

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

Celebrating 17 years of Positive News

Stronger Together, In These Challenging Times



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Leading in Diversity, Empowering Communities and Changing Lives www.themichiganbanner.com



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Live in the Present & Plan for the Future

Barbara M. Littles



It's almost Friday and we are several weeks into lockdown (depending on where you reside). In working and speaking with people over the last month, I have come to realize there are at least two (2) categories of mindset going through this pandemic: (1) those that are focusing on the NOW and attempting to keep their businesses, ministries, corporations and agencies running as close to normal as possible or (2) those that are navigating the current situation but focusing on the future . These 2 categories of people are moving through the world differently right now.

FOCUSING ON THE NOW

Most if not all people start out (as well they should) in focusing on the now. The first few weeks is finding a stable footing; changing from live to streaming events, workshops, services, teaching, conferences, etc. During these first two weeks the idea is to stabilize your force and make the necessary pivot to still remain operational and able to provide services to clients, customers, congregants, etc. However, staying in the NOW and planning as though COVID-19 never happened is a BIG mistake! We will be living in a new world after COVID-19. Organizations are going to realize that all activities don't have to be done in person; they can trust their employees to work from home; that their people are more creative than they imagined; and that everything they were doing before COVID-19 is not a priority. The BIGGEST change however, is going

to be in your people. Some people will find they are stronger, smarter, and more independent and able than they ever imagined; some will realize they want to live their dreams; some will determine they want a new way of life. These realizations will change your organizations....after all your biggest ASSET are your people. In addition to moving forward with "the work" during this time, take time to really know your people- who they are, what's important to them, their challenges, and their AHA's. If you come away not knowing this, you've come away at a loss.

LIVING IN THE PRESENT AND PLANNING FOR A DIFFERENT FUTURE

These are the people who will come through this pandemic and thrive. They have stabilized their force and are now observing, listening, anticipating, creating, innovating, with the future in mind. They have spoken and continue to speak with their greatest ASSET their people and have dreamed of the future months, brainstormed about possibilities, new expectations of clients and staff, reviewing priorities, values, and culture while determining how to maintain their culture, values, and mission and reinventing themselves to be relevant in the future. They are creating and reviewing systems that will allow them to more easily navigate future change. They are not chained to their previous plans but committed to the purpose of those plans. Ideas they may have rejected in the past, they may now embrace as part of the future.

It's not too late to assess which one of these categories you fit into so that you can make necessary adjustments. Remember, it is not possible that life has drastically changed as it has and that the people adjusting to these new challenges haven't changed. When we survive COVID-19, most of us are going to want to THRIVE and in doing so we will look for life filled, innovative, significant - purposed driven organizations to live out our purpose driven lives. Let it be with you.

DIARY OF MY YOUNGER YEARS

By David Hall



(NOTE: March 21 marked the RIH passing of Air Force Gen. David Hall, 91, a mid-Michigan civic leader. The Michigan Banner's April 1 edition featured a wide array of memorial tributes, which remain available online. Today we conclude with the childhood chapter of a partial autobiography that Gen. Hall recalled 10 years ago to reporter/transcriber Mike Thompson. Another article is an account of bride Vickie's first encounters with her future husband.)

I'm 10 years old, and I'm in trouble for some sort of busybody transgression, nothing really terrible, just for straying a little bit too far from my assigned territory near our home. Overall I am a good kid, but I am the rambunctious sort. Today they would say I have ADHD -- what's that, attention deficit hyperactive disorder? But back then they didn't have ADHD.

It seems like once a year, maybe twice, I wind up in this sort of childhood trouble. On this particular day, smack in the middle of the 1930s Depression, Mother is away from home, out doing her usual day work. She cleans and does laundry for the Sweeneys, the family of the comptroller for Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation.

This means Grandmother is in charge. She tells me to go to the sapling in the front yard and to bring back a switch. Then she tells

me that the limb is not large enough, and to go back and get another. This goes on for a while.

But do you know what? She doesn't whip me after all. She just takes that switch and holds it up near her chin in both hands, and she twists it ever-so-slowly, looking at me and lecturing me about straying too far from home. I'm saying to myself, please just go ahead and whip me and spare me this slow torture. But she simply keeps on lecturing and twisting that switch.

Looking back, I can see that Grandmother had a strategy for teaching me a lesson that went beyond strapping me. Nowadays, sadly, too many children lack upstanding elders. But during my boyhood in Gary, Indiana, I had three.

Grandmother was Margaret "Maggie" Crossley from a farm near Macomb, Mississippi, who had come north to live with us.

Mother was Grace Elizabeth Crimiel Hall, who was in her young 30s when she moved to Gary in 1925.

She met my father, Alfred McKenzie Hall, and they joined to produce my older brother Hansel (March 12, 1927) and then myself (June 21, 1928).

My parents split up before I was even born. They never gave us an explanation, but my father moved to stay only about two blocks away. They always talked and were civil, and so my father always was part of my life.

Let's begin with my mother. She was a tall dark-skinned woman, near 6-foot, and she was slender but she stood very stately because she carried her shoulders upright. She had straight hair that came down to shoulder length, curled up and out at the bottom. There was always a Lane Bryant catalog in the house, the special mail-order circular for tall and big women.

She grew up on a Mississippi farm, went to college and became certified to teach. She taught for some years down south, but there was a better life to be made up north, so she came to Gary and moved in with an uncle who was a widower.

Mother learned that her teaching certification was not accepted in Indiana, so that was why she became a housekeeper. So much for a better life up north. She never really talked about her background, even when Hansel and myself became older and asked, because her idea was to always look forward, the eternal optimist seeing the bright side. And she lived to be 100 years old until she passed away in 1993.

Continues on pg 14, Diary of My Younger Years

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MISSION

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

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**A NEW NORMAL**

COVID - 19 During the month of November, 2019, The Michigan Banner announced the theme of the 2020 HEART OF THE CITY AWARDS. We wanted to acknowledge and honor First Responders and Mental Health Service providers. We began the nomination process, contacted organizations and individuals to support our efforts to recognize a very deserving group of people. At that time, we had no idea of the impending pandemic, COVID-19. At that time, we had no idea that we would experience in real time, just how steadfast and dedicated these caretakers of the community would be during a time of crisis.

This is a challenging time for all of us nationally and globally as well. Families in historically marginalized and vulnerable communities have been especially hard hit as we face the challenges of what has now become a 'new normal'. These most vulnerable populations include people of color, individuals and families with mental health challenges, families living below the poverty line, the elderly and individuals with preexisting medical conditions. For many, this level of uncertainty about the future – when and if a life of familiarity will ever resume is a source of added stress and anxiety as they make every effort to navigate the guidelines associated with a restructuring of everyday life.

One of the communities facing disparity in the actual death rate attributed to a COVID-19 diagnosis is African Americans. An article titled, 'State and Local Officials Highlight Racial Disparities in Coronavirus Deaths; April 13, 2020 in the US News Report sheds light on an alarming trend in the disproportionate numbers of black and Hispanic deaths as a result of contracting the virus. The report tells us that here in Michigan, health officials report that 40% of COVID-19 deaths are black; 30% Hispanic and 26% white. In the city of Chicago, 72% of people who die of the disease are black while they represent only 29% of the population. New York City reports Hispanics and blacks dying of the virus at twice the rate of whites. A series of inequalities point to why black and Hispanic people across the nation are experiencing higher numbers of cases and why they are more likely to die from the virus.

In an April 9th White House briefing the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams acknowledged and addressed the racial disparity associated with the death rate affecting the nation. He said that, "People of color are more likely to live in densely packed areas and in multigenerational housing situations, which create higher risk for spread of a highly contagious disease like COVID-19." Other social determinants resulting from generations of systemic and institutional disparities include poverty, environmental trauma (poison water, limited access to markets stocked with nutritional and affordable foods, etc.), lack of access to quality health care, higher rates of chronic medical conditions and high rates of unemployment.

At the state level, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer also acknowledged the stark differences in the toll the virus takes on communities of color. She has taken swift action in the formation of the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities, and appointed Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist chair of the initiative which consists of local community leaders and health care professionals. Governor Whitmer stated that, "This virus is holding up a mirror to our society and reminding us of deep inequities in our country. From basic lack of access to health care, transportation, and protections in the workplace, these inequities hit people of color and vulnerable communities the hardest. This task force will help us start addressing these disparities right now as we work to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 in Michigan."

In spite of the noted disparities, there are measures which must be taken to mitigate the spread of this deadly disease. These measures are vital to the containment of the disease. We can listen to and observe the recommendations and mandates provided by informed professionals and 'front line' workers – First Responders and Mental Health service providers are committed to the security and well being of this community. We can support their hard work in many ways including:

- Frequent hand-washing with soap
- Refrain from touching your face
- When in public, wear a mask. There are countless low cost DIY examples to choose from on social media.
- Observe ALL state of Michigan Stay Home Stay Safe mandates.
- Observe the practice of Social Distancing.**
- Keep an eye on the elderly – this is an especially difficult time for them.
- Listen to and follow the instructions of First Responders. Many are risking their own safety and well-being (and their families) for the safety of all. They MUST enforce the mandates to help level off the numbers of new and/or recurring infections.

COVID-19 is disproportionately taking the lives of people of color, many of whom have limited options and resources to modify their surroundings. Social distancing is extremely difficult to practice in close quarters. However, choosing to participate in activities such as basketball, parties, visiting family or friends solely for the purpose of socialization, is literally a life and death level of risk taking. The Michigan Banner staff asks you to join us as we protect ourselves, our families and our community in sacrificing contact for a designated period of time so that life can resume with as much familiarity as the environment will eventually permit. Let's live to see what the 'New Normal' will bring.

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, The Michigan Banner

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 8



Hip Hop Public Health Launches 20 Seconds or More Initiative Harnessing the Power of Music to Encourage Hand Washing and Other Safety Protocols Amongst Young People to Battle the COVID-19 Pandemic

NEW YORK /PRNewswire/ -- Hip Hop Public Health (HHPH) the national nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering positive health behavior change through the power of hip hop music since 2005, today launched 20 Seconds or More, a new initiative to encourage hand washing and other safety protocols among the nation's youth. The focal point of 20 Seconds or More is a lively, three-minute music video featuring pioneering rapper and community health advocate, Doug E. Fresh, along with more than 40 noted individuals from the entertainment, sports, medical, civic and business sectors. These include a range of talents such as rappers DMC, Monie Love and Chuck D, pop and R&B singers Ashanti and Jordin Sparks, along with Jamie Foxx, Cedric The Entertainer, UNC NBA prospect Cole Anthony, Olympian Benita Fitzgerald Mosley and many others. Dr. Olajide Williams, Chief

of Staff, Department of Neurology, NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, and Doug E. Fresh are the Co-Founders of HHPH and are spearheading the initiative with HHPH Executive Director and CEO, Lori Rose Benson. Philanthropic support for the initiative has been provided by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation and the Bristol Myers Squibb Black Organization for Leadership Development, an employee resource group.

Hip Hop Public Health produced the song 20 Seconds or More in response to messaging failures governing the pandemic in the US. The song was written by Artie Green, and features Doug E. Fresh and Gerry Gunn with medical oversight by Dr. Williams. 20 Seconds or More is available on Spotify and will be on additional streaming music platforms this week, with the hopes of

inspiring dance/rapping challenges to share these resources widely. The song's catchy refrain, "Wash your hands everybody, and everybody just wash your hands," is inspired by the classic hip hop riff that began with Big Hank and has been adopted by MCs and hip hop fans of all ages and backgrounds as a global anthem.

"The main goal of 20 Seconds or More is to bring together art, science and social media innovation to help fight the COVID-19 health crisis plaguing our nation and the world today," says Doug E. Fresh. "As an artist and a health advocate, I have the responsibility of using my platform and my voice to make a change, beginning with young people, to help save lives and stop the spread of this virus."

"Without a doubt, COVID-19 is one of the most challenging health crises of modern

'20 Seconds or More' Continued...



Courtesy Photo

MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

times," says Dr. Olajide Williams. "Personal safety measures are important against the highly contagious Coronavirus, whose infectious profile includes a large number of silent 'asymptomatic' carriers (18-30%) capable of infecting others, and those with mild manifestations of the disease."

The few community defenses against the devastating effects of COVID-19 include home quarantine, social distancing, and proper frequent hand washing. Data shows that these practices mitigate the spread of the virus and have helped to reduce transmission and sickness in countries that have implemented them.

Adds Dr. Williams, "We now know that younger people are more likely to have mild manifestations or silent infection compared to older individuals, and that communities of color are disproportionately affected. These groups need targeted health communication solutions for improving compliance with hand washing, social distancing and home quarantine. 20 Seconds or More is such a campaign, designed to motivate young people and communities of color to engage in regular

hand washing and social distancing, while also appealing to the general public."

"This is the era of personal responsibility, when the simple things we choose to do or not do have life and death consequences," says Lori Rose Benson, Executive Director and CEO of Hip Hop Public Health. "Personal responsibility is empowered by education, social conditioning, and cultural relevance. We could therefore think of no better way to get this message across than by launching 20 Seconds or More. This is a life-saving, action-oriented platform that enables young people and all of us to recognize and utilize our power for the collective good health of our communities, the nation and the world."

In addition to the song and video, HHPH has created multiple opportunities for the public to get involved in the 20 Seconds or More movement. Working in collaboration with OPEN, the Online Physical Education Network, HHPH created free lesson plans and other health educational materials to be shared with teachers, school leaders, parents and students to support remote learning and staying active at home. HHPH has also created opportunities for

young people, educators and artists to serve as Ambassadors, or "HHPH MCs" charged with utilizing their social networks and platforms to inspire dance and rap challenges, while encouraging adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols. HHPH's network of MCs (Masters of Culture) helps to amplify key health messages to empower youth and teach them how to care for their physical and mental health.

HHPH is also sharing frequent updates and information regarding COVID-19 through a series of studies, papers and interactive sessions with Dr. Williams. These include the COVID-19 Industry Rapid Response Q&A with The Partnership for a Healthier America and HHPH's latest blog post with engaging resources for families to stay active at home.

The 20 Seconds or More video was produced by IDEKO, a New York based experiential production agency.

To learn more, please visit www.hhph.org and follow HHPH on social at @hhphorg #20SecondsOrMore



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**Chicagoland Latino
Community on Track
to Lead in COVID-19
Deaths**

LB Pg. 2

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Chicagoland Latino Community on Track to Lead in COVID-19 Deaths

Rank	Zip Code	Neighborhood (Data as of 4/13/20)	Growth Rate	White	Black or African American	Hispanic	Other	
1	60641	Chicago - Portage Park	22%	26,985	1,741	38,982	4,311	
2	60435	Joliet - Cathedral area	19%	27,579	6,359	12,235	2,000	
3	60626	Chicago - West Rogers Park, Rogers Park, Edgewater	18%	20,977	11,758	11,275	5,189	
4	60639	Chicago - Belmont Cragin	18%	5,637	13,518	71,611	1,383	
5	60638	Chicago - Bedford Park	14%	29,068	1,618	25,125	986	
6	60647	Chicago - Hermosa, Logan Square	14%	34,316	4,996	44,262	3,621	
7	60632	Chicago - Brighton Park	14%	9,111	1,040	76,854	4,439	
8	60634	Chicago - Dunning	14%	42,420	1,041	26,241	3,746	
9	60625	Chicago - Lincoln Square	13%	34,102	3,205	29,236	12,427	
10	60804	Cicero	12%	7,023	2,951	74,029	674	
Total for Top 19 Fastest Growing Zip Codes					237,218	48,227	409,850	38,776
				15.6%	32%	7%	56%	5%

Latest Full Data: <https://enigmaforensics.com/fastest-coronavirus-growth-rate-by-zip-code-in-illinois/>

CHICAGO, April 14, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- Recent data analysis by Computer Forensics & Electronic Medical Records expert Lee Neubecker of Enigma Forensics shows some troubling trends in COVID-19 distribution amongst the greater Chicagoland area. The New York City Latino Community numbers at 29 percent of the population but as of a week ago, they accounted for 34 percent of deaths related to COVID-19. Similarly, Chicagoland Latinos are on a fast clip to experience similar devastation from the outbreak.

Analysis of the top fastest growth Zip Codes that all have experienced an average Coronavirus confirmed positive growth rate at or in excess of 9% led us to cross reference the population. Of those fastest growing 10 Zip Codes from 4/11/20 to 4/13/20, the combined population is 56% majority Hispanic. This finding doesn't negate that the black community is being devastated by this pandemic in greater numbers at present in Chicago, but does suggest transmission rates may be greater

within the Hispanic community at present.

Specific outreach to the black community has shown positive outcomes in reducing COVID-19 risk in those communities, and this should be replicated elsewhere. These communities with rapidly growing Coronavirus cases need to take immediate steps to ensure workers are being provided appropriate training, protective equipment and rapid testing. Many businesses in economically struggling communities are failing to protect their workers and customers and this needs to change promptly.

"Mayor Lori Lightfoot has shown great creativity in using social media and humor to educate Chicago at large about the gravity of the virus. That same creative but honest approach targeting the Latino communities might help get the word out and slow the spread rate of the virus in these hot spot areas," said Lee Neubecker.

The CDC should be releasing demographic information by zip code to

help local governments best allocate the resources needed for communities being disproportionately impacted by this outbreak. The full blog post and data are available here:

<https://enigmaforensics.com/blog/coronavirus-case-growth-highest-in-hispanic-communities/>





From babies to grandparents, everyone is meant to be counted in the U.S. census.

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- Mobile-friendly census form available mid-March 2020
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We know you need your Mexican Comida. We are a coalition of Concerned Organizations and Churches who want to help our elderly during this pandemic. We will provide FREE Mexican meals to help those in need. Pick Up & Go!

FOR OUR SENIORS 65 AND OVER



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Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit



Para combatir la propagación del COVID-19 en Michigan, la gobernadora Whitmer firmó la orden ejecutiva "Stay Home, Stay Safe" (Quédate en Casa, Permanece a Salvo). Por las próximas tres semanas por lo menos, todos los negocios de Michigan y operaciones se deben suspender temporalmente. Se deben suspender las operaciones en persona que no son necesarias para preservar o proteger vidas, y todos los Michiganders tienen la obligación de permanecer en sus casas a menos que sean parte del personal de trabajo de infraestructura crítica, realizando una actividad al aire libre o realizando tareas necesarias para la salud y seguridad de ellos mismos o de su familia, como ir al hospital o la tienda de comestibles.

USTED PUEDE:

- Ir a la tienda de comestibles o buscar comida que haya ordenado.
- Ir a la farmacia para buscar una prescripción médica necesaria.
- Realizar actividades al aire libre como caminar, excursionismo, correr, andar en bicicleta.
- Ir al hospital o asegurarse de tener cualquier servicio de cuidado o salud necesario para enfrentar una emergencia médica o para preservar su salud o la salud de un ser querido.
- Cargar gasolina en su carro.
- Retornar a Michigan a un hogar o lugar de residencia desde otro estado.
- Salir del estado para ir a un hogar o residencia en cualquier otro lado.
- Sacar a pasear a sus mascotas y llevarlas al veterinario para recibir atención médica, si es necesario.

USTED NO PUEDE:

- Salir de su casa a su trabajo a menos que su empleador lo/la designe como trabajador crítico de infraestructura.
- Participar en cualquier reunión pública.
- Visitar a alguien en el hospital, geriátrico u otros centros de cuidado residenciales (con excepciones limitadas).
- Ir al centro comercial o restaurantes.

NEGOCIOS QUE PERMANECEN ABIERTOS PARA TRABAJO EN PERSONA DEBEN TOMAR MEDIDAS AGRESIVAS PARA MINIMIZAR LA PROPAGACIÓN DEL VIRUS. ESTOS DEBEN:

- Promover el trabajo remoto en la mayor medida posible.
- Restringir el número de trabajadores al máximo posible en el área de trabajo.
- Mantener a los trabajadores a al menos seis pies de distancia los unos de los otros en la mayor medida posible y habilitar la distancia social para los clientes que estén en fila.
- Cualquier otra práctica de distancia social y medidas de mitigación recomendadas por los Centros de Control y Enfermedad.

La información acerca de este brote está cambiando rápidamente. La información más reciente está disponible en Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Para aquellos que tengan preguntas acerca de las acciones del estado para mitigar la propagación del Coronavirus, por favor llame a la línea directa COVID-19 al 1-888-535-6136 entre las 8AM y las 5PM diariamente.

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



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

What to do now: Grant Writing in a Time of COVID-19

Continuing operations, expanding services, meeting payroll, planning for the future. All require money and for many nonprofits that can be in short supply right now. Remember that foundations and granting agencies are more than funders: they are your partners and it's time to reach out to them.

For this column we spoke with Dana Textoris, Managing Director of Grants Plus. We asked her the questions we know are on your mind. She also shared additional resources available for download.

What is the most important thing for nonprofits to know about grant seeking during this crisis?

Keep going. Do not put your grants effort on hold. History shows that foundations step their giving up, not back, during financial crises, meaning grants should be at the top of your fundraising priority list right now.

What is the first step to take right now?

Tell your funders about the challenges and needs the crisis is creating for your organization. If you haven't made personal contact with each of your current funders since the pandemic started, do that today. Ask for flexibility in how you spend active grants and request emergency grant funding. If you are addressing emergency needs, identify exactly what you need and what it will cost. If emergency funds are available, apply as quickly as you can. Hundreds of foundations around the country have launched rapid response funds to move funding into communities as quickly as possible. At Grants Plus, we are tracking emergency grant opportunities across the

country, which you can view online.

What else can organizations do?

Don't overlook grants from donor-advised funds. Those donors already contributed money into their funds well before the crisis; now they can choose to distribute it! Reach out to donors who have given to your organization through their donor-advised fund in the past and ask for an emergency grant. If you aren't sure how to maximize grants from donor-advised funds, you can read our complete guide.

We are also very optimistic about a coming wave of opportunity for federal grants. The CARES Act has poured funding into federal agencies to be swiftly distributed to nonprofits in the form of grants. Stay alert for new government grant opportunities and get ready to apply.

Even as many funders have shifted to urgent needs, we expect most to resume their traditional grant making. If your special

events have been canceled and your donor meetings are on hold, put that time into researching new potential grant funders. A funder's giving priorities are unlikely to permanently change, so if you identify a grant prospect whose mission aligns to yours, that is likely to remain a good funding prospect in the future.

Final words?

Our sector feels turned upside down, along with the rest of the world, but it will ultimately come right side up. When it does, we expect the competition for grants will be even greater than before. The organizations that are proactive and deliberate to plant seeds now will be those that see their grants efforts grow. Here's a free download with tips for grant seeking during the COVID-19 crisis.

For more information you can reach Dana at 216.916.7376 x2 or at dana.textoris@grantsplus.com.



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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit www.saadandshaw.com or call (901) 522-8727.

...DIARY OF MY YOUNGER YEARS

Every day, Mother would get up before the sun and prepare breakfast for Grandmother and for Hansel and myself. Then she would catch the bus to the Sweeney home, or to another house where she had found work. And then she would return home and cook our dinner.

But no work on Sundays. Not one time ever. Sundays were for church. Mother was a Sunday school teacher, and then the superintendent for all the teachers. She was so devoted that when she was in her 90s, the church gave her a 60-year honor certificate. Her entire social life revolved around the church, weeknights as well as Sundays.

I didn't take my mother's classes. She preferred for Ivan and me to be with the other teachers. But I was told that she was very strict, with a specific lesson for each and every Sunday, and that therefore she was known as "The General." So maybe that explains how I became a general.

Mother was a lady of great faith, but she was not a political person. That was left to my father.

Like Mother, Dad was tall and slender as well, 6-foot-1, fair complexion, balding slightly from his forehead.

He grew up on a farm in Summit, Mississippi, and as the story was told to us, he left town as a young adult "riding the rails at a late hour." We never learned the details, but obviously this involved a threat from white people, possibly in a mob.

He wound up at some unknown place in Arkansas, got married and fathered two daughters. But the marriage didn't last. Then he landed up in Buffalo, New York, and all we know is that he wound up joining the UNIA, Marcus Garvey's United Negro Improvement Association, which believed in back-to-Africa separation. So this should tell you something about the social outlook carried by my eventual father.

When he came to Gary in 1925, he was hired as the city's second black police officer, but soon he met another obstacle. One night he

was assigned as an alley inspector to walk around and to check on all of the businesses. He observed a white businessman in the embrace of a lady-of-the-night. He knew full well he wasn't supposed to be arresting white people, but he was stubborn enough to march the pair off to jail. After all, that's what would have happened if they had been black. No surprise, the police chief fired him on the spot.

There were no other jobs of that sort for black men in Gary, and so Dad went to the steel mills. He started as a common laborer, but he advanced to overhead crane operator. Next he was elected as a union rep, which spared him from some of the high heat and sooty sweat.

Eventually he was one of the founders of the Gary NAACP branch. He also ran for the City Council more times than I can count, even though he knew he had no chance of winning. He aimed to be a pioneer. This was a generation prior to 1967, when Richard Hatcher in Gary became one of the nation's first black big-city mayors.

When I became old enough to read a newspaper, junior high school age, Dad pushed me to keep up on the political issues of the day. He would tell me to read the editorial pages, and to form my own opinions, always seeing both sides. He said, "Don't take anybody else's word. Decide for yourself." This had an impact, because in high school, I was elected president of the Student Senate. I also became vice-president of Gary's NAACP Youth Chapter.

My campaign slogan was, "Be On the Ball, Vote for Hall." Pretty clever, huh?

Not once do I recall mother and father having a conflict over their parental guidance for us, even if they didn't have much money between them. When people speak of the Great Depression, what they say is true. We didn't know we were "poor," because everyone was in the same boat.

Dad would buy us suits every Easter. We would go into Chicago, into the market district, and get our suits and then come

straight back home. And one time for my birthday he gave me a bicycle, another time a sled, but mostly for the holidays it was clothes. Also I wore Hansel's hand-me-downs, and didn't think twice about it.

Here is a story that will help to describe my mother: There was a lady four blocks from us who didn't work, but she would entertain the men, before and after the work shifts at the mills. At first, Hansel and myself were too young to understand why Mother was telling us to stay away from there, but gradually we realized. The woman became older, and sick, and in poverty because she no longer was attractive to the men. One day, Mother packed a load of food into our red wagon and told us to pull it to the lady's home. Hansel said, "I thought we didn't like her." And Mother answered, "We may not like what she does, but she is a human being and she is in trouble and she needs our help."

Another time, a woman had moved into the nearby housing projects. Mother placed dishes and kitchen utensils into the wagon and sent us on another delivery excursion. That's the kind of person she was.

People during that time would receive an early version of food stamps. Mother would absolutely refuse to use them. But one day Grandmother used a few stamps for a sack of potatoes that we needed. When Mother found out, that was the only time that I recall them having a big argument.

It's odd. Mother cooked all of the meat-and-potatoes meals, while Grandmother stuck to pies, cakes and cookies. Our friends were constantly coming over. They called our house "The Pie House."

In our neighborhood, people didn't lock their doors. In fact, if need be, you could go to a neighbor's empty home and borrow a cup of sugar, so long as you left a note.

We were related to a good number of the families. One of my uncles was among the first blacks to settle in Gary. At that time, property would come for sale by the acre. My uncle would purchase these properties with his savings, and then when relatives

...DIARY OF MY YOUNGER YEARS

wanted to come north, they would have places to build their homes.

Ours was one of the few two-story houses. It was built by my father, my Uncle George, my Uncle John and my cousin Oliver. We lived below and the second floor was rented to tenants.

Hansel and I attended Roosevelt School, all black, a three-story building for kindergarten through 12th grade that was considered highly impressive for its time.

The walk from home was 12 blocks, starting down 26th Avenue, then along Broadway, and finally through the black business district along 25th Avenue. There was a grocery store, a barber shop where my father would often hang out on his rare off days from the mills, a small bar called "The Elbow Room," a meat market, and a couple of restaurants.

Walking to school, we would pick up friends and relatives as we went along, sort of taking our time and telling our little war stories, and so it would take about half an hour before we showed up at Roosevelt as one big group.

I must admit, I was a mediocre student in grade school. I had a multitude of interests but I was flighty, to tell the truth, flighty and disorganized. Most of my grades were B's and C's.

Mother used to get on me about math. She would lecture me about the importance of math in daily life. I was getting tired of her preaching, and so I buckled down for one marking period and achieved an "A" grade. But she didn't seem all that impressed. She asked, "Is this your best?" I couldn't figure her out, and asked how I was supposed to do better than an "A." She told me, "This 'A' is someone else's evaluation. That's fine, but I want you to evaluate your own self. That's why I'm asking, is this your best effort?" I've never forgotten that day and her message.

Some of the teachers would inspire me more than the others. Mrs. Ida Guy was a short and stout woman who was like everyone's substitute mother. She didn't have children of her own, but she should have had 50. She

could influence all of us to do good things.

On the other hand, there was David O. Duncan, who was in charge of the school play. He gave us tickets to sell, and I turned in my money, but later he insisted he never received it. Mother knew I would never steal, but she gave him cash just to settle things. Then within three weeks he said he found the money and he reimbursed Mother, but he never apologized to me the way that he should have.

After school each day, if I didn't have another activity, I would stop at my aunt's house. She would have cornbread and buttermilk for me, and we would sit and chat. Even after I was grown, it was always cornbread and buttermilk, but by then she would have to go to the store for the buttermilk, because she no longer was able to churn her own.

Mostly I was in a group of five kids, with Hansel, cousin Oliver and two other neighborhood kids. We would play baseball or touch football in a big field across the street. And marbles, all the time we shot marbles. There were two community centers, the Friendship House and the Neighborhood House. At the Friendship House we could play cards, but not at the Neighborhood House, because that was sponsored by a church. Truly it was a great childhood.

When we reached high school age, at this point Hansel and myself started hanging out more with different groups. Suddenly one year seemed like a BIG difference in ages.

I found a few odd jobs. I had a Saturday paper route for a weekly black newspaper, the Gary American. For a while I worked at a record store, two or three hours per night. At a store named Certain Hair Products, I washed windows and floors.

My regular girlfriend was Delores Moseby, but both of us had other dates as well. After graduation, we headed in our own different directions. I think we both knew it would be like that, and neither of us was ready for anything more serious and extended.

One thing I knew was that I was determined not to spend my adult life in Gary. where the only good-paying job a black man could find was as a steelworker. I learned later that my father also didn't want me to stay in Gary, and he made his case with a clever strategy. He used his union ranking to arrange summer jobs for me.

During the summer after ninth grade, I was tamping railroad ties, using my tool to push rocks underneath. The next two summers, I was in the steel mills as a janitor and also as a hod carrier, which involved pushing concrete so that the regular workers could make bricks. I told myself, "No way am I doing this for all of my life." Dad knew what he was doing.

I have no special memories of high school graduation. I still was just a "C+" student, may a few "B's." Every once in a great while, I might sneak in an "A." My plan was to enlist in the Army under the G.I. Bill in order to earn money for college.

But one day that summer I encountered one of my favorite Roosevelt High teachers, Charles H. Bonner, and he said an 18-year-old like myself was too young for the Army, that I should be in college. He asked me to visit his home that evening, and while I was there he called the chairman of the art department at Howard University and an academic dean at Morehouse College. They both sent applications. Suddenly I went from having no college choices to having two of them. Both approved me, and I selected Howard.

Next our family dentist, Dr. Paul Stevens, called the president of the Washington YMCA, who found me a part-time night job a D.C. radio station, which I could begin on the same day I arrived. I only had the chance encounter with Dr. Stevens because Uncle George was paying for some dental work that I needed that my parents couldn't afford.

Think of all that was done for me, so that I could do for myself. That is how the community was during those days. People made sacrifices for one another, and the focus was on education. Now I was headed for Howard University, a whole new world.

...DIARY OF MY YOUNGER YEARS


(EPILOGUE: The Banner thus has shared the entire first chapter of David Hall's unfinished autobiography transcript, childhood through high school. During ensuing chapters, World War II has concluded. The young man arrives at the D.C. train station with \$100 hidden in a small button-down pants pocket near his belt buckle, but to save a quarter on bus fare he walks four miles to the Howard campus with a single jam-packed heavy suitcase in tow. Campus buildings are the same huge

size as Roosevelt Prep, but there are about 20 of them, and first he feels fearful. But he gradually gets into the groove. On evenings he first enjoys hanging out on his dormitory lawn or at the activity center, rather than studying, but in time he learns better and achieves solid grades.

As for the social climate in still-segregated D.C., Gen. Hall's favorite tale regards a fellow freshman who would gain movie seating on the town theater's bottom floor, normally reserved for white privilege, by dressing in African garb that includes

robes and a fez, and declares himself an ambassador from a made-up African nation. He tricks the managers into bending to his every wish. David Hall concludes with a hearty laugh, "That student ended up becoming a federal judge!" (Sound like an Eddie Murphy movie?)

And after enduring the travails of college and then military basic training, confronting racial challenges along the way, David Hall himself "ended up" becoming an Air Force general and then a mid-Michigan community leader.)



REMEMBERING
GENERAL DAVID M. HALL
A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

I would certainly be remiss if I didn't take time out to pay honor to my Bethel AME class leader for 15 years, General David Hall. The letters, poems, cards he faithfully sent every month helped me & I'm certain many others, through some challenging times in our lives. No matter what health issues he may have been experiencing, he took his position as our Class leader seriously. Colossians 3:23 NIV says, " Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human Masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord, because it is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving. Rest on General Hall you have passed from labour to reward.

Demona Hall and Family

HEALTH

Michigan Expands COVID-19 Testing Criteria to Anyone with Symptoms and Launches Testing Site Locator



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, MICH. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced Monday it is expanding testing criteria for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) to include individuals with mild symptoms, and has published a COVID-19 test site finder at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus to help Michiganders locate a testing site near them.

“Expanded testing is needed to learn more about how COVID-19 is spreading in our state,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. “We want to make sure people know that if they have symptoms, they should work with their medical provider to be tested.”

Michigan’s testing priority criteria now includes:

- Hospitalized patients.
- Symptomatic healthcare workers.
- Patients in congregate facilities with symptoms, including those at: Long-term care or elderly living facilities, Jails or prisons, Homeless shelters, Residential foster care facilities, Other group living setting.
- Patients age 65 and older with symptoms.
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms.
- First responders with symptoms.
- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms.
- Individuals with mild symptoms.

The COVID-19 testing site finder was developed by Castlight, a health navigation platform that connects the information of hundreds of health vendors, benefits resources and plan designs into an online tool. Michiganders are able to locate testing

sites by inputting their address or selecting state, county and zip.

Individuals who experience symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, should contact their healthcare provider, 24/7 nurse hotline or telehealth program provided by their insurance carrier or employer to discuss whether to be evaluated for testing.

Each coronavirus test provider will determine if testing is appropriate based on symptoms and test availability in their area. Michiganders should call the COVID-19 testing site before they go to learn about testing criteria, availability and hours.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Covenant HealthCare Laboratory Validated to Process Limited Number of COVID-19 Tests

On Thursday, April 2, Covenant HealthCare Laboratory was validated to immediately begin processing tests for COVID-19/SARS2. Due to the limited number of test kits, the Covenant Lab will only be used to process tests for patients who are hospitalized, and patients admitted through the Covenant Emergency Care Center (ECC) with suspected COVID-19 infection. Tests taken at the Covenant COVID-19 Sampling Center will continue to be sent to an affiliated reference laboratory.

“Several years ago, Covenant purchased equipment to improve the accuracy of influenza testing. That same equipment was updated in March and that is what allows us

to process this critical COVID-19 testing,” said Michelle Bauer, manager of Covenant Laboratory Pathology Services.

Covenant laboratory technologists have been preparing for weeks to perform COVID-19 testing on the Cepheid Infinity Instrument, using RNA amplified PCR for patient placement and isolation status purposes. Prior to acquiring the in-house testing update, samples were sent to the state laboratory, with a turnaround time of several days. Now with capabilities on-campus, Covenant offers critically ill patients a faster turnaround time of 90-minutes from receipt in the laboratory.

As a means to minimize exposure to Coronavirus (COVID-19), Covenant has also established a Hotline (989.583.3135) staffed by advanced practice providers and nurses to handle COVID-19 screenings via telephone. Covenant strongly recommends that people concerned that they may have contracted COVID-19 call their doctor or the Covenant COVID-19 Hotline. If someone is experiencing severe symptoms, they should go immediately to an emergency department, or call 911.

To learn more about screening, sampling, and testing, view the Covenant HealthCare FAQ videos with Dr. Matthew Deibel at www.youtube.com/CovenantHealthCare.

MDHHS Announces New Partnership with Community Health Centers

Michigan’s Great Lakes Bay Region — Today, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced a new partnership with community health centers designed to expand testing capabilities and refer patients to care, helping to relieve overburdened hospitals.

“We feel privileged to be part of our community’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dr. Brenda Coughlin, President and CEO of Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. “We will use every opportunity to change lives because we care through this very trying time.”

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) has worked alongside the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and ten other health centers to stand up and operate new drive-thru testing sites for COVID-19 throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. The sites are now open to all local residents. Interested individuals should arrive at the drive-through sampling collection site with the required physician order for testing. New patients with no primary care provider or anyone needing information on GLBHC sites should call (989) 293-3492.

The GLBHC centers hosting sites are:

1. Saginaw - David R. Gamez community

health center, 501 Lapeer Ave. Saginaw, MI 48607. Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am–3:00pm or until supplies run out each day.

2. Huron County – Thumb Area community health center, 876 N Van Dyke Rd. Bad Axe, MI 48413. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00am–12:00pm or until supplies run out each day.

3. Bay County – Bayside community health center, 3884 Monitor Rd. Bay City, MI 48706 Hours: Monday – Friday Noon-4pm or until testing supplies run out each day.

“Expanded testing will paint more full picture of just how far this disease has spread and help us calculate when we can safely reopen the state,” said Dr. Brenda Coughlin, President and CEO. “We know there are hundreds — if not thousands — of other people who are sick or asymptomatic carriers who need testing.”

New drive-thru sites will also operate in Atlanta, Battle Creek, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, and Traverse City, and expand current testing in Grand Rapids, Jackson, Lansing, and Saginaw, Bay City and Bad Axe. Each site will aim to serve 100 to 300 individuals per day when fully operational, and sites will open on a rolling basis from

today through Monday, April 13.

In addition to supporting widespread testing efforts, Michiganders who call the state’s COVID-19 hotline and need a referral to a provider will be directed to their local community health center. Community health centers provide care to everyone, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. They can stabilize people with chronic conditions, helping to keep them out of the emergency department, and they can treat those who may need medical attention but don’t meet the criteria for hospitalization.

“We’re grateful to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and MDHHS for recognizing the pivotal role that community health centers can play in providing care for residents without a regular doctor, opening new drive-thru testing locations, and alleviating the burden on our overrun hospitals,” said Dennis Litos, interim chief executive officer of the Michigan Primary Care Association. “We’re incredibly proud of the care community health centers have been providing during this crisis, and they will continue to serve on the frontlines of COVID-19 relief efforts.” To learn more about how community health centers in Michigan are responding to COVID-19, visit <https://bit.ly/CHCResponse>. The state COVID-19 hotline is 1-888-535-6136.

More than safe harbor in crisis, we come through, when others don't, with a path home. We connect all people based on their individual circumstances with the families and communities that will empower them to live their fullest life possible.

Potential fulfilled, those we serve then promote the dignity of others, launching into the community an unending ripple effect of transformation.

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- ☞ **In 2018, Samaritas received the Outstanding Non-Profit Award at the 16th Heart of the City Community Awards Luncheon, presented by The Michigan Banner.**
- ☞ **This award kicked off a year-long Samaritas initiative called Lift Up Saginaw ... One child, one family, one neighborhood at a time.**
- ☞ **At the center of this initiative is the Samaritas Community Center, located in a resilient neighborhood from where a lot of Saginaw leadership are from.**
- ☞ **Samaritas will also provide a holistic approach to education by combining wraparound human services with an innovative academic approach.**
- ☞ **Also part of Lift Up Saginaw, a full-scale renovation to Samaritas Senior Living Saginaw completes the community, consisting of 40 private rooms in a new state-of-the art rehabilitation center, private long term care bedrooms, and a secure memory care.**

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The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Michigan Chapter, Stepping up to Support Healthcare Workers, Cancer Patients in Midst of COVID-19 pandemic

LLS partnering with local mental health organizations and increasing resources for patients and families.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As a health organization, LLS takes seriously the responsibility to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and protect communities served. As such, LLS is providing resources not only to those battling cancer, but also to healthcare workers, doctors, and nurses.

As a service to those on the front lines, the Michigan chapter of LLS, in partnership with Oakland Family Services and Alicia Jackson of Wentworth and Associates, is offering a free short counseling session for health care professionals across Michigan, with further

services at individual discretion. All sessions are private and confidential; no insurance is necessary to take advantage of this service.

Healthcare professionals interested in accessing these services can visit <https://doxy.me/AJackson> and reference "LLS Sessions" in appointment; for services through Oakland Family Services, email Emily Mandigo (emandigo@ofsfamily.org) to set up an appointment and reference "LLS Sessions" in subject.

LLS is also focused on the well-being of cancer patients and their families – especially as many blood cancer patients are immunocompromised. In these times of uncertainty, blood cancer patients and their families need additional help and support. To address their unique concerns, LLS is amplifying efforts to share information and provide support to blood cancer patients

during this crisis.

Patients who have specific questions or concerns are encouraged to speak directly with their doctors and care team. LLS's Information Specialists – master's level oncology professionals who provide free, personalized assistance to patients, families and healthcare providers – are available to speak one-on-one with patients and caregivers. Patients and caregivers can call (800) 955-4572 from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET or visit www.lls.org/support/information-specialists

All are encouraged to read the latest resources and information on <https://www.lls.org/public-health/coronavirus>. For more information about LLS's Michigan Chapter, and how to help support cancer patients and families, contact Anne Bradley at anne.bradley@lls.org or 810-923-4659.


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Renue Physical Therapy Clinics Offer Free Virtual Treatment to Healthcare Workers and First Responders

Renue Physical Therapy is offering free virtual e-visits to frontline healthcare workers and first responders.

“With many who work in healthcare facing more stress and in some cases longer hours than ever before, we can’t imagine the toll this must be taking on their bodies,” said Renue Chief Operating Officer Bob Klapish. “We have 13 clinics and a team of more than 25 experienced physical therapists who are experiencing a lighter case load than normal, so we wanted to put their skills to good use for the people who need it most through our Helping Our Heroes program.”

Common injuries treated by Renue therapists include pain in the back, neck, shoulders and knees. Healthcare workers

or first responders who are experiencing these pains can connect with a Renue therapist via phone call or video chat to receive free guidance, exercise tips or ideas for stretches to relieve pain. Insurance information is not needed for these free e-visits.

“Our healthcare workers and first responders are putting themselves at risk more than ever during these unprecedented times,” said Klapish. “This is our way of doing our small part to thank them and help them feel their best as they care for our communities.”

Healthcare workers and first responders wishing to request an e-visit with Renue can visit renuept.com/hero.



Courtesy Photo

2020  CENSUS

**It matters.
Michigan gets \$3,000* per
person counted, per year.**

The 2020 census determines community funding for the next 10 years for things like education, school lunches, Medicaid, road repairs, emergency services and more. Plus, the census has only 9 basic questions that you can fill out online, by phone or by mail in about 10 minutes. If you’re concerned about personal information, you can be sure that your answers will not be shared.

* Michigan average for per-person funding from the top 50 federally funded programs in 2016

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BUSINESS & WEALTH

Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association Pushes to Reopen, Claim they are an Essential Business

The Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association disagreed with the “non-essential” designation and is speaking out about the governor’s executive orders regarding the coronavirus. On April 14, 2020, the organization released a statement, stating spring is a critical time of year for the green industry.

The association’s complete statement is as follows:

On behalf of Michigan’s Green Industry – the nursery and greenhouse growers, retail garden centers, lawn care, landscape maintenance, design/build, tree care, and irrigation and water management firms – we present this statement on COVID-19.

The majority of our businesses are family-owned and many are multi-generational. Our industry is committed to providing their products and services in a way that prevents us from neither contracting nor spreading the virus.

We take our associate and customer safety and health very seriously. We employ regular safety training and enforce strong safety standards on the job. The very nature of our work, which is performed outdoors individually or in small teams with little public contact, poses a lower risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. In addition, we have in place many initiatives that allow us to work safely with zero-contact and CDC social distancing to protect our associates and customers. We recognize the dangers with this virus and if we are able to go back to work, we are prepared to implement the even stricter Federal and State guidelines to make it safe for our employees and customers at our independent retail garden centers and landscape/lawn care work sites.

Spring is a critical time of year for our industry due to the abundance of growth now that requires prompt maintenance and care. Any halt or delay in our services during this time of year only magnifies potential safety problems and

becomes much more difficult to maintain later in the year. And, we can implement guidelines so we can work safely!

Our independent retail garden center businesses are brimming with flowering plants, nursery stock and vegetable plants – ready for customers to safely purchase for their home garden needs. If we miss this primary window to sell our plant products, including many that are perishable, our businesses and our employees could face an entire year without income. And, we can implement guidelines so we can work safely!

The terms being used now to describe the backbone businesses of Michigan’s economy—essential and non-essential—are as disheartening as the virus. We need to change the conversation immediately to what it should have been from the start—making it about a safe workplace. If we must use these descriptors then we are essential!

Our landscape industry—including lawn care, landscape maintenance, design/build, tree care, and irrigation and water management:

- performs regular maintenance to mow, prune, control weeds, and inspect for safety and security issues;
- performs essential treatments to reduce the spread of dangerous and deadly diseases transmitted by pests like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas; – removes fallen trees and mitigating overhead hazards from wind effects;
- manages invasive species; and
- keeps public and private pathways free from obstruction and potential risk.

Our Independent Retail Garden Centers:

- carry vegetable plants and products to grow your own food;

- carry vegetable seeds to grow your own plants;

- carry fruit trees and small fruit plants like strawberries, raspberries, potatoes, etc;

- carry native plants, annuals, and pollinator friendly plants that promote our healthy ecosystem;

- teach customers how to “grow your own”;

- play an important role in our citizens’ mental health with plants for their gardening activity.

Under normal circumstances we believe in our First Amendment Right of the people to peaceably assemble. These are not normal circumstances and we are concerned that public protests will cause undue stress of our first responders. Therefore, we do not support or endorse the public protests planned for this week and have encouraged our members not to participate in these events.

Our message is clear—we can provide a safe workplace for our employees and we can provide our products and services with zero-contact to our customers. We are pleading to be allowed to go back to work, relieve the unemployment system, generate tax revenue for the State, and to save Michigan’s Green Industry.





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Dow Commits \$500,000 to Aid Great Lakes Bay Region COVID-19 Relief Efforts



Courtesy Photo

MIDLAND, Mich. – April 9, 2020 – Dow (NYSE: DOW) today announced a philanthropic donation of \$500,000 from the Dow Company Foundation to support the work of community foundations and economic development corporations in Midland, Bay, Isabella and Saginaw counties.

Funds are earmarked to support the rapid deployment of resources to help address critical regional needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic including support for frontline workers, providing food and care for children, supporting the continued operations of small businesses, and other emergency needs.

This donation is in addition to the previously announced \$3 million commitment from the Dow Company Foundation to help fund COVID-19 relief efforts globally. It is also in

addition to the production of hand sanitizer at Dow's Auburn Operations which will be donated to the State of Michigan and THRIVE (Transforming Health Regionally in a Vibrant Economy), a co-led initiative between the Michigan Health Improvement Alliance and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, for distribution to area hospitals and first responders in the region.

“The Great Lakes Bay Region is the birthplace of our company and home to our Michigan operations and global corporate headquarters. We are committed to helping protect the health and safety of our employees and communities, while deploying our business solutions where they are needed most,” said Mary Beth Heydrick, vice president of operations for Dow. “It is our hope that by providing this additional local funding, as well as adjusting our manufacturing processes to provide

critical product to our frontline healthcare professionals, we are helping to address some of the most critical needs in our region.”

“We recognize the impact this crisis is having on nonprofits, small business, health care providers and first responders,” said Nancy Lamb, president of the Dow Company Foundation. “We’re proud to work closely with the organizations receiving this funding. They are leading the efforts to address immediate needs and working collaboratively to protect the resiliency of our community.”

Dow will continue to partner with local community foundations, economic development corporations and other community organizations across the Great Lakes Bay Region, to ensure understanding of needs as the crisis evolves and needs change.



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GUIDE TO SBA'S ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act expands the Small Business Administration's long-standing Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). The EIDL program was created to assist businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters.

Who is **ELIGIBLE**?

In general, all of the following entities that have suffered substantial economic injury caused by a disaster provided they were in existence on January 31, 2020:

- Businesses with fewer than 500 employees
- Cooperatives, ESOPs, and tribal small businesses with fewer than 500 employees
- Sole proprietors
- Independent contractors
- Most private nonprofits

What are the **LOAN PARAMETERS**?

- The maximum EIDL is a \$2 million working capital loan at a rate of 3.75% for businesses and 2.75% for non-profits with up to a 30-year term
- Payments on Coronavirus EIDL loans are deferred for one year
- Up to \$200,000 can be approved without a personal guarantee
- Approval can be based on a credit score and no first-year tax returns are required
- Borrowers do not have to prove they could not get credit elsewhere

- No collateral is required for loans of \$25,000 or less. For loans of more than \$25,000, general security interest in business assets will be used for collateral instead of real estate
- The borrowers must allow the SBA to review its tax records

How can I access an **EMERGENCY \$10,000 GRANT**?

- Eligible applicants for an EIDL can receive a \$10,000 emergency grant within three days of application (through Dec. 31)
- There is no obligation to repay the grant. To receive the \$10,000 emergency grant, it is not necessary to have an approved EIDL loan. However, if you are able to secure a PPP loan, the \$10,000 grant will be subtracted from the forgiveness amount

NOTE: The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created by the CARES Act prohibits borrowers from taking out two loans for the same purpose. For more information on PPP loans, visit uschamber.com/sbloans

How do I **APPLY**?

Apply online at **SBA.gov/disaster**

The SBA administers the EIDL program. Please contact the SBA with specific questions.

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EDUCATION

Defying a Global Pandemic, SVSU will Move Production of 'Macbeth' Online for the World to Watch from Home



SVSU

In Melanie Frasca's mind, she imagined one final farewell on stage at Saginaw Valley State University; a climactic curtsy as the curtain closed in front of her, signaling a poignant end to her beloved experience as a student actor there that began in 2016. But when a pandemic led to the closure of public events worldwide – including her planned portrayal of one of Shakespeare's most iconic characters – it seemed Frasca and her fellow graduating seniors would lose their chance at a proper sendoff.

Like any redemptive turn that arrives in the climax of a feel-good drama, though, Frasca and her classmates will get their chance to bid adieu in style – and safety – after all.

Using the trendy teleconference app known

as Zoom, SVSU's Department of Theatre will produce a live online performance of "Macbeth" Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., allowing audiences far and wide to watch for free (instructions on how to watch are available below).

"This is a way to get closure and to heal a little bit of sadness that is coming from losing those last moments of my senior year," Frasca said. "It means so much to me that I will still be able to perform in my final show at SVSU."

The change in venue may actually work more in favor of the theatre major, whose performance as Lady Macbeth will no longer be limited to those able to attend the production on campus.

"My family lives far away and may not have been able to make it to the show when it was at the theatre," the Waterford native said. "They will be able to see me perform now."

Four stage performances of "Macbeth" originally were scheduled this week before the COVID-19 pandemic led the state – and much of the world – to cancel public events throughout the spring. While there are plans to reschedule the stage version in the fall at SVSU's Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts, director Tommy Wedge was inspired to organize the online adaptation after seeing the Midland Center for the Arts and Sciences produce its own version of a classic Shakespeare play on Zoom last month. Audiences responded well to the "King Lear" production – part of a series known as "Shakespeare & Chill LIVE" – and Wedge decided to take a page from his peers' playbook, applying it to "Macbeth."

"It's a way to come together in this strange time, to reconnect to each other," said Wedge, an assistant professor of theatre at SVSU. "We're looking at it as a way to share the work we've been doing while celebrating our graduating seniors."

The cast and crew began rehearsal in the weeks before the cancelation of the stage performances. While the students returning next academic year are expected to maintain their roles in the fall, two actors – including Frasca – as well as two crew members involved in music composition and sound design will not be involved in the stage production because they are expected to graduate in May.

Wedge said the Zoom-based version of "Macbeth" will be a fun, entertaining

Continues on pg 29, 'Macbeth'

Continued from pg 28, 'Macbeth'

experience that will showcase students' talents and creativity. Each cast member will perform their role from the safety of their respective residences, using computers and smart devices to record their work. Audiences attending from home can watch live as their computer screen features rotating windows, each capturing a different student's portrayal of a character from the Shakespeare tragedy.

"Whatever props or costume pieces the actors have at home are fair game," Wedge said. "It's not perfection, by any means. We're making do like the rest of the world around us."

The production will involve a high level of coordination from crew members to highlight the cast of 21 students set to appear. Wedge, though, is experienced in leading plays involving high levels of coordination. His last directing job was the much-celebrated fall 2019 local production of "Mamma Mia!" The Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance-produced show featured an unprecedented collaboration between three area theatre companies: Midland Center for the Arts and Sciences,

Bay City Players and Saginaw-based Pit & Balcony Theatre.

Wedge said he is excited to bring the Shakespeare classic – about a man consumed with murderous ambition to fulfill a witch's prophecy – to an online audience craving an entertaining distraction.

"Hopefully, it's an opportunity to let off a little steam and take a break; to just relax with a little Shakespeare," he said.

The lead for "Macbeth" – typically a role played by a male -- will be portrayed by a female performer, Megan Meyer, a fine arts major from Owosso. Meyer expects to return for the stage version in the fall. For others such as Frasca, though, Thursday will provide a final farewell as student performers at SVSU.

"While nothing can replace performing on stage at the Malcolm Field theatre one last time with my theatre family, this is such an amazing way to still get to showcase all our

work," Frasca said. "Lady Macbeth is a dream role of mine, and I am blessed that I can bring her to life."

To watch SVSU's production of "Macbeth" online, audiences should follow these steps:

Open an Internet browser and go to the URL link www.facebook.com/events/1742762589197899 to find "Macbeth" registered in the Facebook Events calendar. Minutes before the show begins Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., another web link – this time, connecting to the performance produced using the app known as Zoom – will appear within the Facebook Events page. The link will not be available until the Zoom meeting is created shortly before the show begins. The performances likely will begin closer to 7:40 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., director Tommy Wedge plans to kick off the event by providing an introductory presentation, giving late-comers time to arrive before the show starts. Audiences can watch the show live or view a recording of the performance later.

Regulatory Changes will allow Nursing Students to Graduate, enter Workforce



Delta College

About 70 students in Delta College's nursing program will soon be able to enter the workforce thanks to regulatory changes in the required clinical time needed to graduate.

The temporary changes were announced March 30 in an executive order signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and supported by the Michigan Board of Nursing.

The state will now allow 100 percent of online education to count for completion of studies, which was previously not allowed. All students, including nursing majors, transitioned to online learning March 18 after Delta suspended labs and closed buildings as part of a statewide effort to decrease the spread of COVID-19.

"Because of the high level of computerized simulations and scenario-based learning, which are already part of the curriculum, Delta's nursing program's ability to convert to 100 percent online instruction is outpacing that of other educational institutions statewide," said Daisy McQuiston, associate professor and interim nursing coordinator.

McQuiston said Delta's nursing faculty, who are all licensed and practicing nurses themselves, are diligently working to create additional assignments, case studies, concept maps, virtual simulations and projects to help meet the required outcomes of each course.

"This is a productive decision for the students and the community," said Dr. Jean Goodnow, president of Delta College. "Our soon-to-be graduates will join the workforce at a time of great need in our region, and I am incredibly grateful for the dedicated, caring and exceptional faculty members at Delta who are going above and beyond to ensure that their students are well prepared and confident."

Since mid-March, nursing students have been impacted by a lack of placements at medical centers due to health facility policies regarding COVID-19, and they were not allowed to practice in Delta's laboratories due to building closures.

McQuiston said students will now be able to work as graduate nurses at hospitals and other medical centers. When they pass the state licensing exam, they will become registered nurses.



Saginaw Promise

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SPSD Develops Continuous Learning Plan

On April 2, 2020 Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued executive order 2020-35 suspending face to face instruction for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year and requiring school districts to provide a continuous learning plan for students. Therefore, as indicated, Saginaw Public Schools has developed a continuous learning plan that is designed to meet the varying academic and social/emotional needs of students during this crisis. The plan will provide both online instruction as well as curriculum materials for students without internet access or technological devices. The plan will also provide social and emotional support for students via online or telephone. In addition, teachers will be available for questions and support during office hours that will be

detailed in a schedule. We will provide a tutorial letter for students via email and on our website to use the online platform. The plan will be available on our website beginning Friday April 17, 2020. In an effort to prepare for next Monday, we will be distributing chromebook devices for families that completed the survey beginning Wednesday April 15, 2020 at selective food distribution sites (See Below). For those families that have not completed a survey, you will need to complete a survey at a pick up site or online in order to pick up the chromebook.

Lastly, the plan will provide a daily schedule for each grade level, subject area and social/emotional support, thus, allowing for parents and students to plan accordingly. This plan is

for Pre-K through 12 th grade students and is effective Monday April 20th through June 12th, 2020*. We have provided a feedback link on our webpage for parents and students to that will enable us to make adjustments. Please reach out to your Principal or Teacher if you have any direct questions. As always, Saginaw Public Schools is committed to continuing the education progress of each and every student through this crisis. We appreciate your patience and your diligence in supporting our students in the implementation of the plan. Take care and stay safe.

*As part of the plan we will be detailing the graduation plan for current 12th grade students.

Albion College and EMU Offer Grants & Scholarships to Students Affected by COVID-19

ALBION COLLEGE

Albion College, one of the top-ranked liberal arts colleges in the country, announced today their new and substantial Michigan 2020 Promise will assist Michigan families who have college affordability concerns due to COVID-19. Exclusive to graduating high school seniors and transfer students, the Michigan 2020 Promise will cover 100% of tuition and fees for Michigan students' whose families make under \$65,000 annually, after the Michigan Tuition and Federal Pell grants are applied. Families making over \$65,000 at minimum will receive \$92,000, or as high as \$136,000 in Albion College scholarships over the course of 4 years. Albion College President Dr. Mauri A. Ditzler made the announcement.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has not only denied graduating seniors with the opportunity to walk in a high school graduation ceremony, it has evoked anxiety and concern for the financial and educational future of Michigan families," said Ditzler. "Now more than ever, Albion College is committed to making higher learning accessible through this substantial scholarship, waived entrance exams and unrivaled value. Even in the face of uncertainty, Albion provides the hope, help and resources to empower Michigan students and families to reclaim ownership of their

educational future, and the power to make quality, life-advancing decisions on their own terms."

The program is a testament of Albion's incredibly generous alumni, loyal donors and board of trustees. In fact, the Michigan 2020 Promise was made possible by a single, benevolent donor whose gift inspired the decision to offer the Class of 2020 this support.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, entrance exam testing dates were postponed to the fall. To lessen this undue stress and make the hope of higher education more readily attainable, Albion College will also be waiving ACT and SAT scores as a prerequisite for admissions—exclusive to the fall 2020 incoming class.

The opportunity to apply for a Michigan 2020 Promise scholarship expires on May 1. Interested students should visit albion.edu/MI20promise to confirm their qualification, and secure the educational enrichment and advancement Albion offers, and that Michigan's graduating seniors deserve.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

In a move to address the serious disruption in students' pursuit of their college degrees,

Eastern Michigan University is introducing the new EMU CARES Grant. The new one-time grant provides \$500 to undergraduate students enrolling in one three-credit course, and \$1,000 for undergraduate students enrolling in two courses, or six-credit hours. It applies to current students as well as guest and transfer students who enroll in Eastern's more than 750 online/virtual summer courses, which begin May 4.

"Providing financial assistance to our current students and students from across the state and region whose education has been disrupted is an important priority," said Eastern Michigan University Vice President for Enrollment Management Kevin Kucera. "We understand the profound impact the health crisis is having on everyone, particularly the financial hardship on students and their families. We are committed to doing everything we can to help students persist in their education and complete the degrees they are working toward."

Eastern Michigan University summer registration is currently underway. Students can visit the University's online enrollment page to learn more about the University's extensive online and transferable summer course offerings.

On Front Lines of COVID-19 Battle in Saginaw, SVSU Alumna Serves Community Despite Dangers

Smriti Pant never imagined showing up to work under protective layers of a hazmat suit and high-grade respirator mask. Years ago, she was inspired to care for others and use her personable nature to help people most in need of both, and now the Saginaw Valley State University educator and alumna is on the front lines of fighting a global pandemic.

“It’s not something you expect you’ll be doing one day,” said Pant, a family nurse practitioner who was among the first health care professionals in the region to test patients suspected of carrying the COVID-19 virus.

A member of the staff at Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Pant and her colleagues since March 24 have collected nasal swab samples from more than 230 people at a drive-through sampling site built in the parking lot of the Great Lakes Bay Health Centers downtown Saginaw headquarters at 501 Lapeer. There, for six hours each day, Mondays through Fridays, they interact directly with people fearful they carry a virus that already has killed more than 82,000 people – and counting – across the globe.

It is both an emotionally- and physically-taxing job for Pant. Her commitment to providing a comforting, human touch to each interaction is made more challenging because of strict safety measures and layers of equipment meant to prevent her from becoming infected during her job.

For the danger she faces while helping others, some might call her a “hero.” She doesn’t share that sentiment.

“I’m just fulfilling my role as a primary care provider, helping people the best way possible,” the 33-year-old said.

“I’m a little part in this bigger puzzle of people who are working to fight COVID-19. Not just the health care workers; I’m talking about the first responders, the grocery store workers, the gas station attendants, and all personnel willing to sacrifice their time, talent and resources to keep communities safe.”

Helping those in need is an instinct Pant followed since she pursued an education in nursing at SVSU.

It’s an instinct reinforced later when she was returned to health by the same organization she works for today.

Raised in her native Kathmandu, Nepal, Pant

and her family relocated to the United States 14 years ago. In 2006, at the age of 19, Pant moved to Saginaw to pursue a career in medicine by enrolling in SVSU’s nursing program. Her desire to practice nursing, though, became more focused more than two years later when she fell severely ill.

“I did not have health insurance and I did not want to go to the ER because I knew it could be costly,” Pant said, “and I could not afford to drop out of school.”

Desperate for help, Pant during a Google search discovered the organization known today as Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. Originally called Health Delivery Inc., the organization began as a Saginaw-based mobile migrant health clinic in 1968. Since then, the federally-qualified health center has expanded to 30 clinics across 16 Michigan counties. Serving more than 54,000 patients, Great Lakes Health Centers provides medical, dental, behavioral, maternal and infant care services to patients including those considered underserved, underinsured or uninsured.

“They really took care of me,” she said of how the organized helped her recover from illness in 2009.

“I was thoroughly amazed at how I could access the majority of the healthcare services offered in private practices and ERs, but at a much more affordable cost. They had X-rays, labs, a pharmacy, WIC services and more, all in the same building.”

The health center offers service costs on a sliding scale based on a patient’s income or household size.

“I was fascinated by that system,” she said, “and I thought to myself, ‘When I graduate, I want to work here.’”

Before she fulfilled that desire, Pant continued her extensive education at SVSU, which provided her both with practical skills in medicine and a strong sense of commitment to bettering the community.

“This moment of service and serving the community at large would not have been possible without SVSU,” said Pant, who works as an adjunct faculty member in nursing at the university when she isn’t working at Great Lakes Bay Health Centers.

“All the opportunities and support the university, staff, faculty members provided me over the years have truly enabled me to be in a position to do the work I do every day.”

From SVSU, Pant earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing in May 2011, her master’s degree in nursing in August 2015, and her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a post-master’s certificate in nursing education in December 2016.

After earning her first degree, Pant served as a registered nurse at Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw from 2011-16. Only months before receiving her most recent credentials at SVSU, she was hired as a board-certified family nurse practitioner at Great Lakes Bay Health Centers in August 2016.

Prior to the emergence of COVID-19 in Michigan, her work involved serving as a primary care provider at many of Great Lakes Bay Health Centers’ clinics across the state. She cared for patients ranging from infants to the elderly. Often, a college student would walk into her office and remind Pant of her origins at the organization.

“When I see them, and I listen to the stories and challenges they face, it reminds me often of the struggles I faced when I was in their position,” she said.

COVID-19, though, was unlike anything Pant or her patients ever faced before.

While Pant read about the global wrath of the coronavirus earlier in the year, she was first confronted with her potential role in fighting the pandemic during a March 12 meeting at Great Lakes Bay Health Centers. An infectious disease expert provided the staff with an educational session on the COVID-19 virus, which at that point already devastated thousands of lives across Asia and Europe. With a strong foothold on both American coasts, it became apparent the virus soon would grip the Midwest. The first two cases were confirmed in Michigan only two days earlier.

By March 19, the Saginaw County Health Department informed regional health care providers of the urgent need for sample testing, a measure seen as critical for stopping the spread of infection. Five days later, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers became the first organization to answer the call when it opened the drive-through sampling site in Saginaw. The organization stepped up in other ways too. For instance, it remains the only health care provider in the region offering emergency dental procedures.

The drive-through concept was the design of the

Continues on pg 31, Front Lines of COVID-19

Continued from pg 30, Front Lines of COVID-19



SVSU

organization's COVID-19 task force led by Paula Peters, who now serves as the sampling site's manager; and it was supported by Dr. Brenda Coughlin, the president and CEO of Great Lakes Bay Health Centers.

The plan required volunteers to perform the tests. Pant stepped up, joining a team featuring a the site manager, a registered nurse, two optometrists, two medical assistants, and maintenance staff.

"Many people were hesitant to join because it is scary," she said. "After all, you don't want to catch this virus that is so contagious and you don't want to take it home with you to your family, which is understandable."

On the first day of sampling, the team tested 10 patients. Since then, as many as 33 people seek testing there daily. So far, more than 230 individuals have been tested in Saginaw by Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, which opened a sampling site at its Huron County location earlier this month. The organization will open a third drive-through sampling site on Thursday, April 9, this time at its Great Lakes Bay Health Centers-Bayside location at 3884 Monitor in Bay City. The site will operate Mondays through Fridays, from noon to 4 p.m.

To be tested at any of the sites, a patient must bring a referral from a medical provider. Those who lack such documentation are scheduled for "telehealth" sessions with staff from Great Lakes Bay Health Centers.

"We don't turn anyone away," Pant said.

She also engages with patients in the telehealth

sessions, a practice that allows her to utilize communications technology – such as smart phones or tablets – to assess patients without being in the same room with them. The practice eliminates the danger of transmitting the virus.

The more challenging of the two responsibilities, Pant said, remains the testing. The process involves suiting up in a full-body yellow hazmat suit and an N-95 mask for up to three hours daily, Mondays through Fridays.

"It was intimidating at first," Pant said of slipping into the suit.

"Folks who suffer from claustrophobia or certain chronic health issues would find it difficult to wear for a long period of time. The mask seals tight on your face to prevent any air leaks. Sometimes you can feel very foggy, but it's what's necessary to stay safe."

The discomfort of wearing the equipment likely pales in comparison to the emotional and physical distress experienced by the people seeking tests, Pant said.

"People are scared," she said. "There's this big fear of the unknown, because we know so little about COVID-19."

When the patients see Pant, they often ask "really tough questions," she said. When can I see my grandkids again? When can I go back to work to provide for my family? Will my chronic health condition be addressed like it was before?

"We do the best we can to provide reassurance and information on how they can follow safety

protocols," she said.

When Pant finishes each shift, she follows her own safety protocols and guidelines – provided by local health departments and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control – to ensure she remains healthy. Each worn hazmat suit is destroyed. When she arrives home, she changes out of her work clothing in her garage before entering the house.

While such precautions ensure the virus doesn't follow her home, COVID-19 remains a part of her life even after work.

She communicates regularly with others working in the health care industry across the nation. Some of her closest friends work in metro Detroit and New York City hospitals, two virus hotspots where thousands have died from COVID-19 – including health care workers exposed to the virus on the job.

"I have friends who work in intensive care units and ERs who have faced much harder scenes than I have faced," Pant said. "It's incredibly heartbreaking to hear what they are experiencing. They're risking their lives to save lives."

In her Saginaw Township home, Pant plays the role of daughter, caring for her 71-year-old mother. With the virus proving especially deadly for older populations, Pant said she is helping to ensure her mother requires little – if any – contact with people outside of their home.

"Thankfully, she's a very healthy woman," Pant said. "We are going to minimize risk as much as possible."

Despite her day-and-night schedule revolving around COVID-19, Pant said she is maintaining her own mental health.

"I can't let myself live in worry," she said.

"I'm human, just like everybody else, so this seems scary at times. Being well informed and doing our part to ensure safety is important. We just have to tackle this challenge and take care of each other like we would any other time."

To learn more about Great Lakes Bay Health Centers services relating to COVID-19, please visit greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org. The webpage includes locations and hours of operations for COVID-19 testing sites across the state, information about how to identify symptoms of COVID-19, and how Great Lakes Bay Health Centers can support individuals who suspect they carry COVID-19.



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.

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

“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

COMMUNITY

Help Seniors Staying Home During COVID-19 Pandemic by Donating to Virtual Food Drive



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, MICH. A virtual food drive organized by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Aging and Adult Services Agency and the Food Bank Council of Michigan is raising money to provide food boxes to seniors who are staying home to protect themselves from COVID-19.

MDHHS and the Food Bank Council are asking Michigan residents to make monetary donations on the virtual food drive website to buy food for the project.

One box is filled with 33 food items that provide for 22 well-balanced, nutritious meals. Each box contains breakfast, lunch and dinner recipes for seniors who are food insecure. A donation of \$28 pays for an entire box containing food such as chunk white canned chicken, green beans, peanut butter and low-sodium diced tomatoes. Boxes are distributed

from local food banks through Area Agencies on Aging and delivered by volunteers.

“Michigan’s aging adult population is especially vulnerable to COVID-19,” said Dr. Alexis Travis, director of the Aging and Adult Services Aging. “It’s critical that seniors stay home, but they also need healthy food. That’s why the virtual food drive is so important.”

The Michigan National Guard is packing the first 10,000 boxes at Gleaners’ Community Food Bank’s warehouse in Pontiac. The Food Bank Council is routing the boxes to Area Agencies on Aging across the state, but more food is needed to feed seniors.

“The COVID-19 pandemic poses unprecedented additional barriers to food access,” says Dr. Dawn Opel, director of research and strategic initiatives for the Food

Bank Council of Michigan. “This program is an example of how we are creating innovative food distribution models to bring food to people where they are—to alleviate household food insecurity and to prevent the spread of the virus for those without transportation and other supports.”

Seniors who need extra support at this time can now sign up for assistance, including meal delivery, delivery of non-perishable food items, and daily wellness-check calls, through the MDHHS coronavirus website, or by contacting their local Area Agency on Aging.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Treasury: Taxpayers Reminded About July 15 State Income Tax Deadline



Courtesy Photo

(LANSING, Mich) Michiganders who lose a job, resulting in a loss of their healthcare coverage or a change in income, may have low or no-cost healthcare options available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Consumers in these situations are not required to wait for the yearly Open Enrollment Period and should act now.

“Michiganders who lose employer-based

health insurance may have options to continue or replace their coverage,” said DIFS Director Anita G. Fox. “If consumers have questions about enrolling, DIFS is available to assist.”

Consumers have 60 days after losing essential health coverage, such as through a job loss, or experienced a change in income to take advantage of a Special Enrollment Period. To determine eligibility, consumers should visit www.healthcare.gov. Depending on income and their situation, consumers may qualify for cost sharing reductions, premium tax credits, coverage for their children (CHIP), or Medicaid. Consumers should contact DIFS toll free at 877-999-6442 if they need assistance.

Act now and apply

- When a consumer loses essential health coverage, they may be eligible to enroll in an individual health plan during a Special Enrollment Period.
- If consumers are new to www.healthcare.gov,

they can create an account. If they already have one, they may log in to start or update an application.

Enrollment help is available

- DIFS can help. The Michigan Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program (HICAP) can provide shopping tips and help answer questions about health insurance or Special Enrollment Periods.
- Contact DIFS at 877-999-6442 or email at DIFS-HICAP@michigan.gov.

Resources to get started

- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/difs/FIS-PUB_6200_658436_7.pdf
- <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/special-enrollment-period/>

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

A Corona Thought, Elders and Their Cars

By Mike Thompson

Many readers will view this as the strangest corona writeup you have encountered thus far, but a select few among you may see this as spot-on.

If you have a parent or family elder who seems on the verge of where they should not be driving any more, but you are putting off action because you can't stand the thought, this corona shutdown could be the ideal time, because we are not supposed to be driving no-how. When the corona conclusion finally occurs, be it May or June or whenever, if ever, then possibly the taking of their car at this point will seem less painful.

My story: Year 2000. The time finally has come. Brass tacks. Mom, 84, shouldn't be driving anymore. She still has her wits, for her age, but macular degeneration has clouded her vision. Her only destinations are two blocks to church, a mile to the former Kroger at

State and Court, and two miles to the Wendy's on Hemmetter. But still, this is overdue. We probably -- no, we for sure -- had let this go on for a couple of years too long. Plus I can always give her rides.

So the day arrives, late spring. Our son is there at the appointed time and backs the silver compact Caprice out of the driveway. Mom watches as I drape my arm around her.

I didn't know how else to do it. Seemed it would be worse if the car just disappeared. Looking back, I should have found a friend to tell a "good lie," that he was from Social Security and that a new law was on the books with age limits for drivers. Or something like that. Or maybe called the Commission on Aging for advice. But I messed it up.

So Mom slumps in my arm, the last person in the world for self-pity, but sobbing softly. If she had broken out bawling or screaming, even that would have been better than those

sobs. It's the worst moment of my life, even worse than when she finally passed on with dementia four years later, worse than when my father went into a coma that never ended at age 62, fall of 1976, and passed two months later. Far, far, far, my worst day ever -- and will always sadly think, the worst for Mother also -- but for me, because this wasn't something that happened beyond my control. This was in my hands.

In conclusion: (1) Corona may be the occasion to finally get that car away, and (2) Plan things better and don't screw it up like I did, even though it still will be an awful chapter regardless.

At least, thereafter, Aunt Jane joined us for countless neighborhood sightseeing drives, usually after the Saturday-afternoon Mass, and then visits to either Old Town Drive-In during summer, or to Wendy's or Fuzzy's otherwise.

New Resources to Help Unemployed Workers Resolve Technical Issues with Their Accounts

LANSING, MICH - To better serve Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) claimants experiencing MILogin and Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) technical difficulties when applying for benefits, the Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) has implemented new online tools to help users report and resolve technical issues. MILogin is the state's single-sign-on portal to access state services, while MiWAM acts as the UIA's system for filing your unemployment insurance claim and managing UIA accounts online.

"We've built online prompts and other resources into the systems to help unemployed workers resolve technical issues when trying to login to submit their claim," said LEO Director Jeff Donofrio. "While we estimate that around 95 percent of claimants have accessed our systems without any problems, we do understand some individuals have had technical difficulties. These tools are developed to connect users to our tech team who will contact claimants directly to resolve issues such as incorrect passwords, locked accounts or errors with authentication codes."

Claimants who previously experienced technical problems that are not yet resolved are encouraged to go back into the system to report the issues to the technical team so that the issue will be expedited for resolution.

The fastest and easiest way to file an unemployment claim is online at Michigan.gov/UIA where the application process takes around 25 minutes. Between 90-95 percent of all claims are filed online.

Claimants experiencing MILogin and MiWAM issues will be able to submit their online technical support request to a member of the technical team, comprised of Department of Technology, Management and Budget and UIA staff. Within a week, it's expected that the equivalent of around 100 full-time employees will be dedicated to this effort.

All eligible workers will receive benefits

The UIA assures that every eligible worker in Michigan who applies for unemployment benefits will receive them. The UIA will be accepting claims and benefit applications back-dated to reflect the date on which the claimant was laid-off due to COVID-19, beyond the previously established 28-day period (\$600 federal payment is only retroactive back to March 28).

Historical demand

The latest U.S. Dept of Labor report shows that since March 15, more than 800,000 Michigan workers filed for unemployment, a

more than 5,000 percent increase. Michigan has seen a record number of claims each of the last three weeks.

Online filing schedule at Michigan.gov/UIA

Customers are encouraged to use off-peak times 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.

Last names beginning with letters A-L: file claims on Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays. Last names beginning with letters M-Z: file claims on Sundays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. Saturdays will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window.

Customers who have access to a computer or mobile device are encouraged to only use the phone line for issues they are unable to complete online.

Call center filing schedule (866-500-0017)

Last names beginning with letters A-L: call on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Last names beginning with letters M-Z: call on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fridays between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturdays between 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. are open for anyone who could not file during their allotted days.

No dome? No problem. Delta College Planetarium stays Connected Virtually

The Delta College Planetarium may be temporary closed, but that isn't stopping efforts to connect with the community. Staff members are using tools that are always open – the night sky and the internet.

The planetarium is offering virtual learning experiences on a variety of platforms, including social media, a podcast and a new video series. Topics focus on astronomy and space, as well as science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM).

"Our biggest goal right now is to stay connected with our community by sharing fun learning opportunities for all ages, including adults, students, children and families," said

Mike Murray, astronomer and manager of the Delta College Planetarium.

The planetarium has access to resources from across the country – from NASA to museums to STEM groups – and he said his team is picking those that are the most interesting and captivating.

"For example, during this time of social distancing, many of us are looking to the outdoors for engagement and stimulation. The night sky is one of those great natural resources for the mind and soul. We'll offer tidbits, including our own custom programming, on what to see in the night sky, hot space topics, and even hands-on

experiments with what you can find around the house," he said.

Murray hosts a weekly podcast, "Backyard Astronomer," on Delta Broadcasting's Q-90.1 that is available online. Custom videos covering the current night sky, like the upcoming appearance of Comet ATLAS, are available on the planetarium's YouTube channel.

The planetarium is using social media as the primary way to share the resources. Follow on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Use the hashtag #LookUpHere.

Visit delta.edu/planet to learn more.

Time for Prayer

In light of the Covid19 pandemic and subsequent concerns about our future way of life, this article offers two prayers by Marianne Williamson (*illuminata*). May they be uplifting and inspire as we do our part to realize brighter days ahead.

Morning Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for this new day, its beauty and its light. Thank You for my chance to begin again. Free me from the limitations of yesterday.

Today may I be reborn. May I become more fully a reflection of Your radiance. Give me strength and compassion and courage and wisdom. Show me the light within myself and others.

May I recognize the good that is available everywhere. May I be, this day, an instrument of love and healing.

Lead me into gentle pastures. Give me deep peace that I might serve You most deeply. 'Amen'

Evening Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for this day. Thank You for my safety and the safety of my loved ones. As I enter sleep, may these hours give me peace. May they bring healing to my mind and body.

While I sleep, Dear Lord, please bless the world. Where there is pain, where there are people who have no place to sleep, who suffer and who die, may Your angels come onto them and minister to their lives.

Dear Lord,

Please let the light stream in. Please use my hours of sleep. Please prepare me during, these hours of rest, for greater service to You.

May the light that surrounds me, tomorrow shine through me. Soften my heart. Thank You, Lord. 'Amen'

- Sofus -



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It's your turn for sure!

Yesterday I spoke to organizations about living in the now but preparing for the future. I spoke about talking to their people and dreaming, innovating, and being creative about a new future steeped in their culture and values. Today, I am asking "what about YOU?" What are you doing now to prepare for the NEW after coronavirus-19 passes or are you immobilized by what is happening NOW? The truth is that we as individuals make up every company, church, organization and agency. Many times as individuals we look to these organizations to tell us what's next, what to do, how to do it, and when to do it.

However, as I've spoken to people during this crisis, I found they have become more creative, more interdependent, more innovative, more curious, more aware, more intentional and more purposeful. There's nothing like having someone tell you not to go out your house, not to see your family and friends in different households, when to wash your hands, how far to stand from someone, not

to shake hands, hug, or kiss to bring out the breath of independence and creativity in you. Some of you have had to figure out how to parent while working from home, how to educate your children while working from home, how to cook, and how to run multiple schedules in a 24 hour period. In doing so, something NEW has been unleashed in you. The key is whether you have the level of awareness to move NOW on what has been unleashed so you can move into the future as a disrupter or change agent (depending upon your generation).

Three ways to move into that place:

1. **Discover your superpower which is that 'thing' that separates you from the pack and causes you to have impact and move other people,**
2. **Use your superpower. You may think using your superpower is obvious after discovering it, but many people don't use their superpower, they morph into what everyone else is doing**

3. Use your superpower to solve a problem.

Remember, if you use this time during the stay at home order to discover, use, and solve a problem with your superpower, you will go into your future in a powerful way and you would have created options about where and with whom you want to use your gift. Get off the couch, stop just thinking and start doing, It's not what you just think about that will count, it's what you do....so as Nike says 'Just Do It'. If you are looking for knowledge and inspiration and haven't registered for my FREE leadership series yet, you're invited to register <https://purpose-by-design.ck.page/28216eb2a0>



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Jackie Hall Recalls her Early Times with David

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

Tall, thin and handsome.

But that car? And those clothes?

Those are the former Jacqueline Branch's main memories of her initial 1956 encounter with then-Air Force officer David Hall, to whom she eventually granted the honor of marriage four years later.

The meeting was arranged by her friend's new husband, Tommy Scarbrough, a Philadelphian who had been David's best pal nearly a decade earlier at Howard University. The premise was David would be giving back a duplicated wedding gift, a waffle iron that Jackie had given the bride without the store telling her the item already has been checked off on the registry. Jackie has been a maid of honor, but David could not take part because he had been stationed in Germany at the time.

And so, at any rate, David Hall made the 140-mile northeast trip from D.C. to Philly and followed directions to home of the young lady whom Tommy had described as an attractive "chick," Jackie recalls with a chuckle.

"He drove up to the house in a little gray

Volkswagen bug, which was a very unusual car to have at that time," Jackie says. "He had on this plaid suit, wearing a little tiny Scottish touring cap."

She was 24, a college-educated first-grade school teacher still living at home with her parents, Hayes and Julia Branch.

"Please understand, I was the youngest of three daughters, and so my father was highly protective," Jackie notes, with another giggle. "He was peeping outside through the Venetian blinds, and he asked me, 'Are you really going to go out with this guy?'"

Their first date was simply a casual drive around the City of Brotherly Love, with David getting lost in traffic a few times. When Jackie asked about the waffle iron's return, David confessed an oversight that he had forgotten to place it into the rear of his VW beetle. But he did promise to write her a followup letter, and then he surprised her by actually doing so.

"I hadn't expected to hear back from him, to tell the truth," she says.

Next, while he fulfilled his military service

in Washington and she continued teaching in Philadelphia, he found ways to hop on Air Force flights for ongoing weekend visits.

"I thought he was different," Jackie says. "David was a person who knew what he wanted and where he was going, unlike other young men who I had encountered. He always had that 'go-get-'em,' that presence to himself."

An important pivot took place in 1958, midway through what became a four-year courtship. David now was stationed in California and invited Jackie to fly out for a visit. Julia Branch was adamantly opposed, stating, "No respectable single young lady would go alone to see some single young man."

The outlook was bleak, but then an alternative emerged. A friend, Doris, out of the blue told Jackie she was interested in taking a vacation. With Mother Branch's still-reluctant approval, the arrangements were made. Destination, California.

(Nearly 20 years later, upon her father's passing, Jackie learned that Hayes Branch had arranged the scenario and paid air fare for Doris as a secret compromise to placate his wife's motherly concerns! "What a wonderful thing my father did," she says.)

Romance continued to build, and with it, marriage prospects. A June 1960 wedding was scheduled, but then the Air Force assigned David to the Philippines. The wedding was moved ahead to April 30, and initial plans called for Jackie to remain home during the overseas itinerary, because no married housing was in place at the base. But an innovative (and lonely) David Hall managed to find some rare off-base housing on the tropical island, and Jackie joined him that fall, her first experience with the always-on-the-move life of a military spouse.

The marriage endured, and David Hall's passing on March 21 took place 40 days prior to what would have been the couple's 60th wedding anniversary.

And guess what? David long ago finally passed along that waffle iron to Jackie, and she still has it.

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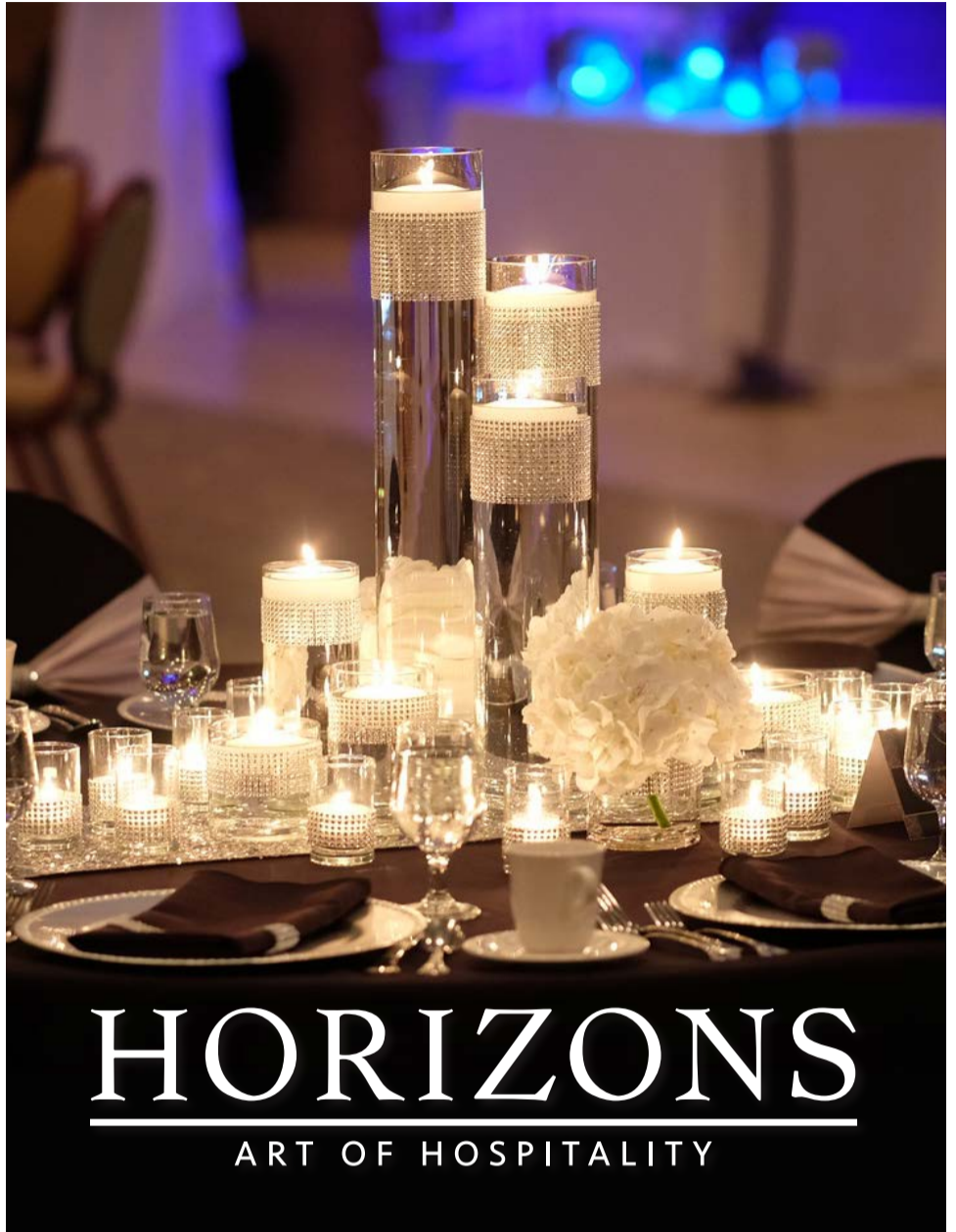
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April 1, 2020 is Census Day. It is important that everyone is counted – and here's why.

Millions of dollars in federal funding is at stake for Saginaw County. Federal agencies use census data to provide funding at state and local levels for vital community services such as hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, job training centers, senior centers and police departments. The census also determines how many Representatives each state has in Congress. If we get undercounted, we get underfunded and underrepresented.

We're counting on community leaders *like you* to promote the importance of participation in Census 2020.

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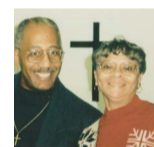
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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Governor Whitmer Creates the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, Mich. -- On April 9, Governor Gretchen Whitmer created the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities. The task force, chaired by Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II, will consist of leaders across state government and health care professionals from communities most impacted by the spread of coronavirus. The task force will hold its first meeting this week.

As of today, over 40% of COVID-19 deaths in Michigan are African Americans, but only 14% of Michiganders are African Americans. The Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities will provide the governor with recommendations on how to address this disparity as we work to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our state.

“This virus is holding a mirror up to our society and reminding us of the deep inequities in this country,” said Governor Whitmer. “From basic lack of access to health care, transportation, and protections in the workplace, these inequities hit people of color and vulnerable communities the hardest. This task force will help us start addressing these disparities right now as we work to mitigate

the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan.”

“We know that generations of racial disparities and inequality has a detrimental impact on the lives of people across the state,” Lt. Governor Gilchrist said. “The coronavirus pandemic has shown this inequity to be particularly true, especially in the Black community, where the health of our friends and family has been disproportionately impacted. That’s why we are taking immediate action to assemble some of the greatest minds to tackle this racial injustice now and in the future.”

During the COVID-19 crisis, Governor Whitmer has signed a number of executive orders aimed at protecting people in vulnerable communities. These include orders to temporarily ban evictions and tax foreclosures, expand unemployment benefits, and restore running water for families.

During her first year as governor, Governor Whitmer took several steps aimed at lifting Michigan families out of poverty. She announced the Michigan Poverty Task Force within the Department of Labor and

Economic Opportunity (LEO), which will provide her with recommendations on how to get more families on a path to success. She has been working with providers and universities to establish implicit bias training in their curriculum so that as people of color seek health care, they’ll be treated with equal dignity and respect, which will yield better outcomes. And in October, she raised asset test limits to make it easier for families to access food assistance and assist them in paying for necessities like rent, utilities, and warm clothes.

“It shouldn’t take a global pandemic for us to address these problems” Governor Whitmer continued. “It shouldn’t take a crisis for us to expand unemployment benefits, ensure protections for workers who are sick, or expand access to quality, affordable health care. We’re going to come out of this, but we must also learn some hard lessons about the deep problems in our economy that we need real, meaningful solutions on. As we recover from the impact of COVID-19, my administration will continue to focus on long-term solutions for every family in Michigan.”

Taxpayers Reminded About July 15 State Income Tax Deadline

LLS partnering with local mental health organizations and increasing resources for patients and families.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As a health organization, LLS takes seriously the responsibility to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and protect communities served. As such, LLS is providing resources not only to those battling cancer, but also to healthcare workers, doctors, and nurses.

As a service to those on the front lines, the Michigan chapter of LLS, in partnership with Oakland Family Services and Alicia Jackson of Wentworth and Associates, is offering a free short counseling session for health care professionals across Michigan, with further

services at individual discretion. All sessions are private and confidential; no insurance is necessary to take advantage of this service.

Healthcare professionals interested in accessing these services can visit <https://doxy.me/AJackson> and reference "LLS Sessions" in appointment; for services through Oakland Family Services, email Emily Mandigo (emandigo@ofsfamily.org) to set up an appointment and reference "LLS Sessions" in subject.

LLS is also focused on the well-being of cancer patients and their families – especially as many blood cancer patients are immunocompromised. In these times of uncertainty, blood cancer patients and their families need additional help and support. To address their unique concerns, LLS is amplifying efforts to share information and provide support to blood cancer patients

during this crisis.

Patients who have specific questions or concerns are encouraged to speak directly with their doctors and care team. LLS's Information Specialists – master's level oncology professionals who provide free, personalized assistance to patients, families and healthcare providers – are available to speak one-on-one with patients and caregivers. Patients and caregivers can call (800) 955-4572 from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET or visit www.lls.org/support/information-specialists

All are encouraged to read the latest resources and information on <https://www.lls.org/public-health/coronavirus>. For more information about LLS's Michigan Chapter, and how to help support cancer patients and families, contact Anne Bradley at anne.bradley@lls.org or 810-923-4659.

Governor Whitmer Signs Executive Order Temporarily Extending Expiration of Driver's Licenses, State ID Cards, Vehicle Registrations



Courtesy Photo

LANSING, Mich. — This week, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-47, temporarily extending the expiration of valid driver's licenses, state identification cards and commercial vehicle registrations that would otherwise expire during the state's COVID-19 emergency declaration.

The temporary extension does not apply to

motorists with suspended or revoked driver's licenses.

"In times of crisis and uncertainty, the last thing you want to think about is having to renew your driver's license or state ID card," Gov. Whitmer said. "It is my sincere hope this order gives all Michiganders with expiring identification some peace of mind as we

continue our united front to slow the spread of COVID-19 across our state."

The order, which takes effect April 13 at 11:59 p.m., temporarily extends:

- Commercial vehicle registrations, including temporary registrations set to expire on or after March 1, 2020 to June 30.
- Driver's licenses, learner's permits and commercial driver's licenses set to expire between March 1 and May 31, to June 30.

People looking to renew their licenses should do so online at Michigan.gov/SOS.

The order also suspends penalties for driving with a recently expired but otherwise valid registration.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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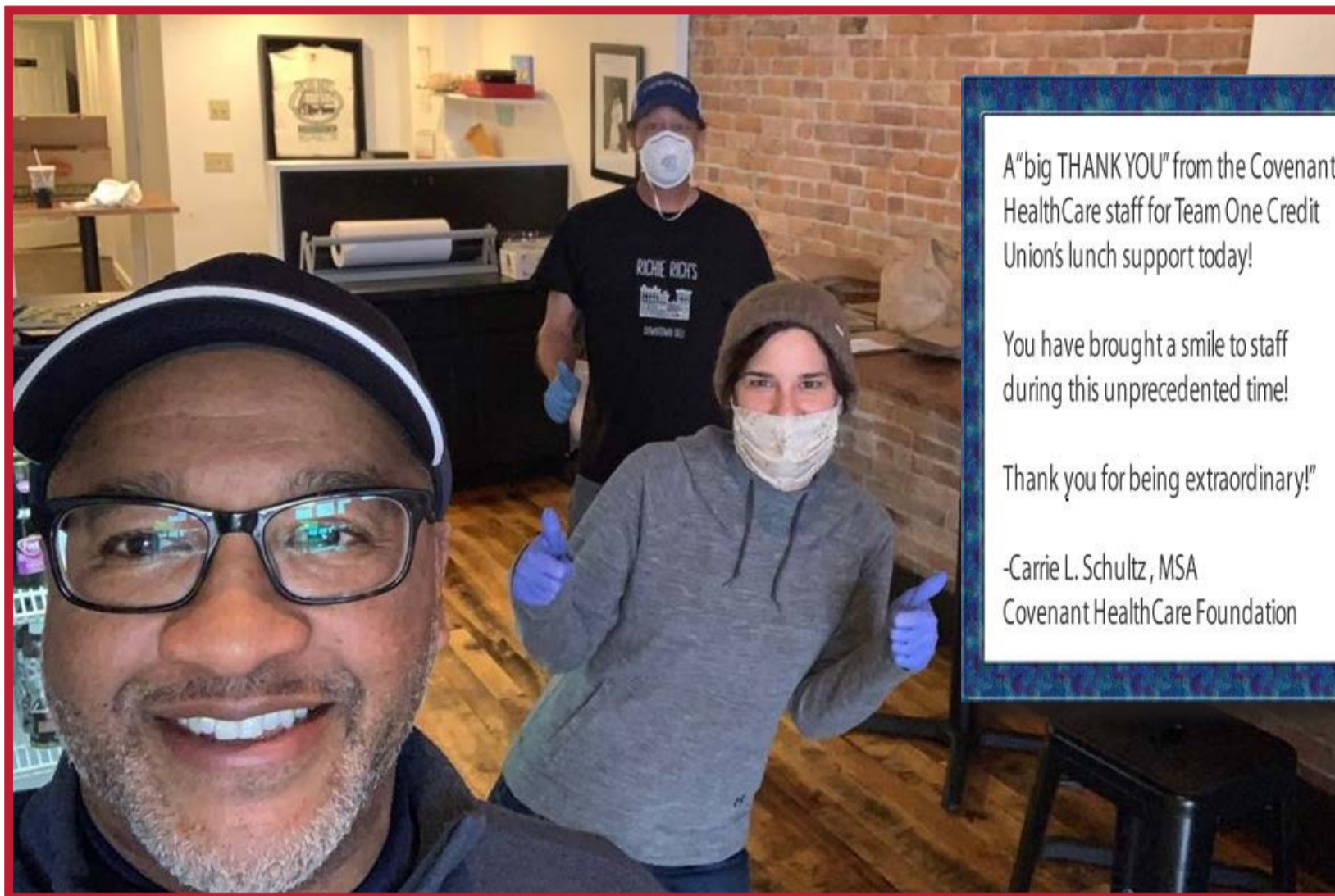
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PICS OF THE WEEK

As a thank you to our very own superheroes working as healthcare professionals, Team One has provided multiple meals purchased from local restaurants to those on the frontline in the midst of this crisis through #TOCUCares.

Recent meals provided include: Covenant HealthCare & Ascension both of which were made in partnership with Richie Rich's Downtown Deli Saginaw!



A "big THANK YOU" from the Covenant HealthCare staff for Team One Credit Union's lunch support today!

You have brought a smile to staff during this unprecedented time!

Thank you for being extraordinary!"

-Carrie L. Schultz, MSA
Covenant HealthCare Foundation



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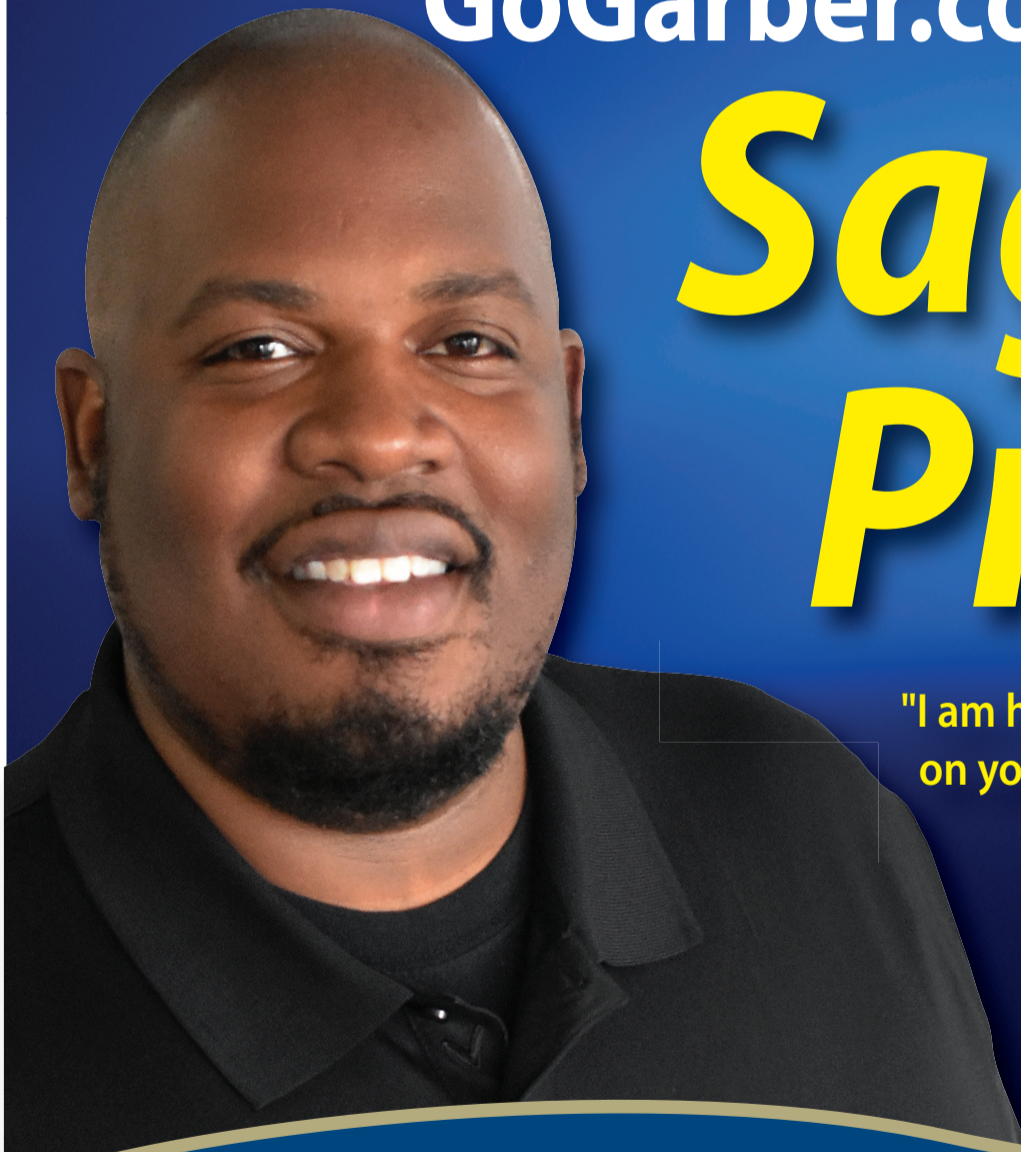
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