

THE MICHIGAN BANNER

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



JUNETEENTH SPECIAL EDITION

**This Father's Day
Barack Hussein Obama:
Husband and Father**

Community, pg 53

**CELEBRATING
REV. DR. ROOSEVELT AUSTIN**

AUGUST 17, 1926 - JUNE 11, 2020

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C&A provides tips for families during the COVID-19



MYB, Cover Story

LLEAD Stands in Solidarity with All Who are Treated Unjustly



Latno Banner, Cover Story



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS



Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin

The year 2020 has been a difficult one. I have devoted recent editorials to address some of the challenges we're facing as a community as well as global issues which are literally life threatening. The recent murder of George Floyd and the resulting world-wide protests lay bare generations of brutality which really need to be addressed. By addressed I mean stopped. Period. We have been having this conversation for far too long. We are still fighting a pandemic, COVID 19 which according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has now caused 114,686 deaths in the United States with 5,738 of those in the state of Michigan. These numbers are increasing by the hundreds each day and there is still no cure. We have also lost a few of the really extraordinary men who contributed greatly into this community as a whole, into both the faith and civic arenas, but perhaps most importantly, into the accomplishments of countless individuals, myself included. This has been a tough year.

The Reverend Doctor Roosevelt Austin passed away on June 11, 2020. He was 93 years old. Imagine the scope of life experiences and wisdom he imparted on those of us who were willing to listen and learn. Some of us weren't always willing but he used that firm yet thoughtful approach to get your attention. I was born and raised in Zion Missionary Baptist Church. My family moved away for a short period of time but he kept in touch with us during that absence. I returned to Zion as a teen aged, hot headed, know it all. I remember conversations we had even as a child when he admonished me to control my temper. There would always be time to fight he said, but I needed to learn to choose my battles and whenever possible, use my voice to communicate. At one point he told me that I was capable of so much more which was a large part of my decision to join the military. He was proud of that decision – he told me so. It changed the course of my life. I just knew I was one of his favorites (if not the one) but I have seen quite a few posts on social media which prove that his kindness and mentorship spanned decades and reached far and wide.

Reverend Austin was vocal and on the front lines during years of unrest quite like we are experiencing as a nation right now, fighting for the same causes of justice and equality. He set an example which taught us to focus our fight for change on specific issues and not just general expressions of anger. He kept me and many others out of trouble with the very systems which needed repair. Those systems are still broken today and in need of that long overdue overhaul. The voices of the unheard spoke loud and clear

Continues on pg 3, Courageous Conversations



It was my privilege to present the Leadership Award to Reverend Dr. Roosevelt Austin at the First Annual Heart of the City Awards in 2017.

Dr. Roosevelt Austin is a shining example of servant leadership and will be greatly missed.

**Donald Bachand, President
Saginaw Valley State University**

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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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Cover Story, COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS



Courtesy Photo

through protests and riots during the late sixties and early seventies. Demands included jobs, health care, reform of the police and criminal justice systems, quality education and the vote. That list remains basically the same but we don't have to. We can have those courageous conversations on matters of race, equality and justice. Each of the systems can acknowledge that they don't have the answers and actually listen to the people they are here to serve. Yes, serve. Our success as a nation depends on our ability to grasp the notion of providing fair and just service to all of its citizens. The racial divide will continue to expand to the current breaking point

generation after generation unless community leaders, systems leaders, business leaders, and the people we serve commit to the difficult but peaceful process of transformation or continue to put bandages on the destructive process of revolt. In the words of John F. Kennedy, 'Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.' We can do better than this.

Let's work to make our community healthier. That means we'll have to take stock of where we may be lacking. We'll take those risks understanding that change won't happen overnight but it can and will happen. Nelson Mandela said, 'There is no passion to be found playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living'. Many years ago, a very wise man sat me down for a serious and courageous conversation. He told me that I needed to change my course. If I hadn't, he said, I might wind up on a path that would lead to challenges that I did not need to face. I thanked him for that 'talking to' time and time again.

The very righteous rage of unheard voices here and world-wide have sounded an alarm. This outcry can be the impetus for change. Nelson Mandela also said, 'It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it'. It's in our hands. It's been a tough year. Let's turn this tragedy into meaningful and life-long transformation. Let's be better.

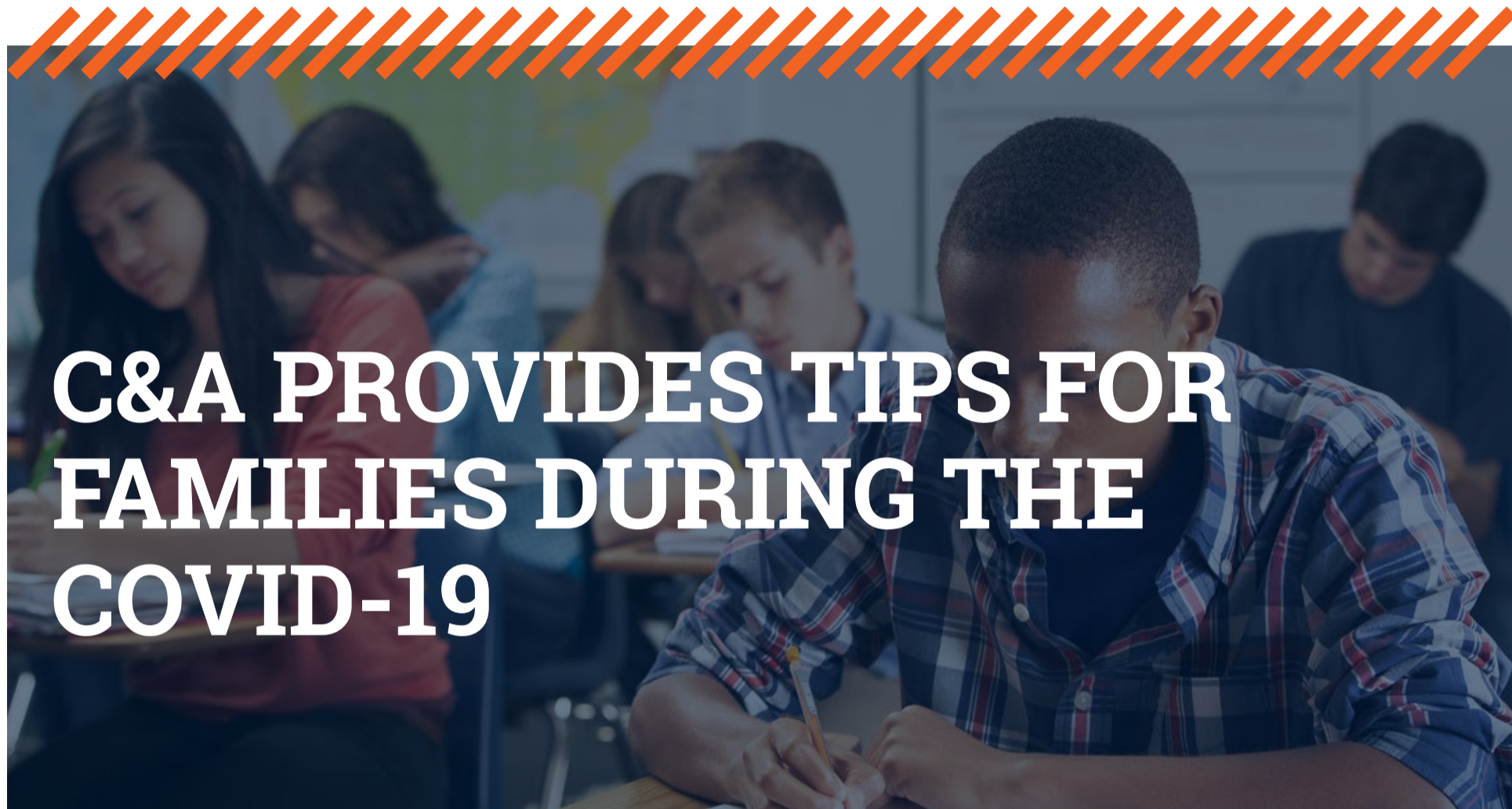
Jerome Buckley
Founder & Publisher
The Michigan Banner
The Latino Banner

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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 11



C&A PROVIDES TIPS FOR FAMILIES DURING THE COVID-19

The Corona Virus is presenting challenges Americans have not faced at any other time in our country. Certainly, there have been viruses - the chicken pox and polio - and economic challenges. Americans have faced other challenges in the form of war, the stock market crash and 9/11.

The challenges today are different, yet the same as fear and anxiety of the unknown is a difficult task. In addition, routines are changing for households as children are learning from home for at least the next three weeks. Parents may be working remotely and all citizens are being asked to practice social distancing.

C&A's Early and Middle Childhood program manager Larissa Haring understands these challenges and has provided the tips below for families. Routines are important to maintain for elementary and middle school kids:

Haring wrote schedules are important for everyone's physical and mental health. She said it is ok to ease up a little on bedtime if you know the child will be getting the recommended amount of sleep through the night. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends:

- Children ages three to five get 10 to 13 hours of sleep including naps
- Children ages six to 12 get 9 to 12 hours of sleep
- Adolescents ages 13 to 18 get 8 to 10 hours of sleep

Anxieties and challenging behaviors increase when children do not get enough sleep. Mealtimes also need to remain predictable.

PARENTS WORKING FROM HOME:

Many companies are requiring employees to work from home. This presents challenges for parents and young children who have not experienced this environment.

Haring wrote working from home is more challenging when you have an audience of little ones demanding your time and attention. Haring suggests having a conversation with your children to let them know what the expectations are during this time. Make sure they have an interesting

activity to keep them busy and let them know you will check on them shortly while you get some things done. Smaller doses of work time are more realistic with frequent breaks to give kiddos attention and guidance. The younger the child, the more frequent opportunities of your attention are needed.

THE CHALLENGES OF STUDENTS LEARNING ONLINE:

This will be new and challenging times for all of us – parents and students. Having realistic expectations is important wrote Haring. To help with routines and expectations, set aside specific times for school work. Working on tasks daily will eliminate stress of having too much to do all at once. Like all other things in life, moderation and consistency is the key. If the topic or work becomes frustrating, validate these feelings and help them problem solve ways they can find help. They may need to take a quick break or take a deep breath and try again. First/then and when/then statements are helpful during these times

Continues on MYB pg 5, COVID-19 Tips for Families

YB Cover Story, COVID-19 Tips for Families



Courtesy Photo

as well. “First you get this worksheet done, then we’ll go for a walk,” or you could say “when this assignment is complete, then we will start the movie.”

Remember that school staff is still readily available to help guide and support their students. C&A encourages you to reach out to them for assistance if needed.

BUSY KIDS WHO NOW HAVE DOWN TIME:

Many children at all age levels are used to having busy schedules either with sports activities, dance, theater and the list goes on. Haring again emphasized schedules and routines continue to be important; screen time and physical activity included. Screen time has risks and benefits to child development. Too much screen time can negatively impact child’s brain development and their mental health while increasing challenging behavioral. The benefits to technology during this time is the connection and remote access to learning; online museum tours; webinar dance practice; group projects; research; and more. Once again, teaching children to practice moderation is key. Keeping the weekly routines are still possible by encouraging no less than recommended one hour a day of physical activity according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Younger children can use their screen time to look up gonoodle.com for physical activity videos or you host a living room dance party. Older children are still able to use many of their conditioning routines at home, this may take some creativity. Perhaps reaching out to their coaches (but not high school coaches who are in a no contact period) and instructors for guidance to at-home conditioning tips. Last but not least, we can all still go outside: run, walk, swing, jump, skip and more.

MORE FAMILY TIME

Building the family bond and parent/child relationships is on the best protective factors

against future risky behavior or mental health concerns. We have a great opportunity to enhance these relationships over the next few weeks. These conversations and activities will vary depending on the age of the children and family dynamics. We encourage this to be a time of open ended and child directed play or conversation. Let them take the lead and teach you how to play. This could be Barbies, Legos, video games TikToks or new make up trend.

Allowing them to teach you about what interests them sends the message that they are important and you believe in their abilities.

Family or group activities with multiple ages can be challenging to meet all their needs/interests. Ask them for ideas/suggestions. Here are some simple no cost/low cost ideas: family sleepover in the living room, movie night, cooking together, baking together, puzzles, charades, story time, game night, go for a walk, family yoga and hide and seek.

RELIEVING THE STRESS OF THIS UNUSUAL SITUATION

Haring said this is stressful time for all of us, grown-ups and children. Anxieties and worries are heightened with information and our day-to-day lives changing quickly. Be good consumers of information, knowing if the information you’re reading is from a credible source. Take care of your own mental health, take frequent breaks to practice positive thinking and gratitude. Practice using your own screen time, social media and new limits to help decrease feelings of being overwhelmed and anxious. Know the facts and what is best for you and your children.

Children will follow our lead. They don’t know how to respond to any of this until they watch others around them. We do need to talk to them calmly, explaining within reason what is happening. The goal is to not tell them too much to scare them, just enough to educate

them. Answer the questions the best you can and remember it is okay not to know the answers sometimes. Reassure them that you are the grown up and will make sure you are doing everything to make sure they are safe and taken care of.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stress during an infectious disease outbreak can include:

- Fear and worry about your own health and the health of loved ones
- Changes in sleep and eating patterns
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Worsening of chronic health problems
- Increase use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs
- Excessive crying or irritation in younger children
- Returning to behaviors they have outgrown
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Irritability and “acting out” behaviors in teens
- Unexplained headaches or body aches
- Avoidance of activities they have enjoyed in the past

According to Starr Organization, other tips parents can use to keep the household calm.

- Parents need to remain calm themselves
- Answer questions in a calm, direct way
- Provide facts in a developmentally appropriate way
- Remind kids to wash their hands more often and staying away from others
- The likelihood of us getting this virus are not high if we follow the recommendations of doctors
- It is rare to die from the virus unless you are very old and or already sick
- It is ok and normal to be worried and scared but we are doing everything we can to keep you safe

Information for this blog were C&A’s Early and Middle Childhood program manager Larissa Haring, the Starr Organization and the CDC website. If you are feeling or seeing any of these symptoms or feeling overwhelmed, please contact C&A at 330-433-6075.

Saginaw Resources: Great Lakes Bay Health Centers-School-Based Health Center staff at Saginaw High and Arthur Hill High Schools are available to serve our entire community of children and adolescents (ages 5-21) for both medical and behavioral health services via telehealth. Hours of Operation: 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday thru Friday. Please call us to make an appointment. 989-751- 7777 or visit our website at <http://www.greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org>.

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THE LATINO BANNER

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

Vamos Adelante



Saginaw LLEAD responds to executive order keeping agricultural migrant and seasonal farmworkers and food supplies safe

LB Pg. 4

Submit your news at

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LLEAD Stands in Solidarity with All Who are Treated Unjustly



LLEAD Michigan and its' chapters stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and all communities of color who have suffered injustice and death through Racism. We deeply empathize with those who have known the impact that has become so visually documented in our state and our nation.

LLEAD stands witness to centuries of systemic racism, systemic abuse and systematic exclusions to our civil rights, our human rights and social justice that have scared families, neighbors and communities in Michigan and across our nation.

LLEAD is no stranger to the history of neglect, of abuse and exclusion of civil rights towards Black and Brown communities at the hands of policing. We have seen an escalation of injustices in our state and

national Black and Brown communities since the 2016 presidential election. Driving while Black or Brown, ICE raids, driver license stops, and other Black and Brown-targeting police activities still regularly occur even though many Latinx Michigan residents are 3rd and 4th generation Michiganders.

LLEAD continues to commit to raise our voices and do all that we can to continue to listen, to learn, and to understand. We are agents of change, individually, as an organization and as a community that works to bring about a just society. We owe this outcome to the generations who came before us, who made it possible for us to make a real difference. We owe this outcome to the generations participating in this current call for social justice, human and civil rights, and for those who will learn from their lead. Black Lives Matter. We are all George Floyd.



Many people loved Rev. Roosevelt Austin as their pastor. I remember that Rev. Austin knew Saginaw history, too. He knew that J.J. Richardson was Saginaw's 1st African American in 1855 - explained by Roosevelt Ruffin's "Black Presence in Saginaw".

Leo Romo



Photos courtesy of Leo Romo



Heroes count in the 2020 Census



Regardless of when you served, your secure and confidential responses to the 2020 Census can shape the future for you and your community

- Education programs and grants
- Medicare & Medicaid
- Libraries
- School Meal Programs
- Public transportation
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs
- Community Centers
- Park, Playground, and Recreational Facilities
- Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into state and communities each year.
- The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.
- When you respond to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.



Census 2020 - Hispanic/Latino Count

Saginaw LLEAD responds to executive order keeping agricultural migrant and seasonal farmworkers and food supplies safe



Courtesy Photo

On behalf of the LLEAD State Board of Directors and our LLEAD local chapters, thank you for signing Executive Order 2020-111, which provides additional requirements and procedures to keep agricultural migrant and seasonal farmworkers and food supplies safe. As noted in EO 2020-111, "Migrant agricultural workers are an essential workforce in Michigan," especially at this uncertain time of COVID-19.

Because COVID-19 spreads quickly in cramped settings, it is vital to recognize the hazards migrant housing camps pose each year for thousands of migrant agricultural workers living in Michigan camps. It is encouraging to see a Michigan governor take immediate steps to protect this essential part of Michigan's workforce. We encourage you and state offices to not forget after this pandemic, the farmworker's historical and current role as essential workers. They have always been "essential" but have often been overlooked, taken advantage of, and mistreated because of inadequate legislation

and leadership.

For over 100 years, migrant farmworker men, women, and children, have helped sustain and cultivate our state's agricultural economy. Michigan ranks fifth in the nation in the employment of these workers for the production and harvest of over 45 crops. Each year, approximately 95,000 migrant seasonal farmworkers perform a wide range of agricultural tasks in the Great Lakes State. The sacrifices and hardships these families endure, have provided the people of Michigan and the world with a bountiful supply of fruits and vegetables.

To continue supporting migrant seasonal farmworkers in Michigan, we ask that you please support the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) efforts to conduct another "Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study." MDCR worked with the MDHS MI Interagency Migrant Services Committee to do these studies in 2006 and 2013. The reviews

have helped meet the needs for descriptive information on the migrant and seasonal farmworker population in Michigan. The MDCR authored a report published in 2010 "A Report on the Conditions of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Michigan" and can be viewed online at <http://catalog.lib.msu.edu/record=b8783999~S39a>. MDCR began the process of conducting hearings for a new report in July of 2019, although the process was halted and not completed.

Again, our sincerest thanks for your foresight in safeguarding Latinx migrant seasonal farmworkers' lives through the empathetic Executive Order and care for Michigan residents. Like you, we continue to work and advocate for the migrant seasonal farmworker as part of our organization's mission.

Respectfully,
Alberto Flores, President
LLEAD Michigan

Community Board

Submit your announcements and events at themichiganbanner.com/submit



SAGINAW LLEAD'S ZOOM Candidate's Forum For the 95th District



Brandell Adams



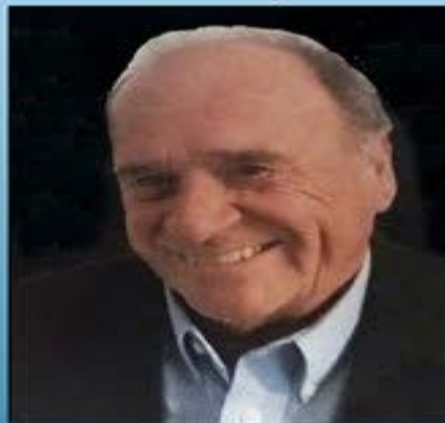
Clint Bryant



Charlotte DeMaet



Carly Hammond



Jim Graham



Amos O'Neal

June 28, 2020, 6 p.m.

Please send questions you may have for the candidates to dannysoza@ameritech.net
This will be LIVE on Facebook and Zoom
Moderator: Larry J. Rodarte, Publisher of Mi Gente Magazine

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



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

A Community wide fundraising response to COVID-19 Part one of a two-part series

In this time of COVID-19 how does a community pool resources and make emergency, responsive grants? We talk with Bob Fockler, President of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis (CFGM) and Sutton Mora Hayes, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. CFGM is home to the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund. They play a central role in bringing together local government, foundations, the United Way, businesses, and individuals. We share their story to inspire local communities as they respond to COVID-19 and help with rebuilding.

- 1. What led to the formation of the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund?** It began with a March 15 call from City of Memphis COO Doug McGowen to our president, Bob Fockler. The Community Foundation had worked with both the City and the County on projects in the past, and we were equipped and enthusiastic about creating the relief fund, which we had up-and-running within the week. We administer grants in partnership with the City of Memphis, Shelby County Government, United Way of the Mid-South, and Momentum Nonprofit Partners/ Mid-South Philanthropy Network. The response fund is the unified community relief initiative.
- 2. What makes this fund unique?** Because of our reach and relationships with local government, donors, other local and national funders, and nonprofits across our region, we hold a unique position in the community that is necessary for a successful collaborative effort like this. As an experienced convener and grantmaker, we could assemble the right advisory coalition to make funding decisions and we were able to rapidly deploy dollars

when our neighbors were suffering most.

- 3. What are the fund's priorities?** The first, 12-week phase focused on rapid-relief grants to organizations serving individuals who were hardest hit by the pandemic. The second is intended to stabilize nonprofit organizations that directly respond to the significant consequences of, and disparities exacerbated by, this public health crisis. We focus funding on priority populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic including the elderly and other high-risk populations; low-income families experiencing short-term financial crises related to COVID-19; residents who are food insecure, housing insecure, without medical insurance or uninsured, are Quarantined, or in extraordinary need of childcare; and immigrants and communities of color.
- 4. How is diversity, equity, and inclusion integrated into the work of this fund?** As a tenet of our Community Investment

Principles, the Community Foundation is committed to implementing processes where all community members' voices can be heard, and decision-makers and participants reflect the demographics of communities being served. The Advisory Committee brought a diverse, knowledgeable set of voices and perspectives to the table for information-gathering, establishing priorities that focus on our most vulnerable populations, and making funding decisions.

Grants directly fund predominantly Black and Latinx communities, and place-based, often grassroots agencies and organizations led by people of color. We trust the stakeholders of our neighborhoods—not just in our neighborhoods—to identify needs and develop solutions to address them.

You can donate online at <https://www.cfgm.org/COVID> or mail a check to the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, 1900 Union Ave., Memphis TN 38104.



Copyright 2020 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

Reverend Austin's final news interview

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

(Publisher's Note: At The Michigan Banner, we are honored and proud to have published what amounted to some compelling "closing remarks" from Pastor Roosevelt Austin Sr., who departed this life on June 11. The Banner published the interview on Nov. 1, 2018, on the eve of Michigan's mid-term governor's election. As we reprint this feature article, we urge readers to consider why his remarks remain significant here and now.)

As the Nov. 6 (2018) election approaches, African American elders are imploring younger folks, "Your ancestors died for your right to vote."

One of Saginaw's legendary leaders speaks from experience. He is the Reverend

Roosevelt Austin Sr. of Saginaw's Zion Missionary Baptist Church, now Pastor Emeritus, still aware and sharp as a tack at age 92

An uncle to his wife, Nurame, named John Lester Mitchell, was one of the first voter-registration civil rights martyrs in the Deep South.

The year was 1951. Lester Mitchell, a carpenter and a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army, was murdered by a law enforcement officer in Opelousas, Louisiana, the home seat of St. Landry Parish.

His crime? He was one of five men who filed a lawsuit earlier that year, after being denied the right to register to vote.

Pastor Austin was another member of the quintet, far ahead of his time during the early 1950s, while Martin Luther King Jr. still was immersed in divinity studies.

"It could have been me who was killed, but I was only threatened," he says, 67 years later. "That is why I become emotional when it comes to voting. Be active and make a statement. Don't just sit on the sidelines."

Indeed, the then-25-year-old Roosevelt Austin's was at risk of sacrificing his life not only for civil rights, but in his everyday existence. He made his family's living as an insurance agent, which meant he sometimes was forced to commute after dark, a high risk for a young black man in his own automobile. And he was well-known to law enforcement because his photograph was prominent in the local newspaper as a result of his voting rights litigation and activism.

"The cops would stop me and interrogate me," he recalls. "Their lights would be flashing all around. They would demand that I open the trunk, but all they would find was insurance books and insurance cards. They would ask what I had been drinking. I would tell them, 'I don't drink,' but still they would insist that I must have been drinking.

"They were trying to get me all riled up, so that they would have an excuse to kill me

also."

Uncle Lester's saga is similar to accounts nowadays, as though things never change. The law enforcement officer emerged free of criminal charges, claiming he fired his police revolver in self-defense only after Lester had threatened him with a knife, although no such weapon was produced from the scene.

He had been a well-known community leader. The Boy Scouts still banned black youths at the time, so he formed his own group, known as the AF Cadets, with "AF" standing for All Fulfilled.

However, down in Opelousas in 1951, in the aftermath of the police killing of John Lester Mitchell, there were no subsequent Black Lives Matter-type protests or marches. That wasn't how society functioned -- South or North -- at that time in history.

In fact, blacks in St. Landry Parish still had not achieved voting rights when the 1952 presidential election rolled around. It wasn't until 1954 that the John Lester Mitchell and Roosevelt Austin federal court action began to reap gradual, hard-won dividends.

"We came to Saginaw in 1953, so I never did vote in Opelousas," Pastor Austin recalls. "However, ever since we came up here, I've never missed an election. I've voted every year on everything."

He adds, with a chuckle, "It can be a rat race or a snail's race, and I'll be voting."

A perfect ironic reward is that despite never voting in his hometown, Roosevelt Austin emerged as a hero. When the community of 20,000 citizens transformed into black majority leadership, he was awarded a Key to the City in honor of the trails he had blazed.

He remains confounded that too many African Americans fail to fully recognize the importance of voting, or appreciate the history behind the No. 1 civil right of all civil rights. He hopes for a better result on Nov. 6.

"I was fighting for my rights," he says, "even if I had to risk dying in trying."

HEALTH

Community Blood Drives to Be Held to Combat Blood Shortage



Courtesy Photo

MIDLAND, Mich. – In a response to a critical blood shortage, and in partnership with Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, MidMichigan Health will host multiple community blood drives in the coming weeks.

“Like so many hospitals across the country, MidMichigan stopped performing elective surgeries and procedures early on in the COVID-19 crisis in a further effort to decrease exposure to patients and staff. This also allowed the health system to practice conservation of supplies,” said Lydia Watson, M.D., senior vice president and chief medical officer, MidMichigan Health. “Now, with the continued decrease of COVID-19 cases in our health system and service area, we have

reopened our services and need to ensure blood products are readily available for our patients. We urge all who are able to donate much needed blood to do so and help meet the demands of patient care.”

Upcoming drives are scheduled for:

Alpena – Thursday, July 16, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., MidMichigan Medical Center – Alpena, Auditorium. Enter through the hospital entrance.

Clare – Thursday, July 23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., MidMichigan Medical Center – Clare, Talent Center Conference Room. Enter through the hospital entrance.

Gladwin – Tuesday, July 21, noon to 5 p.m., MidMichigan Medical Offices – Gladwin, Community Education Room. Enter through the Medical Offices (southwest) entrance.

Gratiot – Friday, June 19, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot, Wilcox Auditorium. Enter through the hospital entrance.

Midland – Thursday, July 2, 2 to 7 p.m., MRI Building Lobby, (old Orchard Building), on the campus of MidMichigan Medical Center – Midland. Sponsored by the MidMichigan Trauma Program. Donors will receive two bike helmets for participating.

Mt. Pleasant – Wednesday, July 22, noon to 5 p.m., MidMichigan Medical Center – Mt. Pleasant, Conference Room 1200. Enter through the main (north) entrance.

West Branch – Tuesday, July 7, 5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., MidMichigan Medical Center – West Branch, Executive Dining Room. Enter through the hospital entrance.

Donating blood takes about an hour. Anyone age 17 or older in good health who meets eligibility requirements is encouraged to give. Parental consent is required for donors age 16 to give. Donors should bring a photo ID that includes their birth date. Donors will be required to wear a mask. Versiti has several additional safety measures in place. Those wishing to review these measures may visit www.versiti.org/home/coronavirus-information

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Our lives have been made better through the teaching and the example set by the Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin. He lived an exemplary life.

He was a mentor to most of the black pastors and preachers not only in Saginaw but across the State of Michigan. He was a gifted leader, a mover and shaker in the community particularly during a time when overt racism, segregation and hatred were so prevalent. Reverend Austin led with patience and calm in the midst of tension and unrest.

Dr. Austin's awards, involvements, and leadership is too numerous to list. However, the following three positions of leadership by Dr. Austin must be mentioned.

- Pastor of the Historical Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Saginaw
- Moderator of Saginaw Valley District Association
- President of the Wolverine State Missionary Baptist Convention

Dr. Austin's legacy will forever live in the hearts of those who knew and admired him. He has now joined the crowd of witnesses that surrounds us in Hebrews 12:1-2. His legacy of servitude and attitude; action with diplomacy, integrity, God-fearing faith, love of family and humanity will inspire and encourage countless others who yet run the race.

**Roy Manning, Pastor
Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church**



My sincere condolences to the family and friends of Pastor Roosevelt Austin. He was a true leader who inspired many and while he will be missed tremendously, his works will forever be imprinted in the city of Saginaw.

William, Freddie, Terry and Todd Hodges



I'd like to give my deepest and most sincere condolences to Mrs Austin and all of the Austin family. Words can't express the magnitude of the life and accomplishments that Reverend Austin has accomplished in his life time. Besides being a great spiritual leader to so many in this community and other areas around the country, he was a friend to all that knew him. May Our Lord and Saviour bring comfort and peace to this family and all that his warmth and love has touched.

"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord ". Rest on Reverend Austin, rest on...

William Bill Badger



Pastor Roosevelt Austin was an example of Christian leadership, compassion, justice and reconciliation in Saginaw as well as for those who were honored to know him. He honestly cared about people, regardless of their station in life.

I have been honored to be one of the many he cared about. My condolences and prayers go out to his wife and family as well as the many, many people whose lives he has touched.

Pastor Roosevelt Austin, you have fought the good fight. You have finished your course. You have kept the faith. Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord. I know you were joy-filled when you heard Jesus say, "Welcome home."

**Pastor Judith Boli
St. Paul Episcopal Church**



There was a man sent from God, whose name was Roosevelt. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world (John 1:6-9).

There is an abundance of good men among us, but great men are a rarity. Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin, Sr. was a great man.

It has been said that Christian believers are reflectors of the light given to them from Jesus Christ who is the true Light. The projection of this light was seen in every area of Dr. Austin's life. He was the glowing presence that illuminated the Austin family. He was able to dispel darkness in people, places, and politics with the God-given ability to make the unseen visible.

If strangers saw Dr. Austin, even they knew that he someone special. He had a presence that could not be denied. If you were in his presence you knew that you were in the presence of greatness because of his inner light.

As a result of the Lord making use of him, countless people have been inspired, uplifted, encouraged, educated, loved, cared for, and so much more. Dr. Austin will be sorely missed by his family and the Zion church family, the City of Saginaw, and beyond. Good night Pastor! We will see you in the morning!

Pastor Rodrick Smith
Zion Missionary Baptist Church



The Austins have always been friends with my family, and I was in the same age group with two of their children.

When I made the decision to enter the ministry in 1990, my spiritual father was the Rev. Roosevelt Mosley, but then he passed away. Rev. Austin saw this and volunteered to fill that role, and so I have always referred to him as my spiritual grandfather.

"He met with me in his office and showed me photos of how Zion Baptist was a small building at Second and Johnson when he assumed the pastorate during the 1950s. He showed me the accounting for the first month's collections. He shared his wisdom on plans to build the new building and to grow the congregation. You can't take a class on

pastoring, but he always encouraged me, even during times of struggle. And one thing about Rev. Austin was no matter what, he's going to tell you the truth.

"Both as a minister and as a citizen, being on the City Council and all, Rev. Austin served the community in many ways he never talked about. He showed how to be a leader instead of just talking about it.

Pastor Willie Casey
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church



Dr. Roosevelt Austin has always been there for our family, to encourage, comfort and advise. As a young child, I used to play under his desk with Roosevelt Jr., and was a member of Zion Baptist Church for many years. He called me his nephew, and to Roosevelt Jr. and Donna I was cuz.

In my later adult years, Dr. Austin would call at least once a month to check on me and the family, and our conversations will be missed. The last time I saw him was when he was in the hospital a couple of months ago. We talked for over an hour. I always felt fortunate to tap into his years of wisdom and to ask him questions about life, family and the ministry. Those are moments I will always treasure.

I have lost a father figure, mentor and a part of the Woods and Frierson families. He once told me, "Live your testimony and no one can preach your funeral." The world and Saginaw has lost a great leader but his legacy lives on in us all.

Co-pastors Bishop Ken and Dr. Georgette Frierson
New Covenant Christian Center

2020 CENSUS

It's not too late to be counted in the 2020 census!

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So, don't wait any longer! Fill out the census today!

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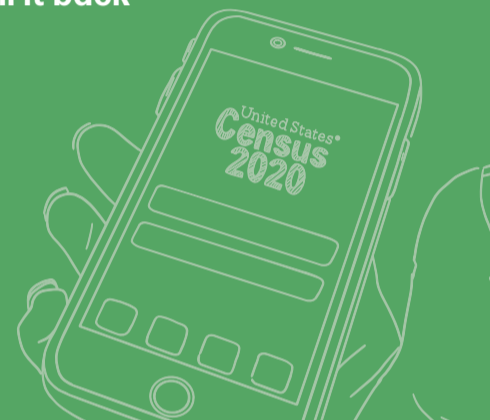
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Our condolences in the memory of Pastor Roosevelt Austin a phenomenal pastor and leader in the Saginaw community. We share in your sadness and pray healing prayers and comforting hugs to the Austin family. Pastor Austin will truly be missed and never forgotten.

**Our deepest sympathy
Women of Colors**



To all family and friends of Pastor Roosevelt Austin,

The going home of Pastor Austin leaves a huge hole in the fabric of our community. While he sits at a high place of honor with our Lord Jesus Christ, we will miss him tremendously.

I will personally miss his smile and great laugh. He was a leader among leaders in Saginaw County and was respected and revered.

Pastor Austin always had sage advice as I sought his counsel on community issues. He was politically active and, in his gentle way, led political efforts that brought Saginaw some good leadership.

He and his wife of 70 years, Nurame, were and are friends of ours and the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce sends tribute to this great leader. You will be missed Pastor.

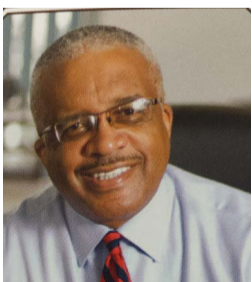
**Veronica Horn, President/CEO
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce**



Condolences for the Reverend Roosevelt Austin's Family

The Great Lakes Bay Health Centers recognizes the important contributions that Reverend Austin made in the Saginaw community. Our community is a better place for Reverend Austin having been here. We are so sorry to see the Reverend Austin leave us, but we wish all family and friends peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.

**Brenda M. W. Coughlin, M.D., MPH
President/CEO
Great Lakes Bay Health Centers**



**" I now have another Guardian Angel ".
Rev. Roosevelt Austin was my friend.**

Gil Johnson

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EDUCATION

A Message from SVSU President Donald Bachand



Courtesy Photo

Dear university community,

Like many of you, I have watched the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer and the community reactions across the country. I have struggled to find the words to express my feelings. I am appalled at his death and the deaths and mistreatment of other people of color due to racism and hatred. As a former police officer, as a former professor of criminal justice, as a university president, and as a human being, it angers me.

Let me be clear: racism has no place at our university. It cannot and will not be tolerated. We can and must do more on our campus and in our communities to create justice and equity for all, and especially for those who have been disenfranchised.

These issues are deeply personal to me and have guided my life's work. The late Martin Luther King Jr. said that "a riot is the language of the unheard." Growing up in a diverse, working-class neighborhood in Detroit, I

watched the famed 1967 riots outside our family's living room window. To this day, the scenes are etched into my memory. The dry cleaning business that sponsored my Little League baseball team was among those vandalized. I watched as the fabric of my neighborhood was shredded. Those silenced voices unleashed in a scream. We see that again today.

Not too long thereafter, I chose to pursue a career in law enforcement. I joined the Detroit Police Department. In 1967, the city had only about 50 African-American police officers. Fifty in a city of more than 1.5 million people. It is no wonder why the cries of the oppressed went unheard. More than 50 years later, the wounds exposed in 1967 are still not fully healed in our community. In my most discouraging moments, I wonder if they have healed at all.

I know what it means to work in a community whose residents feel that the application of law and order is anything but equal. When

the police arrive in their neighborhood, the residents do not feel "protected" or "served," they feel fear. That fear is justified by too many examples of mistreatment and worse. When I joined SVSU to teach criminal justice, it was because I wanted to prepare men and women for the challenges of law enforcement and to teach them that everyone deserves justice. This justice was denied to George Floyd and too many others like him. We have worked hard to create an inclusive environment and a culture at SVSU where diversity training and education are available and encouraged, and where there is zero tolerance for racism and discrimination. We must do more. We cannot be bystanders. We cannot wait for change. We must initiate change.

I will appoint a task force of faculty, staff and community members to further elevate equity and justice within SVSU, especially for those who are marginalized, and to provide recommendations for how we can extend those efforts into our surrounding community. Our university values of diversity and inclusivity and a safe, friendly and respectful campus climate support this important work. Please watch for more information on this in the coming days.

Finally, if you have been silent about an issue of racism or intolerance within SVSU, I want to hear from you. I want your voice to be heard. Please e-mail me at presidentsoffice@svsu.edu.

These challenges are even more difficult during a global pandemic that prevents us from gathering on campus, but we cannot allow that to be an excuse for indifference or inaction. I implore each member of our Cardinal family to step up and join in the cause of moving our university and our community toward the ideals on which our nation was founded.

Sincerely,
Donald J. Bachand, President



Corona & Schools

Don't allow the virus to deter you from enrolling your kids

Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

"Front and back and in between, now my hands are nice and clean."

This is a little song that longtime pre-kindergarten teacher Andrea Rethman wrote, in order to sing with her 4-year-old students at the Saginaw School District's Henry Doerr Early Childhood Center.

The jingle also is an example of why she encourages parents to enroll their children this coming fall, even with safety concerns amid the ongoing corona virus epidemic.

"They will gain so much more experience at their school, to go along with what the parents may teach in the home," Rethman says.

This includes not only the basics such as numbers, colors and A-B-C's, but also safety issues associated with COVID-19. After all, she was singing and leading the hand-wash long before corona struck earlier this year.

"The only difference now is that we will have to extend it to washing for 20 seconds," she

notes. "The words may sound silly to an adult, but the 4-year-olds love it. When we see them bobbing their heads back and forth while they are washing their hands, we know they are singing that song."

Other traditional lessons also become even more meaningful during the new corona era. Children already have been taught to cough or sneeze into their arms, only now the stakes are higher. As for social distancing, a main lesson always is don't push and shove, and now it will be enhanced with "don't touch."

But don't touch will not mean don't socialize. Rethman emphasizes that a vital aspect of early childhood education is the interaction and chatter during both study times and play times, in contrast to isolated home schooling.

"We can't lead totally sheltered lives," she says. "Along with the hand-washing and the social distancing, at all of our buildings there has been safety cleaning that began ever since all of this got started."

Rethman performs double duty as president of the Saginaw Education Association (SEA) teachers union. She is entering her 31st teaching year, all with Saginaw schools. Reports and surveys indicate that some veteran educators are retiring because of corona concerns, but she is not among them.

"Others may have underlying issues with health and so forth," she says, "but I would miss my kids too much. When we had to close down all of a sudden (last March), on a Friday rather than the following Monday, it was like I was not able to properly say goodbye to my babies."

She acknowledges that the future is somewhat uncertain, as local districts await guidelines from state-level health and education officials. Still, she remains hopeful.

"None of the (early elementary) teachers really want to be going online," Rethman says. "We all are just dying to get back into our classrooms."



Courtesy Photo



I knew Pastor Roosevelt Austin for more than 30 years. I consider him and his beautiful wife Nurame two incredible leaders in this community and great friends to me. He gave me so many private moments. I am so glad he was alive to see the street named in his honor. I'm so glad he had a long healthy retirement and so grateful he came to Saginaw and made it his home so many years ago. My deepest condolences to the Austin family. Now, he belongs to the ages.

Mike Hanley, Saginaw County Board of Commissioners



On behalf of the late Rev and Mrs WG Wade, the Wade family offers our deepest condolences to the family of Rev Roosevelt Austin. We are thankful for the friendship and fellowship over the years. Remember that nothing is lost when you know where to find it.

Alan Wade, Jackson Blazer Publisher



Rev. Austin was a giant in our community, leading with integrity and compassion. His commitment to community serves as a model for the next generation of leaders. Saginaw has truly been blessed by his leadership. May the angels welcome him to Heaven.

Carol Cottrell, Covenant HealthCare Foundation Director



The entire Victorious Believers Ministries Family along with myself and my family, join with a grateful community in celebrating the life and legacy of the late Rev. Roosevelt Austin, Sr. Rev. Austin was a man of great character, impeccable morals, and admirable integrity. His kindness and amiable personality were signature elements of every encounter that I was privileged to have with him over the years. He was a dear friend and faithful supporter to my parents, the late Bishop Marvin C. Pryor & Evangelist Ruth C.

Pryor, and was actually one of the first pastors to reach out and welcome him to the city when he moved to Saginaw from Flint, MI. In addition to being an engaging minister, he was also an advocate for the helpless, an activist against social and racial injustice, and a voice of hope for the city of Saginaw. As a young pastor, he always encouraged me to continue striving to make a difference in the community and the lives of others. Without question, a mighty general in our city has transitioned and he will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

**Chris V. Pryor, Pastor
Victorious Believers Ministries**



About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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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



Corona & Schools

Home study in COVID times will require computer savvy and discipline

Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

When she begins ninth grade next September, Nia Baldwin is confident in her ability to perform on a home computer if the ongoing corona virus crisis keeps the school doors closed.

She has two other issues, however.

"I'm an extrovert," she first explains. "I like to interact with people, and share our opinions, and so I'm missing that aspect."

Second, she adds, "I have a problem working at home. Technology is not the problem; it's my motivation. Nobody is pushing me to do an assignment, and I'm not in a classroom and seeing the other students doing their work. Sometimes I find myself asking, 'Do I really have to study?'"

Nia is the daughter of Melba Denise Baldwin,

a former classroom teacher who now is assistant principal at Saginaw High School.

This means that when Nia feels tempted to slack off on her school work, she is going to hear it from Mom.

"Parents will have to become even more active partners than they are now," Ms. Baldwin states. "If children are working more at home, parents will be responsible for supervising that type of learning. We will need even a higher level of partnership."

The mother also shares her daughter's concerns about losing interaction in the school building.

"Cooperative learning is very important, children being able to socialize in that type of environment," she notes. "That's all being

done away with, with social distancing.

"To restore this in the future, cooperative learning will have to be led more by students. Kids will need to take charge of their environment."

THE OLD AND THE NEW

Ms. Baldwin, a product of the former Buena Vista High School and the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, followed by Michigan State University, eventually sees and hopes for "a blend of more traditional education" with increased at-home studies and more use of technology.

"Real-life learning will take a stronger presence, kids learning from what they do in everyday life, similar to at-home cooking," she says. "We may find ourselves guiding instruction, more than the former way of delivering instruction."

She also foresees "a major focus on the social well-being of students," noting that "the whole world is changing, in an emotional way."

She is well-known in the city school district as an advocate for teachers and for equal educational opportunity, and she points to concern with a "digital divide" in technology that causes gaps in computer literacy and access, both ethnically and economically.

"We must make sure that the inequities do not grow to become even more glaring," she says

One of the most distressing corona consequences, she says, is that large gathering places such as cafeterias and playgrounds may cease to exist. Another is that schools

**Continues on pg 27,
Home study in COVID times**

Continued from pg 26, Home study in COVID times

may adopt alternating days for attendance to avoid having too many children in a building at the same time.

These types of setbacks may cause more parents to opt for home schooling, she speculates, but the outlook is uncertain.

"Whether that would be good or bad will depend on the resources of the families," Ms. Baldwin asserts. "Some people say they are home schooling and they aren't really doing anything. A negative impact would be a loss of (per-student) funding for public schools."

On the other hand, she says this spring's shutdown "has caused many parents to become more appreciative of having their children in a school building, rather than at home. Some can't wait to get their kids back into a school building."

In summary, she advises: "Definitely prepare for change. The way schools looked on March 13 (when the shutdown started) is not the way schools will look in the fall, if we even can return by fall. There definitely will be a learning curve and it won't be perfect immediately. But if parents and the community will give us the support we need and the flexibility we need to work this out together, we can succeed with a collective effort."

GET BACK IN THE SWING

Meanwhile, young Nia Baldwin was class president in sixth grade, and then student government president when her eighth-grade school year was cut short last March. She helped to compile pupil photographs as a substitute for not having a middle school

graduation ceremony. She also was a member of the girls basketball team.

One main disappointment was missing out on a spring class trip to Washington, D.C., when the cherry blossoms were in full bloom. Another was cancellation of a school play, in which she had a roll.

"We had presented it to the students, and we were just getting ready to perform the show for the parents right that weekend (when the statewide school shutdown took effect)," Nia laments. "Everything changed so quickly. We all felt like we were left in the dark."

Hopefully, her freshmen year of high school will mark the start of better days ahead.

Delta College names new academic dean



Courtesy Photo

Delta College's leadership team has announced the appointment of Stephanie Harrison as academic dean of Career Education and Learning Partnerships. She began her role June 15.

Harrison has more than 15 years of higher

education experience. Most recently, she served as dean for the Center of Health Sciences at the Community College of Denver. She also served as director and program chair of the college's dental hygiene program for nine years.

Harrison replaces Virginia Przygocki, who has worked for Delta for more than 41 years and will retire on July 31.

"Stephanie impressed us with her leadership experience in the

areas of program growth and management, as well as student success, which are vital as we look to the future at Delta," said Dr. Reva Curry, vice president of Instruction and Learning Services. "She is a thoughtful and talented leader, and I'm pleased to extend a warm welcome as she joins the Delta

community."

Harrison received a master's degree in health services management from Webster University and a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from Old Dominion University. She also has a certificate in plant-based nutrition and completed the Master Nutrition Therapist program from the Nutrition Therapy Institute in Denver.

Harrison said she was drawn to Delta's remarkable reputation, impressive sustainability practices and dedication to student success.

"I'm thrilled to be offered this opportunity to join Delta, a college that is widely known for its innovation and leadership," said Harrison. "I recently spent some time on campus and was astonished by the atmosphere and facilities. The support for Delta as a whole is amazing and I look forward to continuing the important work with the community on behalf of our students."

As academic dean, Harrison will oversee the Health and Wellness and Business and Technology divisions. She will evaluate existing programs and develop new ones.

MCC to host Virtual Technology Open House

The Technology Division at Mott Community College is hosting a Virtual Open House that will be live streamed Wednesday, June 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. The Open House is designed to allow prospective students and their families an opportunity to learn what educational pathways are available at Mott Community College in the Technology Division.

"We will have instructors on hand to talk about the programs and what job opportunities are available after a student earns a degree or credential," said Dr. Madonna Jackson-Carpenter, Interim Dean of Technology.

Pre-registration is required. To register for the Technology Virtual Open House, go to <https://forms.gle/dio1csaxxNRYZnaM9> Once registered, attendees will receive an email with the Open House link.

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The event will be live virtually with instructors available to answer questions

Pre-registration is required at <https://forms.gle/dio1csaxxNRYZnaM9> to receive the Open House link.

Questions? tech@mcc.edu

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Like Us on 



Corona & Schools

With COVID, schools will change, but not totally

Mike Thompson



Ramont M. Roberts, SPSP Superintendent and Craig Douglas, Retired Dean, College of Education, SVSU

Now that the corona virus is with us, what will our schools be like?

1. Entirely online, as we have seen in some areas after the pandemic struck late last winter?
2. Back to traditional community schools with full classrooms, when and if COVID-19 ever recedes?
3. Or a combination?

Ramont Roberts leans toward the third outlook, which he describes as a "hybrid," but the Saginaw School District superintendent emphasizes that nothing is set in concrete.

"Right now, we won't know until we see what comes out from the state level," Roberts says. "They are trying to work through recommendations from our public health experts. In the meantime, like other districts, we must plan for various possible scenarios."

Craig Douglas, retired as Carrollton's K-12 superintendent and then as an academic dean at Saginaw Valley State University, also foresees a combo approach.

"The movement to innovate will continue," says Douglas, also a regular education

analyst on WNEM TV-5. "The push to 'think differently' about teaching and learning has accelerated, and I do not see this as slowing down."

At the same time, he adds, tradition remaining strong, and "there will be a desire to get back to schooling in the school buildings," even if this requires smaller groups in an increased set of time slots, possibly including Saturdays.

Douglas uses the same term as Roberts when he points to prospects of "more hybrid teaching that combines online and face-to-face classes, depending on grade levels and competencies."

Meanwhile, Roberts joins Douglas in pointing to desires to maintain at least some aspects of old-time schooling.

"With time," Roberts says, "I think we will get back more to our traditional educational system, once we know about covid and about a vaccine. The question is when."

He adds a precaution: "Even if we return classes to near normal, things will not be completely be the same."

Douglas adds, "A shift in how schools

operate will occur in every way." He makes a comparison to how the 1999 Columbine High mass shooting, followed by a tragic string of 21st Century horrors (2012 Newtown Sandy Hook; 2018 Parkland), has caused massive changes in school security approaches and attitudes.

Roberts and Douglas agree that parent and community support will remain essential, although volunteers may have to rely more on technology and less on physical visits to school buildings. They also note that large gatherings for events such as honors banquets, athletic competitions and school concerts and plays may be restricted, especially in the short term.

The pair of educators offer slightly contrasting viewpoints on home schooling.

Douglas expects little impact, saying, "Those who already home school are unlikely to change. Those who have not home schooled before are unlikely to want to do this now, after the pandemic."

Roberts, contrary to many analysts, actually forecasts a decrease, saying, "The pandemic has highlighted the importance of a professional educator, as opposed to a parent at home trying to teach that same material."

The twosome also express varying feelings on methods to maintain school funding during the future tight budgets that COVID-19 will cause. Douglas supports higher and more progressive state income taxes, which would include restoring rate cuts that began during the 1990, while Roberts points mainly to a need for stronger federal support.

Bottom line, says Roberts, "The main objective first is to keep people safe, and then to provide education."

Douglas advises all stakeholders; "Stay connected. Stay engaged. Stay informed. Be involved!"

COMMUNITY

Fewer trees would have fallen during our storm with old-time trims

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

TIM-ber!!! Like a Paul Bunyan lumberjack invasion.

Sections of our community were scattered with fallen trees after the June 10 storm, not only limbs but entire fractured trunks. Homes and cars were damaged, streets were blocked, and residents lost power for 48 hours or more.

Swirling winds in the 60 mph range ignited all this mess, but the lack of a regular municipal tree-trimming program during the past 30

years is the main cause of such widespread havoc.

So says the long-retired Saginaw chief city forester.

Nino Mauro remains our foremost local tree expert at age 85, a post-World War II product of Saginaw High School and of Michigan State University's land management school. He never was replaced at City Hall, which pretty much sums up the story.

"We used to have multiple crews, East Side and West Side, and we had a 10-year cycle to trim each and every (public right-of-way) tree in the city," he says.

"All of that ended around 1990, when the all the budget cutbacks began, which was when I retired. Since then, there has been no regular maintenance."

Bottom line: If the trees had been trimmed through the years to maintain their health, far fewer would have fallen during the storm, causing far less damage and heartbreak.

TREES AS A BUDGET CUT?

Saginaw's overall hardship started with the demise of General Motors and other employers, combined with declining population, to erode the local tax base for programs and services. To add to the bitter brew, we have endured sharp slashes in federal and state financial aid, also known as revenue sharing.

When we think of budget cuts, we ponder fewer Saginaw city police officers, with the state cops stepping in. We have fewer firefighters, to the point where the closing of the Hess Street Station leaves an entire quadrant of town without its own first responder. All funding for parks and recreation, once a main provider of both summer youth activity and teen jobs, is long gone. Even winter street salt is in short supply.

But for the most part among the cutbacks, we do not think of trees. We do not think of trees as budget-cut victims, not even, as Mauro notes, when untended long limbs hang and blend like canopies over our side streets, sometimes blocking traffic signals and signs. Not even if the traditional Saginaw logo shows a (trimmed) tree.

Continues on pg 33, Fallen Trees



TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD:

Hello I'm Vicki Hill the Gospel Radio Personality for Kiss 107.1 WTLZ., I want to give my sincere condolences to the family of Rev Roosevelt Austin. Rev Austin was a man of great integrity, he was a mentor for so many, an activist for the voiceless, a soldier marching strong in the army of the Lord. He was a leader to be proud of he didn't just carry the torch as far as he could but he equipped others to pick it up and carry it on further. Reverend Austin's presence will be missed but his spirit will continue to live on. Family, I am wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.

Vicki Hill Kiss 107.1 WTLZ



I'm honored to say that Rev. Roosevelt Austin was indeed a good friend and brother beloved. When I arrived in Saginaw as the Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Rev. Austin was one of the very first persons I had the pleasure of meeting. He didn't wait for me to find out who he was. He came to Bethel introduced himself and let me know that Bethel and Zion were the two oldest African American Congregations in the city. Our congregational paths were inextricably intertwined, and as he had had a relationship with my predecessors it was his hope that we might have a close relationship as well; and we definitely did. There was something about his pastoral presence, warmth and friendship that kept us together even after both of us had retired. He was a pastors pastor.

Rev. Austin loved Saginaw, and his involvement in every aspect of the city was evident. He loved Zion and gave his life in shepherding God's people there, but his shepherding spirit was not just relegated to the church he pastored, but also to the community he served. During the good times and its struggles Rev. Austin was always in the mix with a voice of conviction and purpose, compassion and reason.

Our personal relationship deepened over the years with great affection. When we often met on the street or at various gatherings, Rev. Austin always greeted me by saying with a smile, "How's my Bishop?" And I would likewise respond by asking, "How's my Pastor?"

Saginaw has been blessed to have had Rev. Austin to pass this way and make his impact upon the heart, mind and spirit of the community he loved and fought for. Rev. Austin loved everybody. His smile, his warmth, and his love came straight from his heart. He will be truly missed, but not forgotten. My prayers and condolences are extended to his wife, Dr. Nurame Austin, their children, and family as we thank God for a life well lived.

Rev. P. David Saunders, Retired



The super highway of opportunities that African Americans enjoy today was only a footpath when Rev. Roosevelt Austin came along and blazed a trail for us to follow. He was an apostle and human rights advocate who spoke truth to power. He was a voice for the voiceless.

Like Enoch, Rev. Austin walked with God and God took him. We take comfort in knowing that eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, and no mind has imagined the reward that God has prepared for him. The pain of his death is swallowed up in the joy of Eternal Life.

He was my friend and mentor and I loved him.

M.T. Thompson, Jr.



BROTHERS UNITING FOR JUSTICE

“A Peaceful March/Disrupting The Norm”
BLACK MEN MARCHING and those who support them are welcome!!!

Saturday, June 20 @ 12 Noon

Starting at Ascension St. Mary's – Washington Ave.
BLACK BUSINESSES ON DISPLAY @ MICHIGAN WORKS

For more information: Charles Lawrence (989) 598-2786
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Brought to you by:



Continued from pg 30, Fallen Trees



Mauro explains that most tree varieties continue to grow outward after they have stopped growing upward. The extended branches, if not trimmed,

place stress upon the trunks. It is this natural decay that causes the fallen weakened hollow shells that we have seen around town after the June 10 storm, not so much the nasty termites that we may imagine.

Indeed, bugs play a role. Older Saginawians will think of Dutch Elm disease. More recently emerald ash borers have created headaches. But in the past, Mauro notes, city crews were available to at least partially stem the tide by removing the problems. Nowadays the remaining unattended trees continue to rot and spread the termites, sort of similar to COVID-19, often producing sick old species

with fewer leaves that fall earlier in the year.

Then there is uncontrollable damage, says Mauro, such as the weight of Saginaw's infamous ice storm in March 1976.

"After that one," he recalls, "we were cleaning up all summer long."

Sadly, after our most recent storm, Saginaw lacks similar manpower for prompt response.

Another fatality of funding cuts is tree planting. City crews formerly dug dirt for hundreds of saplings per year. For example, witness the growth in Pothoff Park since the 1970s. Today we see some smaller isolated arbor initiatives, but nothing that is ongoing.

SAVE THE TREES

We may recall a decade ago, when a fallen tree near the former North Intermediate School killed someone who was merely sitting

in their car. Fortunately, there was no similar tragedy last week.

Without a massive private donor, very much unlikely, a solution to all these troubles would seem to require one of those special purpose county millages, similar to parks, sheriff road patrols, mosquito control, and most recently, the animal shelter. But some taxpayers are growing weary as these small "cup-of coffee" individual levies aggregate into a major property levy unto their own. Would folks go for a "tree millage" added to the mix?

At any rate, are our tree problems beyond hope or repair? Would a restoration effort be too late?

"No," Nino S. Mauro answers emphatically. "Mother Nature has an amazing capacity for continued growth and restoration."

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT SAGINAW PROMISE PROGRAMMING & SCHOLARSHIPS-SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Join us for a Great Day of Golf and Fun! Saginaw Promise Golf Outing (Fundraiser)

“Swinging for the Promise”

Thursday, August 27, 2020 | Saginaw Country Club

***Shotgun Start 10:00 AM**

Four person scramble-Includes 18 holes with Cart, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the turn, BBQ Chicken Dinner and Awards Presentation

**EASY ONLINE
REGISTRATION/PAYMENTS
(credit Card Only)**

https://SaginawFoundation.ThankYou4caring.org/promise_golf

DEADLINES:

Sponsors:
Respond by August 14, 2020

Golfers:
Sign up before August 21, 2020

For Questions: Contact Deborah Sanchez by email dsanchez@saginawpromise.org or by phone (989)755-0545

***If required by statewide Executive Orders--a backup date for this event has been reserved for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at the SCC.**



Quarantine Youth BREAK OUT

Facebook Live/Zoom

- Judges
- Amanda Forsmark
 - Byron Poindexter
 - Brook Griffins
 - Alternate Judge
 - Don Bivens, Jr.



Women of Colors Preventions Services strives to reduce youth high-risk choices by promoting enjoyable activities.

During these challenging times share your talents in 3 minutes.
The first 15 youth registered in each group will be accepted.
(Absolutely no profanity or provocative dance)

Categories

- Instrument
- Vocal Solo/Duet/Trio
- Dance
- Poetry/Spoken Word

Groups

- Elementary June 25 5:00PM
- Middle School June 30 5:00PM
- High School July 07 5:00PM
- Registration Deadline: June 18

Grand Prizes



- 1st Prize \$100 Certificate
- 2nd Prize \$ 50 Certificate
- 3rd Prize \$ 25 Certificate
- All prizes awarded one week after contests.



To register email wocpfl@gmail.com

Questions (989) 737-9286

Duggan, Guerra and Hill join Temple Theatre, Saginaw Art Museum Board



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Stephanie Duggan, State Representative Vanessa Guerra, and Vicki Hill added to the board of directors for the Temple Theatre/Saginaw Art Museum in Saginaw, Michigan.

“We are delighted to strengthen our board with members of the community who agree arts and culture are an integral part of keeping our region vibrant,” says Larry Preston, Chairman & CEO of The Temple Theatre/Saginaw Art Museum. “These outstanding community leaders will help set the strategic direction for these institutions which remain at the cultural core of our region. The Temple Theatre and Saginaw Art Museum continue to play a vital role in promoting diversity, inclusion, and belonging in the region.”



Dr. Stephanie Duggan serves as regional President of Ascension St. Mary’s Hospital in Saginaw, Ascension Standish

Hospital and Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in

Tawas. Duggan was listed as one of the Top Women in Medicine by B-Metro Magazine. Dr. Duggan received her medical degree from Wayne State University and completed her Emergency Medicine residency at Sinai-Grace Hospital. She practiced Emergency Medicine at Ascension St. Mary’s for 15 years and was selected the Michigan Emergency Physician of the year in 2008.



State Representative Vanessa Guerra is completing her third term representing Michigan’s 95th House District. Her passion to bring change is rooted in deep connections to the area. The

importance of both equality and education has been impressed on Guerra from an early age with a family heritage of civil rights advocacy. Guerra graduated with her Juris

Doctorate from the School of Law at the University of Detroit Mercy in December of 2016.



Mrs. Vicki Hill is a radio gospel announcer at KISS 107.1 WTLZ. Over the past 25 years, the community has been welcoming Hill into their homes to hear her words of

encouragement and special musical arrangements of contemporary-to-traditional gospel music. Additionally Hill is the driving force behind the Annual Gospel Fest held each year on Ojibway Island. Hill received The Stellar Award in 2010 and the Women of Colors’ Women of the Year award in 2012 for her work, dedication, and commitment to the Great Lakes Bay Region.

AS I LOOK ALL AROUND ME

As I look all around me
I see faces of all colors
Standing and uniting
Walking As sisters and brothers
As I look all around me
I see the young, i see the old
Fighting to stop this racism
All the stories that have been told
As I look all around me
I can't help but to cry
So many mothers suffering
Because their child had to die
As I look all around me
I'm scared of the unknown
How will I react
To the ignorance of your tone
As I look all around me
Black lives really matter
Protesters protesting
All races have gathered
As I look all around me
Our blood runs the same
I'm praying for a world of peace
I'm praying ... Lord, No More pain
All races have struggles
All Races have Choices
That's why it's important
We exercise our voices
So much hatred in this world
We all have to face
But as a Color United
We are protected under
GODS HOLY GRACE



Brigitte Denise Johnson



CELEBRATING
REV. DR. ROOSEVELT AUSTIN

AUGUST 17, 1926 - JUNE 11, 2020

Roosevelt Austin BLVD



Courtesy Photo

To the family of Pastor Emeritus Dr. Roosevelt Austin, Sr., we the children of Dr. Westbrook Walker, Sr. and Jessie Walker Langston (Louis Langston) send our heartfelt condolences, prayers and love to you all on the home going of Rev. Austin. We all look to the day we make our transition to our eternal home with Jesus, however Rev. Austin's presence cannot be replaced nor can what he taught us.

It was 1963/64 when we met Rev. Austin and Zion upon moving to Saginaw MI. Zion Missionary Baptist Church became our spiritual and physical home. Our grandparents, Ed Lee & Essie Cunningham were active members and as a family we followed and are so thankful even today that we did. Rev. Austin baptized all six of us children and my oldest child, Sean.

Rev Austin was that father who did not wait for a private moment to correct us as his spiritual children, but took immediate action to ensure we represented the Lord, in our actions and behavior. When we as teens worked on our assigned Youth Sunday as ushers, deacons, choir members, front office team, guest services, Rev. Austin helped us correct things we did not know. I remember working in the front office and it was my turn to read the church announcements and

all materials coming into the church. As I read the bulletin and cards, I read them as written not knowing what M. B. meant. By the time I said M. B. a second time, Rev. Austin said 'Missionary Baptist is what that means Angie.' I had a micro second of 'whoa', but it was just that, a micro second. He said it with love helping me understand. I thanked him and reread the card correctly saying Missionary Baptist Church. To this day those words and other areas of lessons ring correct and clear and are spoken clear and distinct.

Rev. Austin never forgot you either. In the summer of 1972 I had not been at Zion for months due to personal issues and had begun college and working. One particular day I was on my way to work and did not realize I drove passed his new home to get to work. When I parked and stepped out of my car, there was Rev. Austin. He was standing at the end of the parking lot, two blocks away from his home with his cutting shears in his hand. He said, 'is that you Angie, are you OK. I just wanted to check on you. I am here if you need me'. I replied 'yes sir, its me and I am ok, this is where I work now'. He turned and left. I will never forget that he did not forget me.

Finally, and most importantly, he never forgets your family. As we all grew up and eventually moved away, when we returned to visit our family, Zion was where we fellowshiped. We never made an announcement that we were there, but Rev. would always know we were there. He would call out to us from the pulpit, 'is that you Angie Walker, and call us each by name' and we would stand and reply, 'yes Rev. we are here'. The last time we spoke those words with Rev. was August 18, 2014 when laying our mother to rest, he was there.

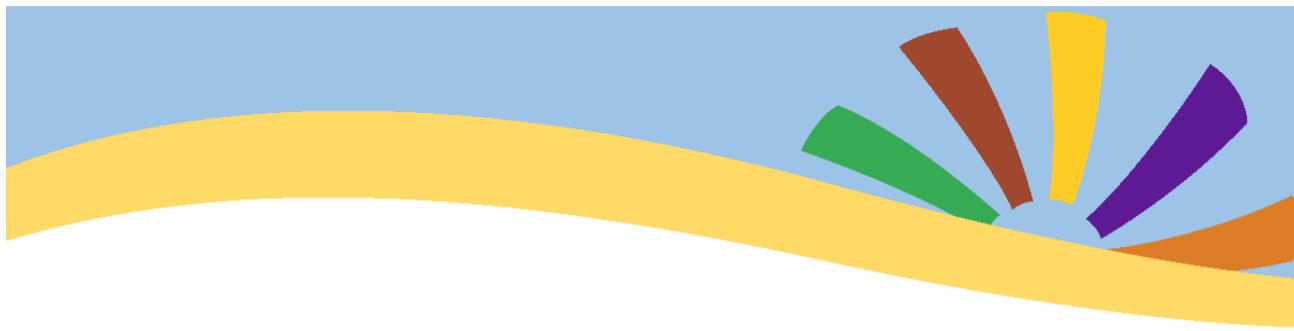
Let us never forget the discipleship of Jesus Christ, Rev. Austin was, lived and taught. Let us pick back up teaching our young and those of us that may have forgotten, its not about us, but about the blood that was shed by a man - sinless - that came to show we are not forgotten! Love your neighbor as you love yourself (Matthew 22) for we were bought with a price and made righteous unto God. (Romans 10).

Thank you Rev. Austin for living a life we all must strive to achieve. We are still here!

Loving Regards:

Angela Walker Williams, CABC/NABC, Visitation Clergy
Deacon Westbrook Walker, Jr.
Dr. Marcellus Andre Walker, M. D.
Earnestine Denise Walker, Intercessory Prayer Warrior
Demetrius Walker, Biblical Teacher/Counselor
Pastor Tameka Walker Buggs
Sean T. Gray, Professor/Coach

Calling all mothers to unite at the Moms4Peace March



M♥Ms4☺

**United in love for our children, care for our sisters,
and a desire to create peaceful communities**

Courtesy Photo

The Moms4Peace March is a collaborative effort by three Mothers;

Rev. Dr. LaCreta M. Clark, PhD - Pastor and Professor of Educational Leadership at SVSU

Noreen Warrick, JD -Attorney in Midland

Dr. Gina Wilson, EdD - Professor of Educational Leadership at CMU

“Hi LaCreta, Haley gave me your number and I know you do not know me but I feel like I know you and your family because Haley’s Facebook feed is always at the top of my Facebook so I have truly followed you and your family.”

I immediately perked up and listened.

She went on, “Well I am calling because I had an epiphany this week. My Son Daniel, who lives in Detroit, called to tell me he was attending the Detroit protest with his friends and I was so worried and demanded he text me every 30 minutes, and it occurred to me... that must be exactly what every mother feels when their children leave home., and I want to do something, I just don’t know what, so Haley told me to call you.”

As I listened to her, my heart was warmed and touched and I responded, “Yes Noreen, that is how every black Mother feels, except for the

Black Mother, they feel that every minute of everyday!”

And in that moment of hearing and feeling and sharing with one another, we recognized that common thread of a Mothers Love, and this March and group was created. And as a leader, I am keenly aware of gathering a team around you who can make things happen, and so I immediately reached out to Dr. Gina Wilson, who is a dynamic leader, an organizer GURU, a mother, and a friend beloved.

For the last several weeks since the murder of George Floyd, I had participated in protests and attended protests, yet my daily prayer was, “God manifest your Love in this horrible time of racial injustices that disproportionately kills our young black men.!” This was God’s way of answering that prayer.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6 NIV.

As a Mother of 4 Black Sons, a Pastor of 27 years, and a Professor of 19 years in this community, these words have been my mantra for raising my Sons, yet I must hurry to confess that it took the whole Saginaw County Village to help me raise my sons; the best friend Moms of my sons; the baseball Moms; the football Moms; the orchestra Moms; the adult students

I teach who were Moms; the Sistah Friends that God placed in my life...a rainbow of colors, ethnicities, cultures, social economic status, and professions...a diverse village helped me raise my sons, and the one factor that brought us all together was that Mother’s Love, and a desire and commitment to see their lives as valuable and meaningful, and I have just got to believe that that love is transformative and life changing because my sons are the product of all the Mothers who have loved them into adulthood, and it is my prayer that this March will pierce each of our hearts and give us a determined spirit to teach our own children love and to love our sisters’ children as our own. For only LOVE CAN CONQUER HATE AND FEAR, and Faith and Hope keep us marching and protesting convinced there are better days ahead.

Mothers are the first teachers and first nurturers, first arms of safety and love for our children.

Mothers wipe the tears away; render tough love when necessary; instill confidence; and cheer our children on. Mothers change the world, and in that common bond of a Mothers Love, we can find unity and peace with our white allies because it does take a village to raise our children and this common bond of love amongst Mothers should compel each of us to see that “Black Lives Matter” and are in need of Mothers who care for all of our children.

This is a clarion call to remember the Mothers who have tragically lost their children to police brutality. We honor them. This is also a clarion call to Mothers to remember that the children we raise are influenced by the talk at the dinner table; the car drive to school and practices, the living room conversations and the talk they have with their friends. It is our hope that all of us will be more conscious of what we say, how we shape them to love and care for everyone, and especially how they all should value and celebrate the beautiful diversity of our human race...one of the ways we save our children is through the collective power of a Mothers Love.



CELEBRATING
REV. DR. ROOSEVELT AUSTIN

AUGUST 17, 1926 - JUNE 11, 2020



REV. DR. ROOSEVELT AUSTIN

MY BROTHER, WE CALLED HIM (REVEREND FATHER).
HE WAS MY FIRST PASTOR. INTRODUCING ME TO A MAN NAMED JESUS.
THE FAMILY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REVEREND FATHER, HAS BEEN IN OUR LIFE FOR OVER 50 YEARS. HIS CHILDREN, AND I GROW UP TOGETHER, BEFORE I MET MY WIFE. HE TAUGHT US, EVERY-TIME WE SPOKE TO HIM. HE WAS FUNNY, TEACHING THE KINGDOM PRINCIPLES" JESUS" TAUGHT. HE GAVE ME A VISUAL PICTURE OF A "TRUE MAN OF GOD".

FATHER

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE FATHER:

HE TOOK CARE OF HIS WIFE, THE QUEEN, THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY, DR. NURAME AUSTIN.

SHOWING US MEN HOW TO BE FATHER'S. LOVING HER LIKE CHRIST LOVE THE CHURCH.

HE TAUGHT US HOW TO BE THE SPIRITUAL LEADER, PROTECTOR, AND PROTECTOR.....

ROOSEVELT JR, DONNA, DAVID, EVEN DEBRA, ARE SO BLESSED TO BE CHILDREN OF THIS GREAT MAN.

PROTECTOR, FOR HIS FAMILY, THE CHURCH FAMILY, AND THE HUMAN FAMILY IN SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

FROM SINNER'S IN THE STREET, TO GOVERNMENTAL LEADER'S. THE CITY OF SAGINAW COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON REV. AUSTIN TO LEAD THE WAY, WITH HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND REPECT.

PROVIDER.....

REVEREND FATHER, ALWAYS HAD NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR HIS. HE LIVED LIKE A KING, IN THE KINGDOM. A PROVIDER FOR SO MANY PEOPLE, SPIRITUALLY, MENTALLY, SOCIALLY, EVEN ECONOMICALLY.

HIS CONCILIATION, GAVE ME THE WISDOM, FAITH, AND LEADERSHIP TO HELP ME GIVE BIRTH TO GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE.

WHEN I HAD THE PLAN TO PURCHASE W-3 SOUL, NOW WTLZ-107.

BEING A YOUNG BLACK ENTREPRENEUR IN SAGINAW WAS NOT EASY.

IN A GENERAL MOTORS TOWN, PURCHASING A RADIO, THAT HAD NEVER BEEN DONE IN SAGINAW.

THE SCRIPTURE SAY'S ONE PLANTS, ONE WATER'S, AND GOD GIVES THE INCREASE. HE WATERED MY FAITH. HE SAID, DON YOU CAN DO THIS!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED WITH HIS HELP. WE REALLY REJOICED, WHEN I EXCEPTED MY CALLING IN THE MINISTRY. I AM A LEADER IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. EVERY TIME WE TALKED, IT WAS ABOUT HIM (JESUS).

THANK YOU REVEREND FATHER. YOU FULL-FILLED GOD PURPOSE.

WELL DONE, YOU WILL BE MISSED BY MANY PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.

MY CONDOLENCES AND PRAYS TO TNE ENTIRE AUSTIN FAMILY.

I LOVE YOU REVEREND FATHER, WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.



REST IN PEACE.
DON WIGGINS

Amid the national story, memories of Milton Hall

By Mike Thompson



Courtesy Photo

The following paragraphs are a national author's account of our everlasting Milton Hall tragic legacy. Wesley Lowery gained his info from a friend, Brittany Noble, who at the time was a reporter for Channel 25/66.

"Brittany was in her first job at a station in Saginaw, Michigan. A homeless black man, Milton Hall, had been shot and killed by police in the parking lot of a shopping plaza," Lowery writes.

"The officers responded to a 911 call about a man who had stolen a cup of coffee at a convenience store. When they arrived, they encountered Hall, who was carrying a knife, and they began to argue with him. The 49-year-old had a history of mental illness and had been living on the street.

"Eight officers reported to the scene, and they told investigators that when they arrived, Hall threatened a female officer with the knife and closed within a few feet of her. After a standoff of several minutes, the officers -- who had formed a semicircle around Hall as he staggered forward -- opened fire.

"With traffic driving past and several bystanders in the parking lot, the officers shot 47 bullets in total, with 11 of them riddling Hall's body. The shooting was caught on cell phone video and soon was playing on loop on CNN.

"Brittany recalled to me two years later, 'The community was outraged, they said they were going to protest and demonstrate and blow the whole place up if these officers didn't get indicted. And then the officers didn't get indicted, and nothing happened.' "

Lowery continues, "This story line was as common as it was hidden. A community flies into rage after a questionable police shooting, leaders hold vigils and marches, figureheads call for accountability, and then, almost as quickly as the tragedy began, it ends.

"Everyone but the grieving family moves on with their lives until the next time a radio dispatcher puts out the call: Need backup. Shots fired. Officer involved."

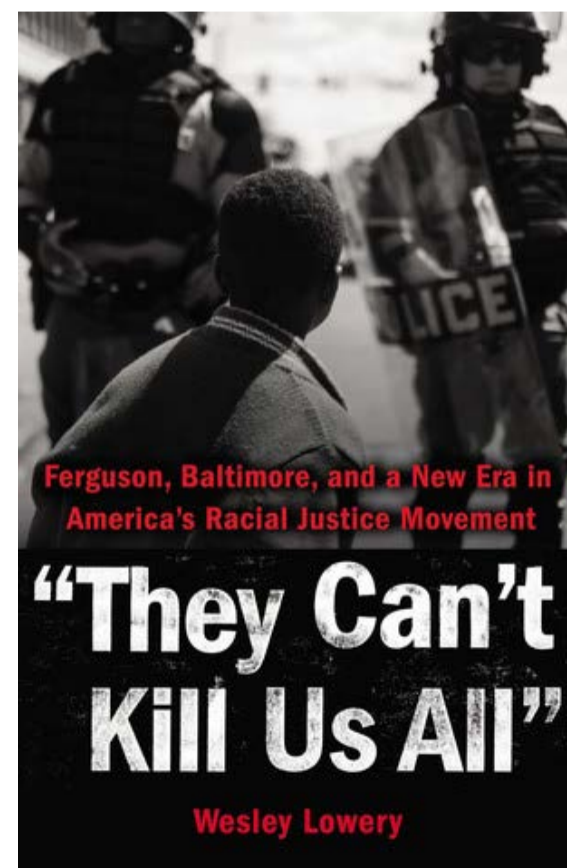
Okay, that's all. The name of the book by Wesley Lowery, of The Washington Post,

is "They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement." I was reading about these famous national killings-by-cops when all of a sudden, Page 20, little ol' Saginaw pops up.

Few of us may recall Brittany Noble, because TV25/66 does not reap the equivalent level of viewership as TV5 or TV12. And we may question the details of how she described events to Lowery. No mention of the police dog, for example, or the question of whether Milton actually had a sharp-edged weapon.

But what struck me in my reading is the description of Saginaw as just another community that didn't really follow through. Let's not allow this to repeat in the future. Plenty of care and concern has been shown in our array of local "George Floyd" demonstrations during these recent days. There will be ensuing calls for action. Be prepared to answer the bell.

Footnote: Ms. Noble is from St. Louis, and after her brief spell in Saginaw she landed a hometown job at a major station, KMOV, arriving just in time for assignment to the Michael Brown case in adjoining Ferguson.



They Can't Kill Us All by Wesley Lowery



Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin, his life speaks for itself; his life embodies his truths and values. As a long-time minister at Zion Baptist Church, a civil rights leader, a respected leader, and a great example of a family man. I know I stood on his shoulders and many more as the first Chairwomen for Saginaw County Board of Comissioner. He leaves a powerful legacy that will live on for many generations. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Bregitte Braddock



I first met Pastor Austin at a City Council meeting in 1968 or '69 that I attended with a group from Model Cities. Such a nice man. My niece said that he was the Pastor of Zion Baptist Church where she attended I joined Zion with my children and have been there since 1970. Pastor Austin was a great Family man, he and Mrs. Austin would stop over our house because he said after Mrs. Austin's, my banana pudding was "BOMBAY", whatever that meant. They would have our children over their house and David was welcome to ours. He baptized eight of my nine children and married Charles and his wife Kathy, I'll never forget when my mother died he came right over to console my children and call me in Chicago to give his condolences. He loved This Community and its people. I sincerely believe, He Did It GODS Way.

Sister, Lily Dixon



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
Matthew 5:9 New International Version (NIV)

As the long-standing spiritual leader of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Roosevelt Austin Sr. was a true leader and peacemaker. He respected the positional power of the pulpit and positively impacted the people and ministries of Zion MBC. Reverend Austin radiated a peaceful, welcoming, encouraging spirit to all he met. His leadership influence and legacy grew far beyond his devoted family and church members and flourished in the Saginaw community. He served with humility, acted as a role model among men, assured African American leaders worked together and also were bolstered in their community stewardship. Thank you, Reverend Dr. Roosevelt Austin Sr. for graciously sharing your love, your light, and your leadership with us. We are forever grateful for your strength of character and selfless contributions to your loving wife and family, to Zion Missionary Baptist Church and to the community of Saginaw. We have truly been blessed by your God given gifts, your life, and your inspiring peaceful spirit.

Kimberly R. Houston

I'm deeply saddened to hear that Reverend Austin has passed on, but happy for him. Roosevelt sr was the very embodiment of a man of the people, a pillar of the community that was respected and Loved by everyone, whether they met him or not. He often spoke of holding fast to one faith, one hope and one baptism. His grip was like iron, and so was his commitment to Saginaw. Many people who grew up during his ministry know that he motivated people by his own actions, I have run into him just as much in the street as at Zion Baptist.

Many registered voters can and will admit that it was Reverend Austin going to w3 soul and talking about the importance of making your voice be heard and your vote counted that inspired them to do exactly that. I can't tell you enough how excellent an example of a friend, father and brother he was. I'll never forget him and am honored to know him.

Demetrius Walker



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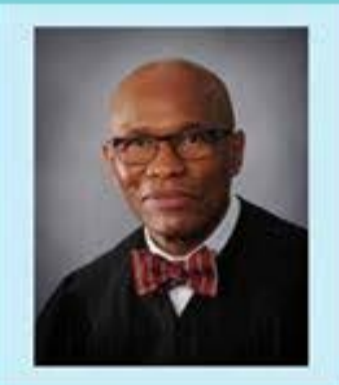


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I was saddened to learn of the loss of Reverend Dr. Roosevelt Austin. He was loved and respected by all. He was a mentor, Pastor, community elder and iconic leader. He will be greatly missed in this community as well as thru out the state.

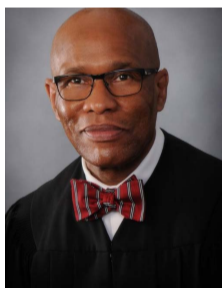
On behalf of me and my family we offer our condolences and prayers to the family, and know that you are and will remain in our prayers.

Gary Loster and Family



Death can never take a good man away such as Rev. Roosevelt Austin, for, in the hearts of the people he inspired, the legacy remains and continuous throughout generations. He was a great teacher and father to many and may his soul find eternal rest. We will forever be grateful for the impact he had on so many people in the Saginaw community. To the family, may the care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace needed to get through the days ahead and may God put him in a special place from where he will be watching us, the people who loved and cherished him, always. My deepest condolences to all of your from my family to yours.

Angelia Williams



Mrs. Austin, Dona, David, Debra, family and friends...I find myself struggling with what profound words to offer you as you try to cope now that your life has abruptly changed...this is one of those times in life where things for all of you has moved from peaceful to painful...and what does one say...Pastor Austin was a true man of God...he walked the talk...he did what the Lord required of him...he fought for justice for all in our community...he showed kindness and compassion to all...he always tried to do what was right...and he humbly walked with our God...so I say to the family and friends...in the word of God...you got an anchor...

Judge Terry L. Clark



ARISTOTLE wrote "man is at his best when he is doing his best at what he likes doing best".

Reverend Roosevelt Austin, Sr carried out this philosophy every day and it was fortified by his deep personal and civic commitment to the dignity of everyone he encountered. You didn't have to be in his congregation to either be cared for or get a talking to. I received a ton of the "care for" and only received one "talking to" in 2008 (you remember those kinds of dates and words).

To those of us young aspiring Black men in Saginaw who knew him while he helped us navigate through the corporate world we were always aware of how he traversed the road of life. He enriched the lives of many who will have a bank of memories of his leadership, achievements, and example that will live forever and will not be lost in the mists of time.

You deserve a really Good.. Goodbye dear man

**Jimmy E Greene, CEO & President
Associated Builders & Contractors, Greater Michigan Chapter
The Greater Michigan Construction Academy**

An Open Letter to Mr. & Ms. Black America

J. Bernard Harris



Courtesy Photo

Sitting here composing this brief narrative, what I'm feeling is what I will call a righteous indignation. It's not about the injustice that I as a Black Man have endured, nor about those heaped upon my race. Neither is it about a system whose life blood is founded upon the denigration, vilification of my race and whose ultimate objective is the destruction of the Black Race.

Today it is not about racial profiling, neither is it about driving while Black. Nor will I declare it is about the inequities of a system whose wealth was derived from the blood sweat and tears of a people whose contribution go unacknowledged and unrecognized in general.

Today there will be no protestation of the murder of innocent men and women of color in this nation; who are murdered by men and women who don uniforms daily who then declare their single purpose is to protect and serve. The rationale for such behavior is predicated upon some fictional imagining that people of my race are criminals or have a propensity towards criminal behavior.

At this moment in time I will not hurl accusations at the dominate group that makes it clear in behavior in practice and application. Except under extreme circumstances that shines a light upon its glaring unjust behavior towards a group of people whose loyalty to this nation is impeachable.

Moreover, I'm not lamenting how blatant our contributions to this nation are ignored (Remember Hidden Figures). Neither will I on today call on the God of all for relief. I think we have worn him out begging that he do for us what we must do for ourselves.

As I said in my preface, I'm feeling a righteous indignation at the fact that I live amongst a group of people whose response to problems that afflict us all is one of reactivity rather than proactivity. How can we turn a blind eye to the plight of a young man who has sacrificed his wealth, his fame, his stature and standing in the world of pro-athletes to bring attention to the slaughter of young black men by the police across this nation?

Today this man has not found a job, and we

are preparing to go into another season of gladiatorial combat for the masses. When what we should be saying is, we will not watch a game or buy a ticket until this young man is picked by another team and given the money he deserves along with the respect of us all that he has earned.

Could it be our relative wealth and supposed freedom has caused some of us to think we have it made. Moreover, to be free is to move about unmolested, to be free is to be able to avail one's self to any opportunity that society provides, to be free is to have the freedom to exercise your so called constitutional right to dissent whenever one feels those rights are being misapplied or tampered with.

Maybe it's our fear of reprisal that keeps us from speaking out and up when those amongst us that have the courage do so. It's not you or I today, but make no mistake we are not so far removed from yesterday, that it cannot be you or I today.

Need I remind you that going from biscuits in hand to biscuits in a can is no reason to think you have arrived; going from mule's back to Cadillacs is no reason to forget our horrific origins in this nation.

Now that we have a President that has declared that not only do Black Lives do not matter, but that he is hell bent to send us back to a time when the dominant group could beat, kick and kill you with impunity.

My premise is a simple one, in that why are we not rallying around Colin Kaepernick, the former San Francisco football player and quarterback.

Colin Kaepernick has earned our love, our trust and support.

Colin Kaepernick did what we all should be doing.

Colin Kaepernick deserves better, if we do not give it to him, he will not get it.

Colin Kaepernick is worthy of emulation.

Colin Kaepernick made a supreme sacrifice.



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Ava Lewis



I have had the pleasure and honor of knowing Pastor Austin for most of my life. He was a friend of our dad, Napoleon Lewis, Sr. They had so much in common. Both were from Louisiana and had migrated to Michigan during the 50s and 60s. My dad was a new barber and he was a young pastor when their friendship began. In the late 70s, he became my dad's pastor. This friendship deepened and became more special to both my dad and our family.

We moved to Albee Township in the early 70s, and Pastor Austin would visit often to spend time with my parents and talk about their beloved home state. My parents raised chickens and turkeys, and at Thanksgiving, they'd share some with Pastor Austin for his family and for members who may be in need at that time. It was so wonderful to sit with them as they shared stories and laughed. No one could laugh as full as Pastor Austin did. These are such special memories for me that I cherish to this day.

I was blessed to work with Pastor Austin in our Saginaw Valley Baptist District. He was our President, and later our Moderator. Pastor Austin was a great leader. He was caring, fair, and compassionate. He was visionary who always wanted the best for everyone. He led with passion and love for serving the Lord. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Psalm 37:23.

This scripture describes Pastor Austin perfectly.

In retirement, he didn't remain retired. He worked tirelessly to help fill vacant churches in the Saginaw Valley District and in our State Convention. He preached a few times at my church, and maintained a close relationship with my Pastor, Robert B. Corley, Jr.

One of Pastor Austin's many gifts was making and sustaining friendships. He never met a stranger and once you met him, he remembered, and called you friend. He cherished accomplishments and grieved with family friends in hardships and losses. He was an encourager for all who desired and strived to do better. He cared about and supported our community and our leaders in Saginaw. He believed in quality education and equal opportunity for all. He worked to accomplish these goals for Saginaw.

I am so grateful to God for Pastor Austin's presence in my life. He was an excellent Pastor, leader, friend, and mentor who extolled freely his words of wisdom and the Word of God. He was a wonderful husband to his beautiful wife, Nurame, and loving father to his children Dona, David, and the late Roosevelt Austin and his beloved widow, Debra. He is truly beloved and will be missed by all who knew him. Blessings and prayers to the Austin family.

Love,
The Lewis Family- Nelia, Albert, Deb, Ava, Alberta, and David

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I want to offer my deepest condolences on the passing of the Reverend Roosevelt Austin Sr. I recall with great fondness the many conversations I have had with Reverend Austin, which spanned the spectrum of topics – family, faith, love, community, vision, hope, etc. One cannot talk about the greatness of Saginaw without talking extensively about Reverend Austin and his efforts to better the lives of all people in our community. As husbands and fathers, we are better men because of his abiding love for family. We are better leaders because of his intentional display of love for people. We are better Christians because of his unquenchable passion for Christ. Reverend Austin will be dearly missed, but his extraordinary demonstration of love for his family, church, and community will always

be remembered.

Judge Manvel Trice III, Saginaw County Circuit Court



What might be said of a life so well lived? Perhaps that it consisted of countless words and deeds touching the lives of so many others. Pastor Austin’s life was so well lived, touching untold numbers of lives with thunderous words spoken from the pulpit and, even more often, words spoken softly to counsel, to encourage, or sometimes to console.

Mine was a life touched by his inspiration and his kindness. It began when he agreed to pray at my inauguration as president of SVSU. In the years and decades since there were moments where he offered sage advice, or an occasional “heads up,” or a shared chuckle about our human condition. And whenever we parted he would always remind me that he was praying for me, still.

So many others have their own moments and memories, their own stories, their own lessons from our Pastor.

He loved telling the story of his mystical calling to come to Saginaw. And I remember always thinking that God must love Saginaw very much to have shared His beloved Roosevelt with us.

He lives on now in our memories, and in a better place where he was surely greeted by a comforting voice saying: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Eric R. Gilbertson
SVSU Third President, 1989-2014



Our deepest condolences to the Austin family. You are at the heart of our prayers. We pray for comfort, strength, and quiet moments. Reverend Austin baptized and married us and those memories will forever live in our hearts. He was an extraordinary man and truly loved.

God Bless!

Sincerely,
Leonard & Brigitte Johnson

Planetarium offering online programming this summer



delta.edu

The Delta College Planetarium will temporarily halt public shows, exhibits and events this summer as staff members determine best safety and precautionary practices for visitors.

Mike Murray, Planetarium manager, said the building will reopen and public shows and activities will start up again in the fall.

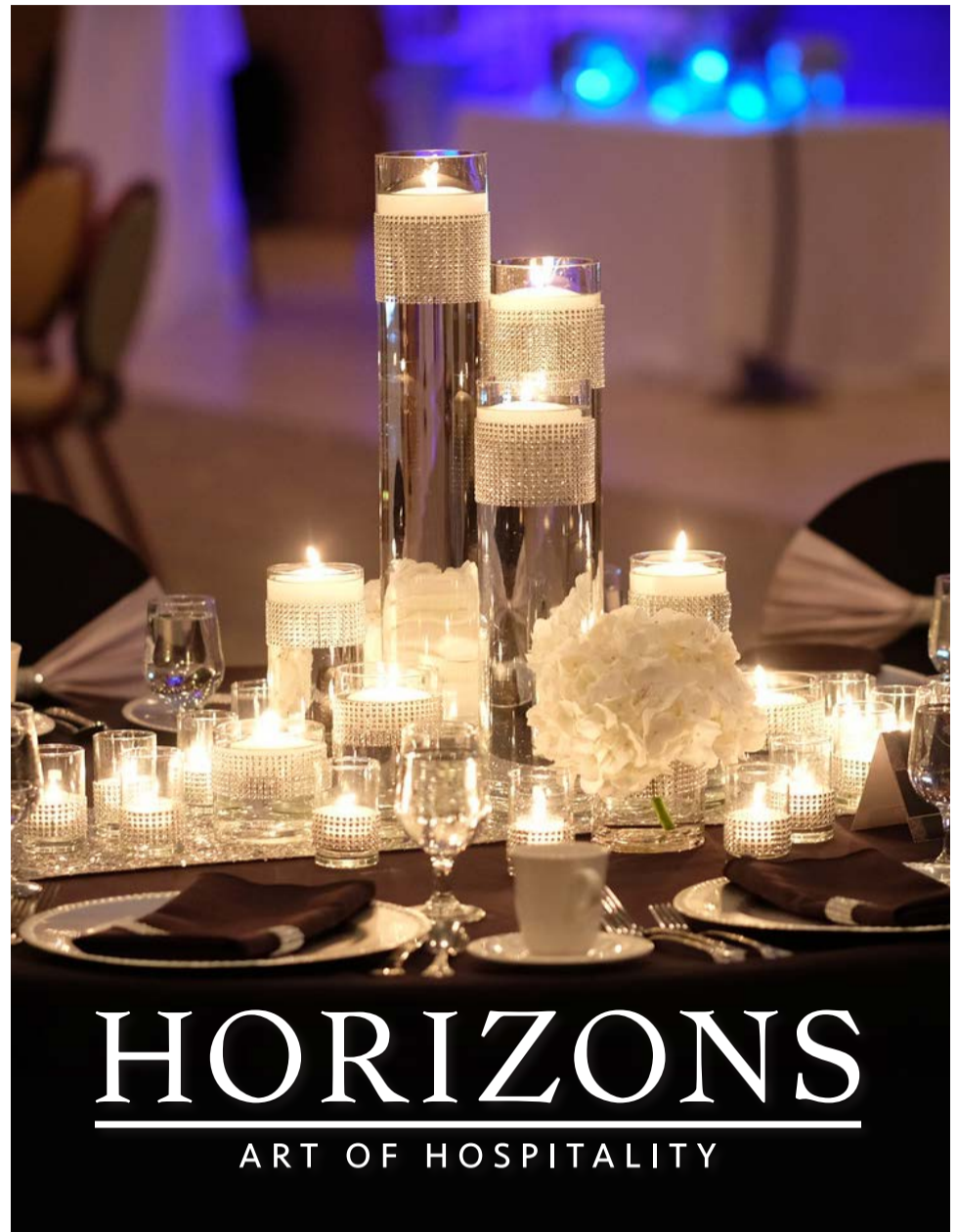
“Our intention here is to make sure the public is well informed of our safety measures so they feel comfortable coming back to the Planetarium,” said Murray. “Since closing, we’ve expanded our online services, which has allowed us to stay connected and meet new people.”

Murray is planning several special shows and online activities this summer for families, adults and K-12 teachers. Some will be recorded productions while others will invite the public to participate in livestream events. The team is also working with local schools to organize virtual field trips for elementary students, expanding to middle and high school levels in the fall.

Murray encourages people to stay connected online and on social media through weekly programs:

- **The Backyard Astronomer Podcast** - A short weekly podcast from the Delta College Planetarium about what can be seen in the night sky.
- **Delta College Planetarium YouTube Series** - Original productions by Planetarium staff, including an in-depth look at the constellations.
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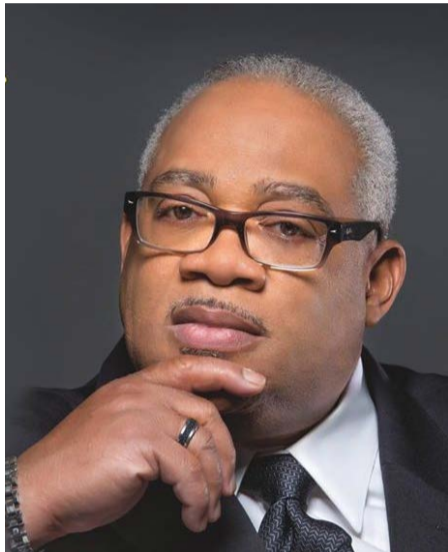
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The year was 1953. It was the year that I was born. It was the year that Rev. Roosevelt Austin moved from Louisiana to Saginaw. My father had moved from Tennessee eight years prior during the great migration of blacks to the industrial north.

My father was a gospel singer in a group with a Mo Woods. It was in the home of Mo and Miss Wilean that these two men met and developed a deep and enduring friendship.

In fact, I have always called him "DAD" Austin. He and my father were so close that he and "Mom" were considered family. Roosevelt Jr. and Hurley Jr. shared the same birthday, although he was older. Dona and I were classmates. We grew up together in Saginaw as "PK's", preachers kids.

The two men shared so much and were such iconic leaders in civic and spiritual arenas. They travelled together, spoke truth to power together, stood together through public and personal storms. They took pride in each other, their families, and their work. They were giants.

Dad Austin would always ask me, "How is my son?" He was asking about me. Then he would ask about everyone else in my family, name by name. He told everyone that "the Colemans are my family." It was such an honor to hear that.

I watched him stand for truth justice, and peace in the city. There were so many one on one meetings with he and my father. They even started looking alike, with those bushy mustaches and side burns. They had the same barber, who was my barber. After my father, Dr. H. J. Coleman, Sr. passed, Dad Austin became a primary confidant in so many ways.

There is another important point. What I am saying can, and probably should be said by so many others. We have lost a giant in our community. Rev. Roosevelt Austin defined the word "pillar" in the community. Tall, strong, enduring, faithful, consistent, trustworthy, and true. God Bless the memory of Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin, Sr.

Hurley J. Coleman Jr.
Pastor at World Outreach Campus Church



"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14: 1-3KJV

As I learned of the passing of Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Austin, Sr., a legendary, trailblazing giant in our Zion, and community, my heart was pierced, and then my hurt turned to joy, as I remembered the indelible mark he has left on thousands of lives, and, most certainly on those of us in ministry.

He was a gentle man, yet, under the anointing of Almighty God, his withering, feeble figure, in his later years, became a giant, in all of our eyes. His record speaks for itself, and his legacy will live years past even our existence, so we bow in humble submission to the mighty will of God, knowing that God does all things well! Rest in the presence of God my friend.

LaCreta M. Clark, Ph.D., Professor
Educational Leadership & Services
Saginaw Valley State University

This Father's Day

Barack Hussein Obama: Husband and Father



twitter.com/barackobama

For Fathers and all Males who have served in a caregiving-nurturing role or capacity during their lifetime, this article is in honor of you. It contains excerpts from a Father's Day speech by the man who became the 44th and first African American President of these United States. A *Man of Faith* who needs no introduction to most people around the world. This speech was given by Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill) in 2008 at the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago. (*Politico*, 2008)

Excerpt from His speech:

Good morning. It's good to be home on this Father's Day with my girls, and it's an honor to spend some time with all of you today in the house of our Lord.

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus closes by saying, "Whoever hears these words of mine, and does them, shall be likened to a wise man who built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock." [Matthew 7: 24-25]

Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important. And we are called to recognize and honor how critical every father is to that foundation. They are teachers and coaches. They are mentors and role models. They are examples of success and the men who constantly push us toward it.

But if we are honest with ourselves, we'll admit that what too many fathers also are is missing — missing from too many lives and

too many homes. They have abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men. And the foundations of our families are weaker because of it. You and I know how true this is in the African American community. We know that more than half of all black children live in single-parent households, a number that has doubled — doubled — since we were children. We know the statistics — that children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioral problems, run away from home or become teenage parents themselves. And the foundations of our community are weaker because of it.

How many times in the last year has this city lost a child at the hands of another child? How many times have our hearts stopped in the middle of the night with the sound of a gunshot or a siren? How many teenagers have we seen hanging around on street corners when they should be sitting in a classroom? How many are sitting in prison when they should be working, or at least looking for a job? How many in this generation are we willing to lose to poverty or violence or addiction? How many?

Yes, we need more cops on the street. Yes, we need fewer guns in the hands of people who shouldn't have them. Yes, we need more money for our schools, and more outstanding teachers in the classroom, and more after-school programs for our children. Yes, we need more jobs and more job training and more opportunity in our communities.

But we also need families to raise our children. We need fathers to realize that responsibility does not end at conception. We need them to realize that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child — it's the courage to raise one.

We need to help all the mothers out there who are raising these kids by themselves; the mothers who drop them off at school, go to work, pick them up in the afternoon, work another shift, get dinner, make lunches, pay

the bills, fix the house, and all the other things it takes both parents to do. So many of these women are doing a heroic job, but they need support. They need another parent. Their children need another parent. That's what keeps their foundation strong. It's what keeps the foundation of our country strong.

I know what it means to have an absent father, although my circumstances weren't as tough as they are for many young people today. Even though my father left us when I was 2 years old, and I only knew him from the letters he wrote and the stories that my family told, I was luckier than most. I grew up in Hawaii and had two wonderful grandparents from Kansas who poured everything they had into helping my mother raise my sister and me — who worked with her to teach us about love and respect and the obligations we have to one another. I screwed up more often than I should've, but I got plenty of second chances. And even though we didn't have a lot of money, scholarships gave me the opportunity to go to some of the best schools in the country. A lot of kids don't get these chances today. There is no margin for error in their lives. So, my own story is different in that way.

Still, I know the toll that being a single parent took on my mother — how she struggled at times to the pay bills; to give us the things that other kids had; to play all the roles that both parents are supposed to play. And I know the toll it took on me. So I resolved many years ago that it was my obligation to break the cycle — that if I could be anything in life, I would be a good father to my girls; that if I could give them anything, I would give them that rock — that foundation — on which to build their lives. And that would be the greatest gift I could offer.

May God Bless You and Your Children!

Speech in its entirety:
<https://www.politico.com/story/2008/06/text-of-obamas-fatherhood-speech-011094>

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LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

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Pastor Otis Washington
Phone: 989-777-2636
Fax: 989-777-2640
messiahmbc@att.net
www.messiahmsag.org



Mt. Olive Baptist Church

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Pastorbaldwin@charter.net



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989-753-7600



New Life Baptist Church

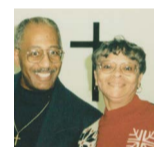
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Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.

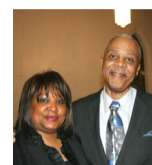
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Pastor Carl Ballard
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POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Former Genesee County Assistant Prosecutor, Former City of Flint Attorney, and Veteran US Army JAGC Officer, Trachelle C. Young Calls on Prosecutor David Leyton to Debate



courtesy photo

(Flint, MI) — On Thursday, June 4, 2020, Trachelle C. Young, candidate for Genesee County Prosecutor, called upon current Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton for a debate. The debate will be in-person with social distancing at a location to be determined or an on-line debate within the next two to three weeks. The purpose of the debate is to educate the public on their two prosecutor candidates, including their records and their plans.

In her 24 years of practicing law, Trachelle C. Young has never backed down from a challenge, which is why she is more than ready to debate with Leyton at any time and in any location. Genesee County is her home, and she is ready to take a stand — not just for herself, but for the entire community that now stands in solidarity against police brutality, profiling and the use of excessive force.

“David Leyton has been in office for the past 15 years, and his policies and practices have only contributed to mass incarceration, over-charging, unfair plea-bargaining, abuse of the cash bail system and throwing our youth away.” Young said. “That makes him part of the problem.”

Trachelle C. Young believes in the necessity of change for the future of Genesee County, and she knows that if Real Change hasn’t happened in the past 15 years with David Leyton as Genesee County Prosecutor, we can’t expect it to happen in the next four years. Young is ready to identify the issues most prevalent in the community and address them head-on, without faltering. Trachelle is determined to inspire local communities and galvanize all people.

“I’m running for Genesee County Prosecutor to ensure Equal Justice for ALL, as well as to confront and eliminate the systemic racial disparities that devastate communities of color,” Young said. “And that means bringing Accountability back to the prosecutor’s office and valuing all lives equally.”

Attorney Young suggests a potential debate format as follows:

The debate will open with each candidate having a 3-minute segment to introduce themselves and their platform. We will rotate the leading questions back and forth between each candidate. We will have 6 questions from the moderator on our agenda to guide our debate. Each candidate will be able to respond fully to each question from the moderator without interruptions from the other candidate (2 minutes or less). Once each candidate has been given their time to respond, there will be an opportunity for a noticeably short rebuttal by the opposing candidate.

We will allow an additional 4 questions from the media for each candidate to respond (2 minutes or less). 4 questions from the audience in attendance for each candidate to respond (2 minutes or less). The debate will conclude with each candidate having three minutes for closing remarks. The duration of the debate will approximately be 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Commitment. Integrity. Respect. Honesty.
Trachelle C. Young for Genesee County Prosecutor.

To learn more, please visit, www.youngforprosecutor.com.



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I believe public service is a responsibility that we all share, and we should all be willing to contribute our time and best effort toward the well-being of the community in which we live, work and play.



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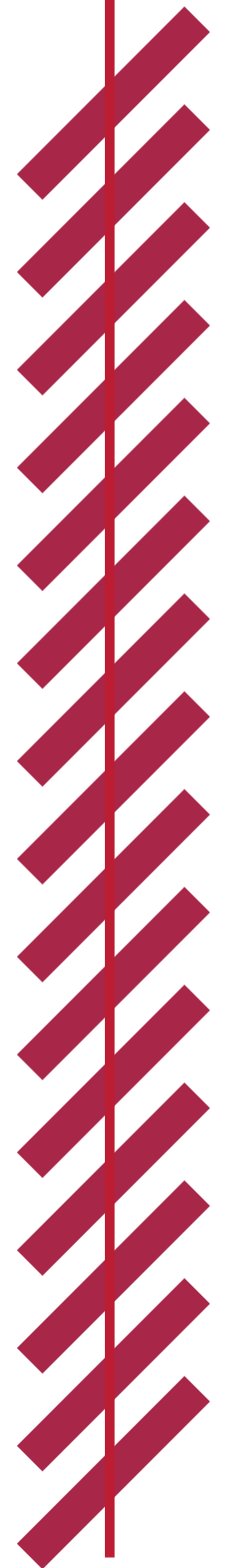
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PICS OF THE WEEK

Protestors gather at a peaceful rally on June 5 to stand in solidarity with Minneapolis and against police brutality.



Photos by Sunny Kim

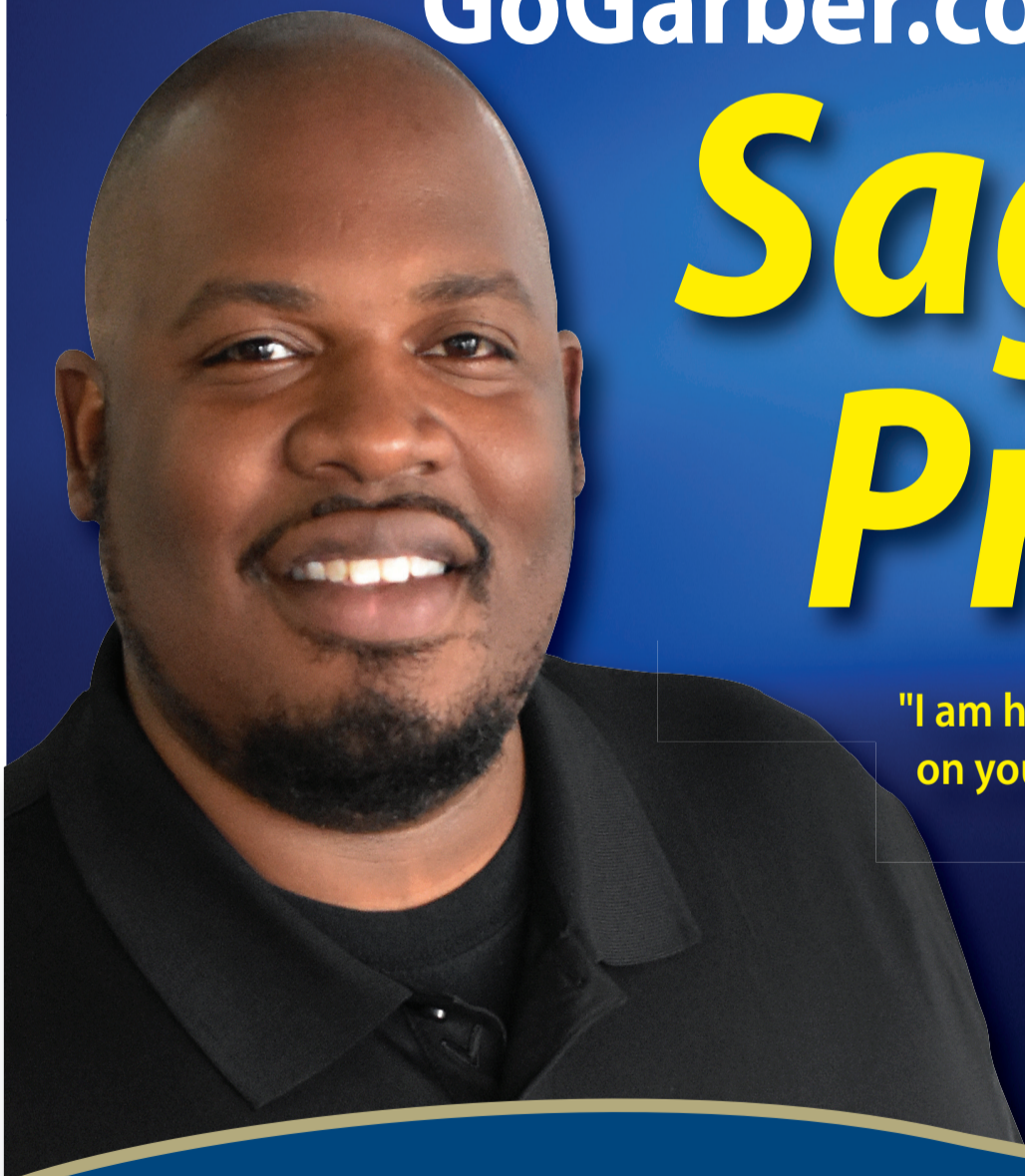
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*Brittany Saunders is ready to pay it forward. The Chicago native enrolled at SVSU with ambitions to pursue a teaching career. Brittany was encouraged and invigorated by other passionate educators who worked closely with her to ensure she would accomplish her goals. And she is. Even before she was set to graduate, Brittany could boast a résumé with a paid internship in a school district along with K-12 classroom experience. **Now she can't wait to begin a professional career, inspiring students with the same kind of one-on-one attention she received from her professors at SVSU.***



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