 mark from deep against the Wolverines.

Wagner was special throughout the game, even when the majority of his team was not. The big man finished the night with 24 points (10-16 FG) and 15 rebounds, becoming just the third player to go for at least 20 points and 15 rebounds in a national semifinal game, and the first since 1983.

Matthews also contributed a special effort; the Chicago native logged 17 points (7-12 FG) and five rebounds.

A pair of early triples from Wagner and Matthews staked Michigan to a 6-4 lead at the under-16 timeout. Wagner's triple came as part of a 10-0 run highlighted by put-back buckets from Wagner and Jon Teske to force a Loyola timeout with 12:38 to play in a 12-4 game.

Michigan owned the boards early, doubling-up the Ramblers by, 12-6, and gained seven second-chance points just eight minutes into the game. The Wolverines could not sustain the advantage, as Loyola made five of its next seven shots and went on a 13-3 run to claim a 19-15 lead following a Marques Towns layup with 5:23 to go. Only a pair of hard-fought put-back layups from Wagner kept U-M close as the higher seeded team endured a dreadful 9-of-13 shooting half, including a 2-of-13 mark from deep (.154) with eight uncharacteristic turnovers.

By making 8-of-13 down the stretch in the first half, Loyola extended the advantage to 25-19 with 2:45 to go, prompting a U-M timeout. The cold stretch continued for Michigan and a last-second floater from Loyola's Donta Ingram gave the Ramblers their largest lead of the game at 29-22 going into halftime. Wagner (11) and Matthews (8) combined for 19 of Michigan's 22 first-half points with the rest of the team shooting a combined 1-of-13.

Loyola was led by Cameron Krutwig's 17 points (7-11 FG) while Custer logged 15 and Andre Jackson had 10 off the bench.

# Neighborhood Revitalization 2018

## BUENA VISTA HOME REPAIRS May 17 – 23

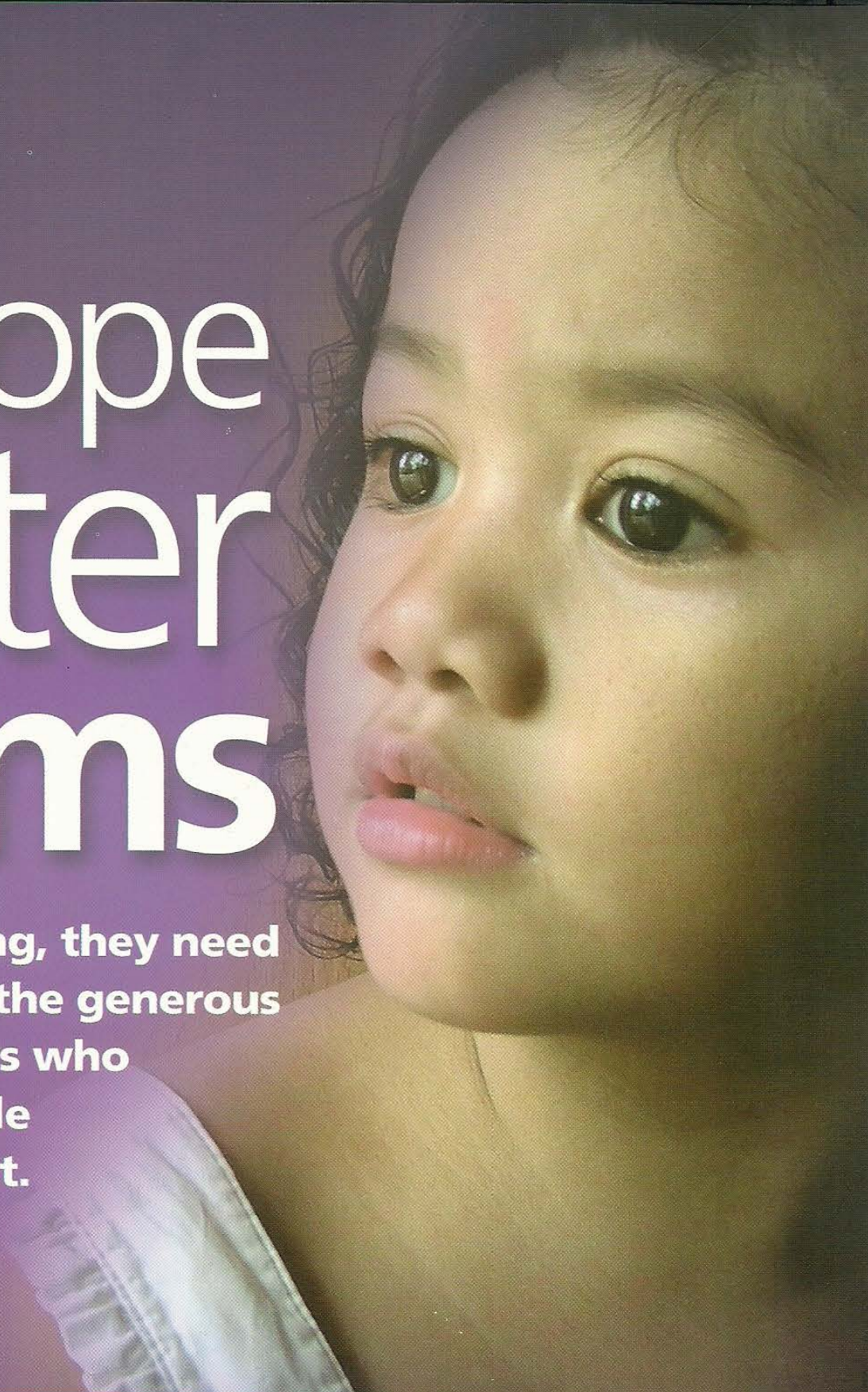
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# CHANGES TO OUR NEW ROUTES

START DECEMBER 31, 2017

## Route 1:

Was: (INBOUND) Congress > Mason > State  
Change to: (INBOUND) Congress > Bay > State

## Route 211 becomes Route 112:

Was: Perkins > Outer > Woodbridge  
Change to: Woodbridge > Outer > Perkins  
Adding: Ricker Center

## Route 3:

Stays on Michigan to Superior - No bridge crossing  
Drops: YMCA (YMCA on Route 7)

## Route 54:

Drops Ricker Center (Ricker Center added to Route 112)

## Route 6 changes to Fashion Sq and SVSU Express:

Was: Weiss > Bay > SVSU > Tittabawassee > I-675  
Change to: I-675 > Fashion Sq > SVSU > Fashion Sq > I-675  
Adds: Fresnius Dialysis Center

## Route 7:

Adds: Ruffin Clinic, YMCA, MI Works, DaVita Dialysis  
Drops: Michigan Ave (added to Route 3)

## Route 82:

Was: Vets > Jefferson > Warren  
Change to: Jefferson > Warren > Vets  
Will take Jefferson to Williamson (Drop Holland, Weber, Hess)

## Route 9:

Drops inbound WalMart stop (Route 6 adds a WalMart stop)

## Route 106 - Big Changes!:

Will now Depart at top of hour (:55) instead of bottom (:25)  
Was: I-675 > Tittabawassee > Fashion Sq > Bay > Weiss  
Change to: Weiss > Covenant Mackinaw > Fashion Sq > Tittabawassee > I-675  
Adds: Covenant Mackinaw  
Drops: Bay Pointe Apts, Southbound Bay (Route 9 Adds Southbound Bay)





## PIC OF THE WEEK

**Markeen Baker, creator and host of the Saginaw based show "The What Don't Kill You Show" is pictured with guests DJ Campus Legend and HBK Boom on March 28, 2018.**



*XDH Photography*



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