



**RECOGNIZING AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

**SPORTS**



**DELTA COLLEGE  
BASKETBALL  
COACH JESSICA  
PEATROSS**

**RECEIVES 2021 MCAA  
NORTH CONFERENCE  
WOMEN'S POST-SEASON  
COACH OF THE YEAR**

SPORTS, PG 54



VERA MCMILLION

# Her children shall rise up and call her blessed

**By PASTOR CAROLYN  
L. WILKINS**  
RESURRECTION LIFE  
MINISTRIES FULL  
GOSPEL BAPTIST  
CHURCH

JAFRA's Skincare and Beauty Cosmetics offered its 600,000 beauty consultants an opportunity to submit an article about a woman they appreciated and admired during Women's History Month Celebration. These articles were read and streamlined by JAFRA

company officials and featured on the company's website Beauty Scene section.

This opportunity overwhelmed my heart, and I chose to write about a woman I deem the epitome of strength, dignity, courage, and resilience-- my mother. JAFRA notified me that my article was among three others to be featured on its digital platform/website.

You see, my mama's story tells a true story of motherhood along with other real/great mothers. It is the essence of who God designed mothers to

**CONTINUES ON PG 2, VERA MCMILLION**

**From legal aid to  
deacon aid, an  
advocate advances**

LATINO BANNER, PG 4

**Consumers  
delivers more than  
essential heat and  
light**

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Show Resilience**

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requires not only  
opinions, but  
action**

COMMUNITY, PG 28

**FEATURED STORY**

**HURLEY  
COLEMAN III**  
LEADS SAGINAW CAC

COMMUNITY, PG 15



## Cover, Vera McMillion



COURTESY PHOTO

be and defines their identity and God's divine order and purpose for mothers. We are so proud of our Saginaw mother (Rev. Willie R. Hill, Jr., and Carmen D. Hill whose story was chosen from JAFRA's National and International entries.

### A Saginaw Woman Saluted

Women's History Month gives us the opportunity to celebrate every woman from all walks of life who have contributed in shaping our homes, education, labor, businesses, corporations, government, military and public service selflessly above and beyond.

It is an honor and privilege to share the Jafra digital platform celebrating Women's History Month. The empowerment of women has made it possible to celebrate leading women of Jafra, as well as, an honorable salute to our President Judith Sanchez.

The words used in her March action message to consultants describe her as an amazing, unstoppable, fierce and a committed leader of excellence and quality. "One Heart, One Jafra"...a powerful theme empowering the careers and businesses of women with consistent vision, provision inspiration and committed leadership!

While reflecting on President Sanchez comments and leadership, I couldn't help but think of another strong woman who occupy a constant

presence in my life. That person is non other than my beautiful mother, Vera McMillion. Her 86 years on earth have come with many achievements... great and small..but certainly worthy of recognition, especially so as we celebrate 2021 Women's History month. Her achievements and accomplishments speak gallantly and brilliantly of her character, integrity, effort, time and dignity of one who should be acknowledged in her reign as a mother, grandmother, friend, confidant, and as a steadfast Disciple of Jesus Christ and his teachings.

Vera McMillion, was born in Benoit, Mississippi and currently lives in Saginaw, Michigan. She was born the 10th child and first girl of seventeen children. She was reared by loving parents who provided strong family virtues and values, enabling her and her siblings to incorporate into their lives a firm foundation that was built on love, hard work, and a commitment the teachings of the Bible. She prides a quote from her father: "Always work and you won't have to stoop." This quote has been an instrumental guide in every aspect of her life.

"Real mothers" do the work of raising and nurturing their children out of love, respect, responsibility and duty. Mama, is a stick and stay mom with vision and purpose for her children first and foremost. I honor her teachings and advancement in life as she continues growing and setting positive example and standards, despite the roadblocks of divorce, singleness,

racial prejudice, segregation, the absence of civil rights, redlining and other ills that she managed to confront and conquer.

My mother is a woman of faith who taught me faith, love, hope and how to appreciate being a woman with class and style. She educated me, protected me, disciplined me and exposed me to what was necessary, good, and profitable for my life and my siblings.

Her Accomplishments: State of Michigan Licensed Day Care facility, Licensed Cosmetologist/Skincare Instructor, Proprietor of Modernette Beauty Salon, Housewife, Church congregant, Zion MBC/Mt. Nebo, High School Graduate (return student), Delta College, Chef (home-cooked meals), factory laborer, educator, teacher, Direct Sales Representative for Avon.

Her influence in life has been shared with many young women and children as lessons and words from the wise. Her intelligence, beauty, glamour, and strength, shall forever be treasured and practiced as a standard for all of her daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters. "You are as much as anyone stand tall." Mom

Many daughters (women) have done noble things, and well but you (Mama) excelled in them all as our Queen. As the fruit of her labor Vera's daughter rise to call her a blessed and Phenomenal Woman!

**MICHIGAN BANNER**

301 E Genesee Ave, Suite 201B  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989.992.2600  
publisher022@gmail.com

**CEO/COO**

Jerome Buckley  
publisher022@gmail.com

**PUBLISHER**

Jerome Buckley, Jr.

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Michelle McCoy  
editor@michiganbanner.org

**EDITOR EMERITUS**

Rae Lynn Buckley

**THE LATINO BANNER**

**PUBLISHER**

Jerome Buckley  
thelatinobanner@gmail.com

**OMBUDSMAN**

Elaine Gregory McKenzie

**MISSION**

The Michigan Banner, Latino Banner and Youth 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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2 weeks before each publication date of the 1st and 16th of each month

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Mailed or e-mailed  
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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<b>7:30 PM EST</b>	~ VIRTUAL via Zoom ~ Access Link & Experience Packet Emailed upon registration

*Suggested Attire: Glitzy Friday Night Chic*

Tickets Available on Eventbrite or from Any Tri-City Links Member

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

# True leaders will follow true leaders

I was recently informed by a faithful reader of the Michigan Banner that he really appreciates the consistent focus placed on leadership in the paper. He respects and values good leadership and wondered why I address the topic on such a regular basis. I admit that it caught me a bit off guard. It had not been an intentional endeavor, however recognizing that the growth and development of any community hinges on the quality of its leaders, I have been compelled to provide insight on the subject through the successes and challenges of leaders both locally and afar. By the way, since I know that you will be reading this, I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your patronage and your consistent 'likes and shares' of the digital version of paper.

Good leadership provides guidance, direction, and governance in one's areas of expertise. I would not begin to offer professional tips or instruction to a surgeon. That could not possibly end well for the patient. I could, however, very comfortably offer insight into marketing strategies to a young entrepreneur interested in launching a digital or hard copy publication. I have experienced the challenges and successes of both, and a willing apprentice would learn from both. As a good leader, however I must be willing to learn from the apprentice – he will almost certainly have mastered useful technology that did not even exist when I started this business decades ago. This is a very important attribute that true leaders must possess – the willingness to learn from others.

We have become so arrogant in our thinking that we close doors of opportunity on anyone who appears even slightly different than the mold we are accustomed to. For example, the person is too old to understand, they are not from the area – they do not really know Saginaw, we have always used men to do this, different faith/religion, they have not been in the game long enough to be promoted, I just do not like them... the list goes on and on. Imagine the numbers of amazing and talented individuals who have not been invited to the table for any one or combination of these unfortunate obstacles to success. Let us unpack just a few of these invisible hurdles: they are too old – we are in desperate need of wisdom; they are not from the area – might bring new and proven effective ideas if given the chance; we have always used men to do this – Shirley Chisolm said during a Presidential run decades ago, 'At present, our country needs women's idealism and determination, perhaps more in politics than anywhere else.' Perhaps we should have listened?

Lastly, community development which will enhance the safety, health, and well-being of all will require leadership from across the spectrum. All the way from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who said, 'Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend'; to General Colin Powell who said, 'Giving back involves a certain amount of giving up'; to Malcolm X who very forcefully stated, '...by any means necessary', and to all the voices in between – it will take leaders willing to listen and learn from unlikely allies if we are to leave a legacy of hope for next generations. Good leaders will follow good leaders even when they don't necessarily fit the mold.

**If you don't happen to it, it will happen to you.**



Jerome Buckley  
Publisher, Michigan Banner



# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA  
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE



LIBRADO GAYTON

## From legal aid to deacon aid, an advocate advances

LB, pg 4



Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

## SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

April 28, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m



## Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to host Virtual Sustainability Summit

By MB STAFF

The MHCC Virtual Sustainability Summit is designed to introduce business owners and leaders to a variety of environmental and social topics to support greater Sustainability within your organization and provide you with resources and information to help guide you along your sustainability journey. You'll hear from business leaders in the banking, automotive, food and beverage, construction, energy, and apparel industries. You'll walk away with nuggets of information and resources you can utilize and build upon as a conscientious and

trusted supplier, no matter the industry you serve or where you find your business in the greater supply chain.

You will have the opportunity to be a part of break-out sessions focused on specific sustainability topics, with direct interaction with industry leading professionals and conversations among your peers, as you expand and strengthen your business network across different industries. So, join us and learn how you can start addressing different aspects of sustainability within your organization or what might be next on the horizon for you as you seek to develop and grow your company culture of sustainability.

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS



By ØSCAR MEDINA

Critical race theory, often referred to as “CRT,” is a framework that grew out of the legal field in the 1970s as a way to center race and use race as an analytical tool. Some founders in the movement include Derrick Bell, Richard Delgado, Kimberlé Crenshaw, just to name a few. Successfully, it began a conversation on the importance of race and highlighted racial injustices. Its powerful framework splintered into different fields like sociology, anthropology, education, philosophy, and others. While some scholars adhere to multiple CRT tenets that might not align with all disciplines that use CRT, there are tenets that are generally followed in many fields. These include the following:

1. Racial realism: the notion that racism is permanent and that peaks of progress, like *Brown v. Board*, are an illusion of progress
2. Challenging dominant ideologies like ideas of objectivity, meritocracy, colorblindness, and meritocracy
3. Whiteness as property: the notion that people who fall under the category of whiteness have benefits and privileges

4. Experiential knowledge: the idea that stories of communities of color are marginalized and not heard. Far too often, their stories are distorted by the dominant groups
5. Commitment to social justice attempts to eliminate racial and other forms of oppression like sexism and classism. Praxis (Theory and Practice) is central to this commitment

If interested in CRT, I would highly recommend Richard Delgado and Jean Stafancic’s *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*. This book is accessible and easy to understand. The authors do not try to peacock.

Because of CRT’s momentum in and outside universities, the previous administration views CRT as a threat. To curb CRT’s aim in social justice, the previous administration took two key actions. On September 4th, 2020, the first was a memorandum to “cease and desist from using taxpayer dollars to fund... un-American propaganda [diversity] training sessions,” including CRT. The second, Executive Order 13950 on September 22nd, was titled *Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping*. It attempted to ban race and sex stereotyping

or scapegoating material in the federal workforce and any field that receives grants from the federal government. For more information on these two key actions, see <https://www.nas.org/blogs/statement/trump-orders-no-federal-funding-for-crt-and-racesex-stereotyping>. The previous administration’s attempt to stop CRT should make it clear just how vital CRT is in social justice efforts.

CRT is crucial because it equips people to identify, analyze, and combat injustices in their daily lives. To help various oppressed groups, CRT has morphed into different frameworks that help combat injustices to specific marginalized groups. For instance, AsianCrit has tenets similar to CRT but are more aligned with Asians and their communities. Similarly, TribalCrit focuses on Native American communities, QueerCrit focuses on LGBTQ communities, and LatCrit focuses on Latina/o/x communities.

Through LatCrit, scholars help address the specific experiences that Latina/o/x communities encounter, like discrimination based on language, ethnicity, culture, and immigration status. Based on all the injustices that are happening, CRT and its other morphed frameworks help combat the present and future injustices that are yet to come.

While CRT comes from universities, it’s essential to branch out, teach it, and apply it outside the university. Keeping it in universities can be difficult for people who don’t interact with or in universities to know CRT.

In efforts to apply CRT in your daily life, look at the following questions:

- While racial realism is pessimistic and argues the racism is permanent because peaks of progress are illusionary, do you agree or disagree? Why? Can you think of an example that validates your claim? (Hint: see Michele Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. Or the Netflix documentary *13th*)
- Thinking about CRT as a tool to help illuminate injustice in our society, why do you think the previous administration enacted the two key actions to take out CRT?
- To help address various forms of oppression, CRT has morphed into other frameworks. Besides AsianCrit, QueerCrit, TribalCrit, and LatCrit, can you think of other frameworks needed to help combat injustices?
- Can you apply any CRT tenets to the last movie you saw? If so, how?
- Would you add any tenets to the CRT list above? If so, what?

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# From legal aid to deacon aid, an advocate advances

By MIKE THOMPSON

Deacon Librado Gayton's official title as Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Saginaw is less than one year old, but he says a lifetime of service is his keystone.

Mid-Michigan residents, especially in Saginaw and Bay counties, may recall his work with UAW Legal Services from 1983 to 2017, and some may know of his background with a Texas family that headed to the Upper Midwest 50 years ago in hopes of a better life, even if they had to begin with migrant work.

"The Catholic church is for everybody," he states, and then follows with a question: "What can the church do to be more inclusive?"

His pursuit of answers has been largely short-circuited during the onset of the covid onslaught, but Gayton creatively turned the obstacle into an outreach advantage. He helped to organize registrations and then vaccinations at St. Joseph Church, a mainstay for Latinos and his family's personal home parish.

"We all know that minority communities have been underserved during the pandemic, and so this was one way to take direct action," he explains.

Gayton grew up "a cradle Catholic" in a rural area near Killeen, Texas, a town of 140,000 between the state capitol of Austin, to the south, and to the north, Dallas/Fort Worth. Luciano Gayton worked as a barber and his wife, Elizabeth, became a beautician in efforts to supplement farmworker income for supporting Librado and his five siblings, but hard times caused them to head for the upper Midwest. They eventually settled in the Indiana northern-border town of New Carlisle, near South Bend.



LIBRADO GAYTON

Despite the hardships, Librado had always been the family's top student, with his parents encouraging him from first grade onward that he was destined to become a lawyer. He graduated with honors from New Prairie High School. His good grades and his Mexican-American ethnic status, combined with his parents' links with Catholic staffers at a migrant camp within the Detroit diocese, helped him earn tuition grants and work-study assistance at Michigan State University where he majored in humanities pre-law, and then also to Notre Dame for his law degree. He also worked his way, such as campus dormitory resident advisor during undergrad semesters and as a legal intern assisting migrant farmworkers during law school.

At MSU, Librado had the good fortune to encounter the co-ed Christina Anaya. They became a couple, even while Librado explained that he never had heard of her hometown except for Simon & Garfunkel singing, "It took me four days to hitchhike from Sag-i-naw". They wedded during their college years.

Christina pursued her own career as a school teacher, eventually achieving a master's degree in education and serving in an array of capacities, including at SS. Peter & Paul and then at her lifelong parish, St. Joe's.

At the same time, she accepted and supported the fact that her husband wasn't in it to make money. The sting of Texas racism, followed by involvement in Chicano student groups at Michigan State, was embedded in his zeal for justice and civil rights.

Once in Saginaw, they settled into a then-rural home on Mackinaw Road just north of Shattuck, focusing on their three children, followed by four grandchildren. Librado credits

Christina with inspiring his "adult conversion" to faith during the 1970s and his growing involvement thereafter in church ministries.

Throughout his career, Gayton always saw himself helping others, whether it was migrant farmworkers, community-based legal services, dealing with employment issues or assisting families with life's legal concerns. For him, he was just doing his job, but for others, he helped with their immigration procedures, with their eviction matters, with their job-related problems, with disability and death of family members, and many other similar matters. For his clients, Librado was doing things that impacted their lives. Moving from the active practice of lawyering to full-time ministry, took his vision to the next level, but for Gayton, he is still helping other people and impacting their lives.

He recalls helping out a homeowner by taking over their home property damage insurance claim after it had been dismissed by the assigned judge on a technicality. The entire home had been damaged and was almost a total loss. He prepared successive appeals in the case, all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court, and eventually won the right to a trial on the merits. The case was tried before a jury that awarded substantial monetary damages for all the damages to the home, plus years of interest. It was a long-fought claim which helped a homeowner reap the rightful benefits of paying for homeowner insurance.

However, just as Librado was transitioning full-time into a deacon's role that would lead to his current Diocese of Saginaw position, his loyal and loving spouse of 43 years passed away shortly before Christmas 2018. He relied more than ever on faith.

"One day I hope to join Christina, but Our Lady revealed to me that it was not my time yet," he reflects. "Until then, the Lord sends each of us to continue in His ministry."

Librado says his current role will expand to include, not only Hispanic Ministry, but to also expand to include African-Americans, and other ethnic groups that the Catholic Church needs to evangelize and include in its faith life.

"In our multicultural society, we need to see who in our community is missing from our table," he says. "In today's current environment in Mid-Michigan, we may need to expand to those of African American, Asian American and American Indian heritage."

Librado Gayton may be reached via his office, 989-791-6646, or his email, lgayton@dioceseofsaginaw.org.



# COMMUNITY BOARD

Submit your **announcements** and **events** at [michiganbanner.org](http://michiganbanner.org)



## ***¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS AND THE BIG LEAGUES***

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## + COMMUNITY

# The color of autism

By MB STAFF

A 2020 study led by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine found that Black children with ASD were diagnosed an average of three years after their parents brought concerns to a medical professional's attention. Within the past thirty years, health care professionals began using ASD to describe a broad range of developmental conditions that involve challenges with speech and nonverbal communication, social interaction and restricted or repetitive behaviors. The symptoms of ASD can look different from person to person.

The study found delays in diagnosis are greater on average for Black children. Latino children are more likely to have an incorrect or incomplete diagnosis before receiving a definite ASD diagnosis. These delays are often paired with poverty, poor health care coverage and limited resources to support managing symptoms. John N. Constantino, M.D. is the study's lead author and director of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. In a video summary of a paper titled, "Timing of the Diagnosis of Autism in African American Children," Constantino stated: "These delays are believed to play a significant role in an even more serious health disparity which involves the proportion of children with autism who additionally are affected by intellectual disability".

In the study, researchers analyzed data on 584 Black children with autism diagnoses. Nearly 36% of parents reported a significant wait time to see an appropriate health care professional after sharing

initial concerns and 42% of families saw multiple professionals while seeking a diagnosis. Fourteen percent of families saw at least six professionals before receiving a diagnosis. Though autism can be reliably diagnosed as early as 24-months, the children in this study were diagnosed on average at 65 months. The study showed no link between family income, mother's education or premature birth, factors that are often associated with later developmental challenges. Children with a delayed diagnosis miss ASD-specific, age-appropriate care and early chances to improve their social and cognitive skills. Constantino continued, "This is a very serious outcome, and we're talking about very serious numbers of people affected by this."

Authors of a related commentary on structural racism and autism note that significant racial inequities exist in access to services for youth with ASD. Though it is not entirely clear why Black and Latinx children experience a delay in diagnoses, Sarabeth Broder-Fingert of Boston Medical Center and colleagues suggest racial prejudice plays a role. They recommend changes to the diagnosis process, including revision to Medicaid reimbursement rates for ASD diagnosis, rethinking restrictions on who is qualified to make a diagnosis, increasing compliance with evidence-based practices for autism screening and diagnosis, and ensuring that the health professions workforce is reflective of the diverse communities they serve.

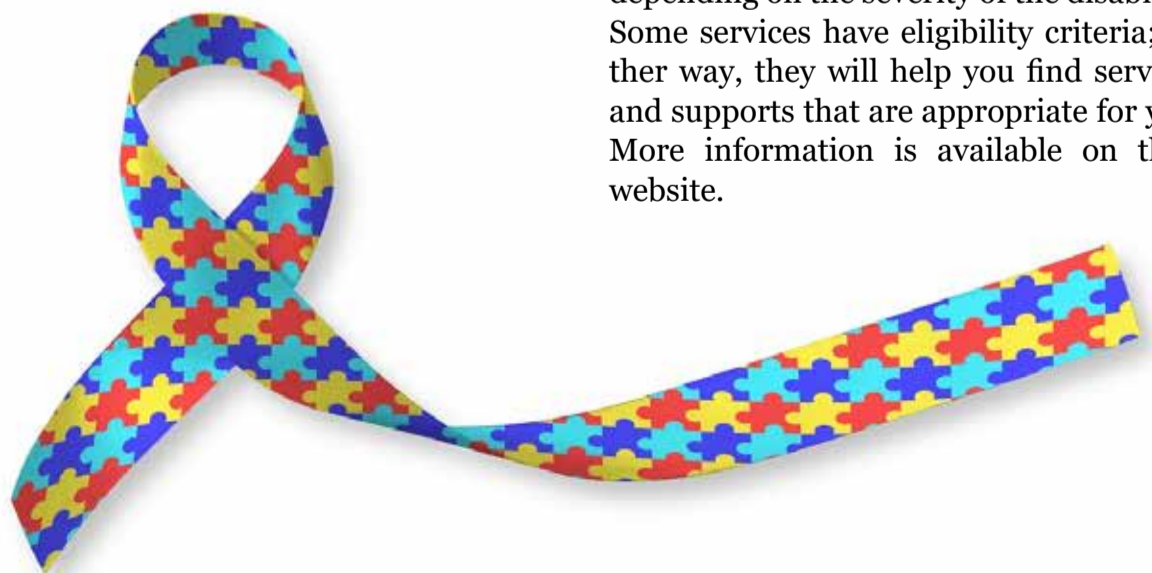
Past advocacy for Black children with ASD has produced some success, however. For example, in March 2020 research by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention found identical prevalence of ASD across Black and white children. This finding indicates that bias against children of color resulting in misdiagnosis of ASD might be resolved through enhanced awareness and training. Unfortunately, ASD prevalence for Latinx children still lags behind that of other groups suggesting continued limitations in the diagnosis process.

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests developmental screenings for infants at their regular 9, 18 and 30-month wellness visits, with specific screening for ASD at 18 and 24 months. Symptoms for autism are often present by 18 months. Early signs can vary widely, but may include a child avoiding eye contact, taking little interest in other children or caregivers, limited verbal or nonverbal interaction, unusual frustration with minor changes in routine. A 24-month-old can be accurately diagnosed by the appropriate healthcare professional.

The ASD awareness ribbon is decorated with multicolored jigsaw puzzle pieces. Locally, Saginaw County Community Mental Health continues to advocate and serve children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Statewide, the Autism Alliance of Michigan hosts fundraising and engagement opportunities. More information is available on their website: [autismallianceofmichigan.org](http://autismallianceofmichigan.org).

Autism Spectrum Disorder Services: Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority and its partner organizations offer services for a child with autism and other developmental disorders, depending on the severity of the disability. Some services have eligibility criteria; either way, they will help you find services and supports that are appropriate for you. More information is available on their website.



## + COMMUNITY

## Jolt Credit Union provides \$8,000 in support to local restaurants & coffee shops

Saginaw, MI – Jolt Credit Union saw their local restaurants and coffee shops being rocked by the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis and wanted to help so they went “all in” by creating a campaign called “Get Lucky”. Jolt’s staff headed out to local restaurants and coffee shops in Saginaw, Bay City and Midland and purchased 260 gift cards totally \$5,450! Partnering with Cumulus Media, a text messaging promotion was used to distribute them to lucky winners over a ten-day period in March. During the workweek, listeners tuned in three times a day to 102.5 WIOG, the Hit Music Channel, Z93...The Rock Station!, Wheelz 104.5 Classic Rock That REALLY Rocks! & My 96.1 – WHNN to hear the keyword they needed to text to enter the contest. “Jolt Credit Union loves our community and our community loves them.

Their initiative helped out not only by buying gift cards, but they also created a buzz by giving local restaurants and coffee shops a lot of exposure. We can’t thank them enough,” commented Dave Dittenbur, CEO of Old City Hall and Tavern 101in Bay City and Molasses Smokehouse in Midland.

In addition, during this time Jolt purchased lunch from Dawn of a New Day for the Saginaw County Health Department’s vaccination team working the drive-thru at the Dow Event Center and treated their entire staff to lunch at their favorite local restaurant. Bridget Staffileno, Vice President of Community Affairs for Jolt Credit Union said, “Our local restaurants and coffee shops represent the heart of community. Jolt understands the importance of not only their economic impact but the great

memories that we have at them. Between buying the gift cards, lunch for the vaccination team and lunch for the staff at Jolt, we gave an \$8,000 “jolt” to help the community, and we think that’s really cool.”

Jolt is a member-focused and community active Credit Union who has been helping members build stronger, happier lives for over 60 years with easy-to-use banking tools.

Visit [https://youtu.be/s5g6r3\\_OFfQ](https://youtu.be/s5g6r3_OFfQ) to view a video of the pictures we took while purchasing the gift cards.



## STARS temporarily suspending rides to wellness services due to Covid

Saginaw, MI – Effective tomorrow, Thursday, April 15th, STARS Rides to Wellness services will be temporarily suspended due to a Covid outbreak, and will reopen on Thursday, April 29th.

Mainline City bus routes and LIFT services will continue as scheduled, although these services are running on limited hours due to the pandemic.

“We had a sudden surge of Covid among staff in one of our departments, so in the interest of public safety, I’ve decided to hit ‘pause’ in that department,” said Executive Director Glenn Steffens.

Rides to Wellness Passengers are not believed to be at risk of exposure, but STARS is directly reaching out to any passengers who may have ridden with affected drivers.

For the latest service information, visit [www.saginaw-stars.com](http://www.saginaw-stars.com).



STARS

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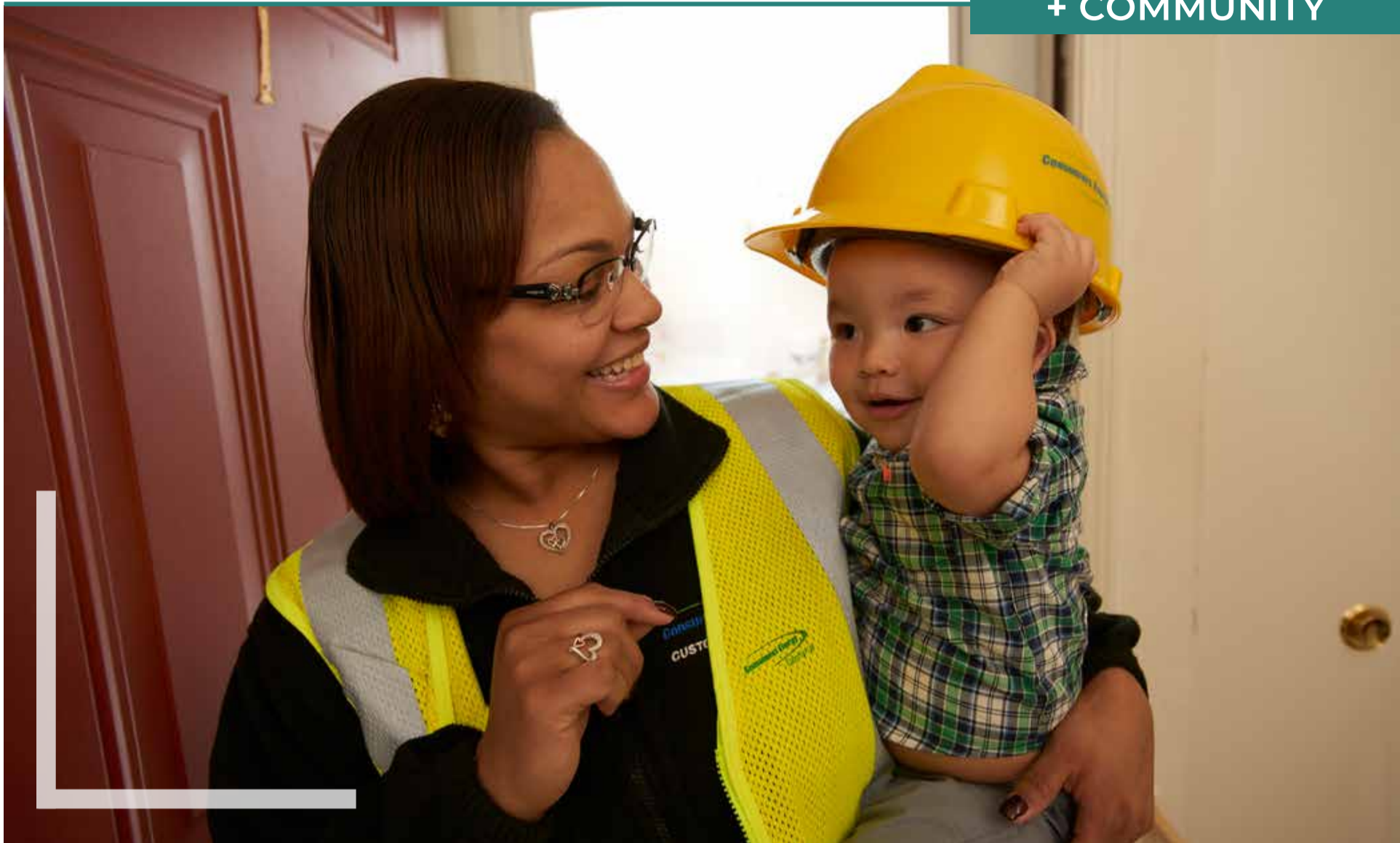
**SAT MAY 22 2021**  
**12pm - 3pm**

Rally begins at Saginaw High School (3100 Webber St, Saginaw, MI) as we march to Greater Love Ministries (3829 Lamson St, Saginaw) for conference and real life testimonies.

Its time we end the silent cry and speak out about domestic violence!

For more info please contact Jeannie- Castell Morris 989.392.4911

## + COMMUNITY



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# Beyond Energy

## *Consumers Energy delivers more than essential heat and light to Great Lakes Bay Region*

In 2020, Consumers Energy went from bringing essential heat and light to Michigan homes and businesses to delivering an extra dose of much-needed hope that connected communities and kept neighbors safe.

While that commitment and care continues into 2021, Michigan's largest energy provider also is moving forward with breakthrough diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and a transformational Clean Energy Plan to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

The company's commitment has not wavered during a time of crisis. In the last five years, Consumers Energy, its employ-

ees and the Consumers Energy Foundation have contributed \$2.8 million to the Great Lakes Bay Region. Since the beginning of the pandemic, that includes more than \$650,000 in support of COVID-19, flood relief and social justice issues.

Now more than ever, the safety and health of communities in the Great Lakes Bay Region remains a top priority as the company focuses on people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity.

Before the pandemic, Consumers Energy received the Saginaw County 2018 Corporate Community Service Award for its philanthropic work and foundation funding. The company was recently recog-

nized with the 2020 Great Lakes Bay Regional Chamber Summit Community Hero – Corporate Achievement Award.

"Consumers Energy is one of the premier companies in Saginaw County, this region and across Michigan," said Veronica Horn, Saginaw Chamber President. "When the COVID-19 crisis hit a year ago, Consumers was at the forefront of reaching out to assist small business and our Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce community."

CONTINUES ON PG 14, CONSUMERS

## + COMMUNITY

## Continued from pg 13, consumers



“In addition, when Saginaw and Midland Counties saw the major breach of dams, homeowners and businesses were destroyed. Consumers immediately responded with financial assistance for those affected. We are eternally grateful for all they do in Saginaw County and our Great Lakes Bay Region. Their efforts go well beyond financial; however, this was a generous contribution to helping us. They are a true part of our Saginaw County Community!”

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis and in the aftermath of the region’s historic flooding, Consumers Energy remains committed to providing safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

The company is caring for its hometown communities during these difficult times by financially helping businesses to stay afloat, working with its most vulnerable customers to keep their power on and partnering with nonprofits to meet some of the most urgent and critical needs.

“Midland had the doubled impact of the COVID pandemic and the flood,” says Nicole Wilson, vice president of economic development for the Midland Business Alliance (MBA). “Our businesses were already hurting from the shutdown and were then hit with the failure of two dams. Our community first-responders evacuated 10,000 people with no loss of life.”

“The local disaster response was incredible. Consumers Energy, state and local emergency operations and support agencies were all hands on deck and supported response efforts in many ways including vital infrastructure support, supplying goods and other services.”

### Caring for Communities

The Consumers Energy Foundation provided \$5.4 million in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and

remains active in 2021. The company partnered with local economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, nonprofits and others to meet the emerging needs of Michiganders and help power the economy.

In addition, Consumers Energy offered \$15 million in direct assistance to help residential and small business customers with bills if they were affected by the pandemic.

Here are a few areas where Consumers Energy is offering meaningful and immediate help during the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the once-in-lifetime flood. In 2020 alone, the company provided the following support in the region:

- Partnering with 2-1-1 and other nonprofit agencies to help customers get energy bill assistance and meet other needs.
- Customizing energy bill payment plans and providing personalized payment solutions to help bridge the gap until the pandemic subsides.
- Providing new business opportunities and energy waste reduction programs to lower utility bills.
- Donating \$1.8 million to nine organizations across the state to provide a lifeline to small businesses, focusing on helping female- and minority-owned businesses. Included in that support was a \$200,000 grant supporting Saginaw Future and its partnership with the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce.
- Connecting business customers to potential sources of state and federal relief, including:
  - Pure Michigan Business Connect Program – Consumers Energy is a founding partner in this program that connects Michigan businesses that supply goods and services with corporate purchasers. Includes a focus on Michigan-based small businesses.

- Virtual Supplier Summit for COVID-19 – The Michigan Economic Development Corporation launched a special supplier summit for buyers and suppliers of critical health services including medical devices, cleaning supplies, textiles, vitamins and more. Consumers Energy will be a partner in this summit.
- Providing \$306,695 into the Great Lakes Bay Region to support COVID-19 relief since March 2020. Recipient organizations include:
  - \$200,000 for Saginaw Future’s Small Business Fund
  - \$25,000 for Family & Children’s Service of Mid-Michigan (Midland)
  - \$10,000 Bethesda Lutheran Communities (Frankenmuth)
  - \$10,000 each to Saginaw Community Foundation, Bay Area Community Foundation Midland Area Community Foundation & Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation
  - \$8,000 for Clothing Inc (Mt. Pleasant)
- Matching hundreds of employee contributions to food banks and pantries, homeless shelters, community foundations and the United Way. More than \$20,000 supported flood relief.
- Providing \$90,000 in Consumers Energy Foundation grants to support those working on the front lines and help directly meet basic needs such as food, water and shelter for victims of the historic flood. Recipient organizations included: United Way of Midland County, United Way of Saginaw, Meridian Public Schools, the American Red Cross and multiple shelters throughout the area

## + COMMUNITY



HURLEY COLEMAN III

# Hurley Coleman III leads Saginaw County CAC

By MIKE THOMPSON

Many in mid-Michigan will recognize the name of Hurley Coleman III as a sales representative for Garber Buick, but family and friends are better aware of the public service qualities that have led to his selection as the Saginaw County Community Action Committee's new executive director.

"I've always had a passion for helping people and being able to change lives in the community, and when the CAC position became open, a number of stakeholders recommended me," he summarizes.

At age 38, he explains that he has spent most of his career quietly in non-profit or church-related work. His recent venture into car sales has been at the urging of Dick Garber, owner of Garber Management Group and civic benefactor, with an aim to promote more "business awareness and business initiative" among African-Americans.

He is the grandson of the Rev. Hurley Coleman Sr., who passed away in 2001 at

age 75. At the time, the grandson was completing a degree in sports management at Bowling Green University. The patriarch's passing influenced the career plans of both Hurley III and Hurley Jr., who remarkably had advanced from recreation director for the city of Saginaw and Saginaw County to the same post in the city of Detroit and Wayne County.

Hurley Jr. came home to Saginaw to transform and expand the former Coleman Temple COGIC on Wadsworth Street into the World Campus Outreach Church near the outer city limit, where Bay Street becomes Bay Road. Hurley III was by his side, with a brief spell in sports management via Saginaw Valley State University, while also finding non-profit employment in roles that ranged from Saginaw County Juvenile Court to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Then, late last year, came the CAC opportunity. Hurley III was academically qualified, having squeezed in time during those years to attain a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University.

Hurley III's first task is to help the multi-purpose agency cope with the covid-19 onslaught, which has been especially damaging because CAC's anti-poverty services deal so frequently with one-on-one interactions. He brings full experience because he overcame the virus last summer along with his entire family -- wife Tanyika, exposed as a health care worker, and their three children.

As covid's barriers hopefully begin to recede, tasks will include keeping traditional programs solid such as home weatherization, emergency assistance, prescription medicine access and senior outreach.

Hurley III, at the same time, hopes to incorporate some new ideas and concepts into the old-line offerings. For example, he would explore whether solar solutions could be interwoven with the weatherization.

He believes increased focus on the younger generation should include STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and financial literacy.

He grew up mostly in Detroit because of his father's employment and graduated from the Community and Media Arts Academy. Still, he has learned some of Saginaw's history through the storytelling of Hurley Jr. and his mother, Sandra.

Saginaw's CAC, the same as community action agencies nationwide, was formed through the federal War on Poverty that took root during the 1960s.

Saginaw has possessed uncommon stability in the leadership. Hurley III's predecessor, Lillie Williams Grays, had the helm for 16 years. Another historic figure, Bob Viera, was director for three decades. Other well-known names are Al Loveless, who died in 2007, on the governing board and Omowale Art Smith on the outreach staff, in his off-hours time joining Charles McNair (1934-2019) to establish and lead the Saginaw African Cultural Festival.

Hurley III says, "I look forward to learning and gaining all that I can from the history, and forging a new path for our agency for years to come."

(FOOTNOTE: His book, "The PK Perspective, Vol I: Living Life with Purpose" is available online. PK stands for Preacher's Kid, Published in 2016.)

+ COMMUNITY

CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES



**KIDS RULE NOW!** presents ...

# SPRINGING FORWARD

A SPRING Bazaar featuring Entrepreneurs ages 6-16

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**SATURDAY, April 24th**  
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**COLORS**



By Brigitte Johnson

Please don't judge me by the color of my skin  
Dig a little deeper, search my soul within

None of us were born with a multiple choice  
Black, White, Red, or Yellow, We all have a voice

Today's society is full of crime, all our people doing time  
What is the lesson, we're teaching our children today  
To Fight First, ask questions later, Demand to have it their way

I don't think this is how God intended it to be,  
For our babies to be watching all this violence on National TV

We all need to stop, look, and listen, and hear all the cries  
Stop killing, Stop Raping, Put a stop to all the drive-bys

There are innocent people dying, on a day to day basis  
They are White, They are Black, and they are all different races

Why can't we solve our problems, by sitting down and talk  
Learn to start stepping, add a little speed to our walk

Let's stop all the nonsense, let's put down the guns  
Let's learn to relax, let's have some safe fun

Let's stop abusing our Women, Give them back their sense of pride  
Whether the answer be yes, whether it be no, Respect and Abide

Let's teach our children values, and to look pass skin  
Let's give them a sense of direction, Let them choose their own Friends

And when we lay down at night, let's be quiet and still  
And know that peace, Can someday be real!



# Good News

By MB STAFF

There is a long-held theory that one should avoid public conversations with individuals whose views may well differ from our own on politics, religion, and finances. There are other hot topics but these three are proven to have the power to make or break relationships, start wars, destroy businesses, and perhaps most importantly, cause irreparable damage within families. Yes, a devastated family ranks at the top of the list of possible hurtful outcomes of conversations which leave no room for compromise. They result in the strong feelings or emotions (anger) which we are currently witnessing in public venues and on social media today. There is, however, good news. We can choose not to reside in an angry place - we can rise above it. It is a choice.

A very important step in choosing to control one's emotions is recognizing that circumstances typically do not leave us in an angry place - our thoughts do. More good news - we are in complete control of our thoughts! We may need support such as therapy or mindfulness training but ultimately, we can and must make a conscious decision followed up with a bit of hard work to find peace of mind. Peace in our immediate environment (i.e., home, school, workplace, etc.) follows peace of mind. In the words of Countee Cullen, 'Your life is a product of your thoughts, what you think about all day becomes the basis of your life. The truth is everything counts. Everything. Everything we do and everything we say. Everything helps or hurts; everything adds to or takes away from someone else.' Learning to manage or control our anger through our thinking is critical.

After allowing oneself to simmer for a few moments in a well-deserved place of frustration or anger, we must seek solu-

tions. Most of the time, unresolved and prolonged anger is not productive. It places us in a hold pattern often at the mercy of the perceived source of anger. Most of the time, anger just cannot help you. In fact, it will usually keep you from finding a solution to the problem. Sometimes, there is no solution in which case we must agree to disagree. Choosing to hang on to the anger is likely to result in feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, and distorted thinking. Learning to manage our thinking and anger, allows us to stand up and whenever the opportunity is presented speak up on behalf of ourselves and others. 'Develop enough courage so that you can stand up for self and then stand up for somebody else.' (Maya Angelou) Good news: there will always be opportunities to practice and develop in these areas.

Anger is an emotion that is necessary for our emotional well-being. It can help us to recognize dangerous and/or toxic relationships. As in all other areas communication, correct observances and thinking will reduce anger while working toward achieving the goal of revenge will not produce positive long-term results. Intense but unresolved anger also causes further

division, counterattacks, or isolation. Stop and think before speaking. Educate yourself in areas of sensitivity and concern to you. 'Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.' (James Baldwin) Good news: All situations are not equally important. We can be strategic in our thinking, learn to 'pick our fights' and minimize levels of potentially harmful levels of anger.

Being well informed will reduce levels of anger and confusion for most of us. If the source of frustration is perceived as a direct attack stop and think again. Perhaps I am reacting an unrelated incident. Perhaps I am very accurate in my thinking but must recognize that the individual I am dealing with is limited in his thinking and may not have the capacity to consider other perspectives. In the words of Zora Neale Hurston, 'Sometimes I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can anyone deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me.' Good news: any one of us can take this approach in dealing with emotions which have the potential to cause harm to ourselves or others. It turns out that it is their loss after all.



COURTESY PHOTO

## + COMMUNITY



MARSHALLFREDERICKS.ORG

## Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum Reopens to the Public with Exhibition Showcasing Michigan's Modern Architecture

Saginaw, MI – The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University reopens to the public on Saturday, April 10 with a new exhibition, “Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy,” on view till June 26, 2021.

The “Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy” exhibition features nearly 50 Photographs by James Haefner that celebrate Michigan’s incredible modern architectural design history from 1928 through 2012. “We are excited to reopen to the public April 10th after being closed for over a year, states director Megan McAdow, “and with such an important exhibition that shows Michigan’s rich contribution to modern architectural design.” The photographs were produced for and featured in the book Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy by Brian D. Conway. The book was part of the Michigan Modern Project initiated by Conway at

the State Historic Preservation Office that revealed and documented the significant role Michigan played in the development of modern design.

The exhibition includes images of Michigan masterworks by modern architects such as Eliel Saarinen, Eero Saarinen, Minoru Yamasaki, Alexander Girard, George Nelson, Frank Lloyd Wright, Alden B. Dow, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and Marcel Breuer. The tradition of architectural innovation and excellence continued into the twenty-first century represented by photographs of buildings designed by Anderson and Anderson, Steven Sivak and Zaha Hadid.

James Haefner’s career in photography spans four decades. An accomplished automobile advertising photographer, his love of modern design drew him into architectural photography about twenty years ago. His fine arts degree allowed him

to capture the designer’s intentions. “It is our hope that [this] exhibition of the beautiful color photographs found in Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy will continue to inform and inspire those that value great design in their lives and communities,” says James Haefner.

A virtual exhibition will also launch April 10th and include a 360-degree virtual tour of the exhibition and a section where viewers can learn about Marshall Fredericks’s many connections and contributions to the modern architecture movement. The virtual exhibition also features additional photographs not included in the physical exhibition as well as images captured behind the scenes while on location during one of the photo shoots. To access this virtual exhibition please visit <https://www.marshallfredericks.net/michigan-modern>.

A Virtual Artist Talk will be held Thursday, April 29 at 7 pm with photographer James Haefner and author Brian D. Conway who will give a brief overview of the Michigan Modern book, how the text came to be, and stories behind the photographs in the exhibition. More programming will be announced later in the month. To register for the talk, and for up-to-date listings of programs and events, please visit the Museum’s calendar at <https://marshallfredericks.org/calendar/>. Virtual field trips and private guided tours of the exhibition are also available free of charge and can be scheduled by contacting the museum at 989-964-7125.

The Museum’s open hours will be Monday – Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm with Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11 am reserved for our guests who are in the increased risk category. Visitors will be required to wear face masks, social distance, and provide contact information for contact tracing. Guests are also welcome to tour the Sculpture Garden at any time or schedule a private guided tour. Only groups of six or less from the same household can gather together in the Museum. A complete Museum Reopening Guide can be found at <https://marshallfredericks.org/reopening-guide/>.

To view the virtual exhibition, register for events, schedule a tour, and for a full up-to-date list of programming, visit the museum website at [www.marshallfredericks.org](http://www.marshallfredericks.org).

## + COMMUNITY

MICHIGAN BANNER  
SERMONETTE SERIESSpiritual  
alertness

By **PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH**  
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

*Yet if it had not been for  
the law, I would not have  
known sin (Rom. 7:7)*

A nation needs laws and people need to be governed by them. Without laws there is no standard of right and wrong in society. The only way to insure or promote civility, order, and accountability in society is through laws. Without laws we welcome chaos, confusion, and disorder. When God was establishing Israel as a nation and as a people, He gave to them the Law through Moses. But God knew in His omniscience that no one would be able to perfectly keep the 613 commandments and prohibitions found in the law. But one of the reasons the law was given to Israel was to make their sin known to them. The apostle Paul says, "If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin." This is the purpose of the law, to create in lost sinners a sense of guilt and need. Warren Wiersbe says, "The law is a mirror that reveals the inner person and shows us how dirty we are." The law shows us how we so desperately need the Savior. The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. The law has fulfilled its purpose. We know that we were sinners in need of a Savior, and the Savior has done what the law could not do. Let us be ever mindful of the grace of God.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;

## RESPONDING TO "RIGHT OR WRONG? THREE TRIALS ON THE SAME HOMICIDE CHARGE?"

(April 1, 2021 - Volume 19 • Number 7)

**I** am writing in response to your article on April 1, which examined the question of a defendant going to trial more than once after a hung jury results in a mistrial. An example that The Banner featured is the January 2018 murder of my son, Antonio Parham, who was only 26 years old.

Daveon Thompson (the defendant) and his family may feel frustrated because of the two mistrials and they may say he now should be released from the county jail.

We just want to make it clear that our family also is very saddened by the two hung juries. We hope and pray that this tragedy will one day be resolved so that we can begin to find some type of closure. Our lives have forever been altered by the death of our son, the father of two beautiful children, one of whom will never have the pleasure of being held in her daddy's arm.

We want people to know that when someone commits a murder, the tragic consequences are a pain that can't be mended, children who have to live life without a parent, parents who have to live life without a child, and siblings who have to live life without a brother. Whereas the person who commits the crime may have to spend time behind bars, which is a life-altering change, but that person still has their life. Unfortunately, my son's life is now sitting in a box on my table. One that I have to walk past every day and stop and tell him that I love him and how much he's missed by us all.

We put our trust and confidence in God that justice will one day be served. We support the prosecutors and understand that the criminal justice system has a process in place and while things may not be on the schedule that we would like, we are confident that everyone is doing everything within their power to help us get the justice that we are so desperately looking for. Our heart goes out to everyone who has been impacted by this tragedy but we are choosing to keep our faith strong in the Lord.

As I write this letter on April 8, 2021, what would have been our son's 30th birthday. I pray for us, but also for the Thompson family, for this is not a place where either of our families should be.

- Donna Bailey



ANTONIO PARHAM

JAZMINE ROBBINS

# SWEET LIPS BY JAZZ

SWEETLIPSBYJAZZ 

Sweet Lips by Jazz offers a wide variety of candy flavored lipglosses such as Cotton Candy, Bubble Gum, Lemonade, Orange Sherbet, Green Apple, Grape Popsicle, Strawberry Passion, Paradise Island, and Birthday Cake Surprise.

In addition, a wide variety of hair scrunchies in velvet, satin, cotton, shiny metallic, and mermaid.



## + COMMUNITY

## I'M JUST THINKING.....

By PASTOR HURLEY J. COLEMAN, JR., WORLD OUTREACH CAMPUS CHURCH

*Living  
and  
Learning*

I was born long enough ago to remember the passage of the 1964 and 1968 Civil Rights Legislation. These laws were not the first civil rights legislation. This process began in 1957 as a result of the Supreme Court decision in the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The incredible resistance against desegregation in the South by Southern Democrats was led by then Senator Strom Thurmond, who is credited for the longest one-person filibuster in Senate history, according to Wikipedia.

The 1957 law was followed by amendments in 1960, 1964, 1968 constantly moving the legal restrictions against African American freedoms in this country. Everything from the right to vote, education, housing, equal representation in employment, disabilities, and the inclusion of other ethnic minorities has been included in these laws. It is amazing that in 2021, we are watching the intentional

erosion of all of this work.

I remember when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. I remember when Dr. Martin Luther King was killed. I remember going to college because there was a special effort to increase minority matriculation, and grants were available to black youth. I remember going to class and feeling like people felt that the only reason I was there was because the school needed quotas, and having that feeling push me to achieve. I remember graduation and finding that the only way for me to get into my field was as a part of a national jobs program that was created from these pieces of legislation, the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA). It was the only way to enter some area of employment that were off limits to us. I had so many jobs where I was the first black person to ever work there.

It was a long season of learning about the politics of the workplace, the social dynamics of institutional racism, and the truth of inequality. It was during this same time period that I began to notice an important economic dynamic. Black people could get jobs in the factory on the line, in the foundries doing hard manual labor, and in secretarial or custodial positions in many corporations.

There was limited access to management or the board rooms in those years between 1950-1970. Slowly those opportunities began to open up, and we began to see faces in the management ranks of business, in the classrooms at colleges, and in the halls of politics that looked like us.

I was also learning that a new level of law enforcement had been birthed during those years of civil unrest in the mid to late 60's. Strategic law enforcement strategies began to fill the prisons with young black men. A whole new workforce had been created and the prison industry took a very strong political turn. It became popular to create law and order campaigns to provide for "safety" in our cities, along with disinvestment in the local economies of those same cities. Not surprising was



the growth of the American suburb, and the depopulation of the American cities.

Yes, there has been a lot of learning that I have experienced in these years. It was part of my reflection as I was contemplating my birthday this year, and while watching wholesale attacks on voting rights with legislation that limits access and opportunities, and a resurgence of protection of an historic attitude about privilege. I am challenged to "keep hope alive" in the midst of all of this.

I am also learning about the resilience of my community. Regardless of the challenges, and even things that we feel could be considered failures, we demonstrate the words of the great poet, Maya Angelou - "Still We Rise." We must rise to stand against attempts to erode the hard earned rights that we presently have. We must rise together to protect the communities that have been left out of the economic and political waves in past years. We must rise together to show that we have learned over the years that if no one else will stand for us, we must do it for ourselves. It has been a life of learning. Let us use what we have learned to help ourselves.

I am just thinking.....

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



# IN AN EMERGENCY, SECONDS MATTER.

Reliable communication is critical. Yet first responders – the very people who need the best technology – have often not had access to it. That’s why FirstNet is here. FirstNet is the first nationwide communications platform built specifically for public safety. With priority and preemption, a commitment to security and expanded rural coverage, and no throttling in the U.S., FirstNet delivers the technology first responders – and their communities – need and deserve.

Get the facts at [www.firstnet.com](http://www.firstnet.com)



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## + COMMUNITY



FACEBOOK.COM/SPENCEBROTHERSMICHIGAN

# Garber Courts will feature pickleball and tennis courts

Saginaw, MI – Urban Tennis Foundation, operating youth development programming in the city since 2006, and maintaining Saginaw's only municipal tennis facility, along with its Friends of Garber Courts announced the ground-breaking of a renovated and expanded Garber Courts facility. On Friday, April 9, they broke ground on the new project.

This modern, state-of-the-games facility, will be multi-sport, comprising of eight tennis and eight pickleball courts, including a seasonal building with bathrooms, storage, and gathering room. The multi-purpose room will be used for youth education, training, and adult regional and state tournament activities. Everything has been designed for accessibility to everyone.

This tennis and pickleball professionally compliant facility will also attract tournament activity visitors and their eco-

nomonic impact to downtown Saginaw. This facility will become the home court for a newly unified Saginaw high school tennis teams.

All of the funds to build this wonderful new facility have come from area foundations, businesses, contractors, and individuals, who will be permanently recognized at the facility.

Urban Youth Tennis has been reaching and teaching hundreds of city children since 2006. Through nationally recognized instruction as a certified CTA and NJTL chapter of the USTA, we use developmental and advanced tennis, to provide guidance beyond the tennis courts with our "Chalk-Talk Time".

With after-school and summer camp programs we have collaborated with numerous other local organizations to accomplish our mission: To mentor urban youth through tennis (and now pickleball); teach

character qualities, promote reading, nutrition, and a healthy life-long sport, with team competition opportunities and high school/collegiate potential; with love and encouragement for future aspirations.

We embrace whole-heartedly the quote of great tennis pro, Arthur Ashe in Days of Grace, "Our idea is to use tennis as a way to gain and hold the attention of young people in the inner cities so that we can teach them about matters more important than tennis. Through tennis, lives can be changed and spirits reclaimed."

"Over the years, the Urban Tennis Foundation has used tennis and a promotion of personal responsibility to open doors of opportunity for a significant number of disadvantaged youth in our community." - Michael Webster, Saginaw County Commissioner.

## + COMMUNITY



## Despite COVID Challenges, Michiganders Show Surprising Resilience

Michigan – A new survey of Michigan residents by a group of global wellbeing researchers has revealed that while 13% reported they are really struggling, 10% of are consistently thriving, and 41.7% are living well, despite struggles.

The Wellbeing Lab 2021 Communities Report, surveyed a randomly selected sample representative of Michigan's adult population by gender, age, and location at the end of March 2021, to provide insights into current states of wellbeing across communities in the region.

Wellbeing Lab Co-founder Michelle McQuaid says the research demonstrates that even when facing a global pandemic, a changing political and economic landscape, and numerous personal and professional challenges, it appears that it is possible to thrive despite struggle. Although she points out that the study found that women, people aged 18 – 24, people of color, and people in households earning less than \$20,000 were significantly more likely to report that they were really struggling.

“Caring for our wellbeing is not a solo endeavour,” explained Dr McQuaid. “Our wellbeing perceptions, experiences, and behaviors are diverse, and are shaped by intrapersonal factors (e.g., personality, skills, motivation), interpersonal factors (e.g., our interactions with and relation-

ships with others), and external community factors (e.g., housing quality, education levels, access to resources, equality) that dynamically impact each other.”

For example, people who were thriving even in the face of struggle reported

- Higher levels of ability and motivation to care for their wellbeing, and safe spaces to talk with others about the wellbeing challenges they may be facing.
- Feeling like they belonged in at least four or more places in their community - like their family, with friends, at work, and in their neighborhood.
- Having access to community healthcare facilities, natural environments (like parks), mental health support, opportunities for connection and wellbeing information and tools.

“Given mental health was the leading cause of struggle for 33.2% of Michiganders, and almost four of every ten people felt it was best to keep their wellbeing struggles to themselves, these insights offer effective and affordable ways wellbeing could be improved for more people in the

Michigan communities,” said Dr McQuaid.

Other wellbeing challenges that emerged from the survey for Michigan included:

- 90.7% of Michiganders reported feeling worried or anxious about the economy, and this was largely true of all demographics groups but was slightly more heightened for Asians.
- 53.1% of Michiganders reported having enough financially to meet their needs this month; however, this was less likely to be true for women, Asians, and people of color.
- 53.1% of Michiganders reported having enough financially to meet their needs this month; however, this was less likely to be true for women, Asians, and people of color.
- Two out of every ten Michiganders (21.4%) reported feeling very lonely and isolated. People aged 24–35 years and all people of color were significantly more likely to report that they had felt alone and isolated over the past two weeks.
- 43.6% of Michiganders reported having a neighbor they could call in an emergency. However, Asians and people aged 18–24 years were less likely to have this community support.

“I would encourage communities to read this report with hope around how the insights from Michigan can be used to address these challenges. The data clearly shows that there are immediate actions communities can be taking to help everyone in their community have access to the knowledge, tools and support they need to care for their wellbeing,” said Dr McQuaid.



## COMMERCIAL SERVICES

- INTERIOR DESIGN
- OFFICE FURNITURE
- COMMERCIAL FURNITURE
- SPACE PLANNING
- ERGONOMICS
- SOUND MASKING
- WINDOW TREATMENTS
- INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE



**PINNACLE DESIGN**  
commercial & residential interiors



## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- INTERIOR DESIGN
- KITCHEN & BATHROOM DESIGN
- FURNITURE
- LIGHTING
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## + COMMUNITY



PICTURED FROM L TO R: TERRY PRUITT, CARL WILLIAMS, RUTH ANN KNAPP, AND AMOS O'NEAL

# Local NAACP members attend Lansing rally, respond to election reform bills

By **TERRY PRUITT, PRESIDENT**  
NAACP SAGINAW BRANCH

On Tuesday, April 13, several representatives from the NAACP Saginaw Branch including myself (Terry Pruitt), Carl Williams, Ruth Ann Knapp, and Eddie and Juanita Foxx traveled to Lansing to participate in a Call to Action Rally aimed at Protecting Voting Rights in the State of Michigan.

The event was sponsored by the Detroit Branch of the NAACP and was attended by a diverse group of nearly 300 citizens from across the State. There was also a diverse

array of outstanding and inspirational speakers who sought to educate attendees about the need to take action at this time to push back against election reform legislative proposals introduced in the Michigan State Senate. Speakers included Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony, President of the Detroit Branch NAACP, The Honorable Mike Duggan, Mayor, City of Detroit, Reverend Dr. Tellis Chapman, Coordinator, Michigan Interfaith Clergy Coalition, LaChandra White, Director UAW Civic and Human Rights Department, Maureen Taylor, Executive Director Welfare Rights Organization of Michigan, The Honorable Erika

Geiss, State Senator 6th District & member of MI Legislative Black Caucus, Attorney Nabih Ayad, President Arab-American Civil Rights League of Michigan, Dr. Kenneth Flowers, President of Coalition for Blacks and Jewish Unity, and Michael Joseph, President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unions of Detroit to name a few.

Overall, the message to attendees implored each of us to be vocal and visible in our pushback against efforts to restrict and/or suppress voting in our state. The

**CONTINUES ON PG 27, NAACP**

## Continued from pg 26, NAACP

call to action requests that we intensify our efforts to register voters, contact our legislators asking them to vote in opposition to the 39 election reform bills that have been introduced, contact business and corporate leaders, support the federal H.R. 1 For The People Act (the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the George Floyd Justice In Policing Act.

Terry Pruitt, President of the NAACP Saginaw Branch wrote the following letter to State Senator, Ken Horn who is listed as a co-sponsor on the 39 reform bills:

*Dear Senator Horn:*

*It is with a great deal of regret that I forward this communication. The source of this regret lies in the thought that I didn't want to be in this place, where we are witnessing Michigan Senate Republican leaders launch an absolute partisan assault on voting rights. What is particularly troubling for me is that you are listed as a sponsor for each of the thirty-nine election "reform" bills (SB279-311) that have introduced.*

*Your familiarity with the work of the local NAACP leadership and other civil justice organizations throughout the state lead most of us to know you have an understanding of our mission and our commitment to securing and protecting the voting rights for all the citizens of this state and nation. Simply stated, many of the recent proposals put forth by yourself and your colleagues are not in keeping with this principle. I want to avoid patronization, but the position we take in opposition to these unfair and unnecessary reforms is founded on some commonly accepted principles. First the constitutions of this nation and state grant all eligible individuals the right to vote. Secondly, many of us believe that voting is fundamental to our democratic process and that our democracy is strengthened when we encourage and maximize voter participation.*

*It is our belief that many of the "reform" measures introduced by you and your associates will have the exact opposite effect. They will in many instances restrict and suppress voting in our state,*

*despite your stated position that they will create greater confidence, fairness, accuracy, and security on the election process. To be perfectly candid, we don't believe this is the real reasons for these legislative proposals. Much of this portends the "band wagon" syndrome we see around the country with similar proposals being considered in more than forty states.*

*What is extremely frustrating for many of us is that much of what is being proposed is constructed from a foundation of false allegations around the legitimacy of the 2020 elections. We continue to see far too many of our legislative leaders holding on to conspiracies, falsehoods, and the meritless position that there was something wrong with the 2020 general election.*

*The facts portend the following truths:*

- The November 2020 election saw 5.5 million or 71% Michigan voters cast ballots. One of the largest turnouts in the history of this state.*
- This was the most secure and scrutinized election ever conducted in this state.*
- More citizens took advantage of voting by mail-in ballot than ever before in our election history.*
- There has been no significant evidence brought forth that confirms widespread fraud or misconduct in the 2020 election as frequently alleged.*

*Given this, there is an obvious question, what problem(s) is the Michigan legislature trying to solve? Quite frankly, there appears to be few.*

*We need to also remind our elected representatives that the voters in the 2018 election made a clear statement about their desire to expand the ability of citizens to vote, with the passage of a state constitutional amendment, Proposal 3.*

*Similarly, I was pleased to see nearly 40 of the top corporate and business leaders issue a strong statement today in support of many of the principles detailed in*

*this letter. We collectively feel we are on the right side of this issue.*

*Finally, we also find it problematic that there has been no effort to seek bipartisan support or at a minimum, buy-in for these proposals. We just feel that there is a moral imperative to seek the input of clerks, voting rights advocacy organizations, voters, and others if changes in voting laws are being contemplated.*

*Considering this, I request that you reconsider your support for the thirty-nine bills to be undertaken by the state senate. Secondly, I'm requesting that you host a town hall meeting with district constituents and explain your position on each of the bills you are co-sponsoring and respond to questions as to how these measures will impact the lives of citizens.*

*Thank you for your consideration of these matters. The NAACP believes that voting is the most fundamentally important component of our democratic process and that it should not be used for partisan political subterfuge. Our political positions may not always line-up, but this is one of those issues where politics needs to be set aside.*

*I look forward to hearing from you regarding the issues delineated here. Please note that I have copied the members of the Senate Elections Committee in the hope that they will also alter their positions.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Terry Pruitt, President  
NAACP Saginaw Branch*



## + COMMUNITY



BUENA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

# BV High rescue requires not only opinions, but action

By MIKE THOMPSON

In Buena Vista Township, a different sort of public meeting took place early this month regarding the future of the vacant high school building.

Residents were asked for their opinions, which is a typical procedure in BV and in other local communities.

They also were asked to do something, which is a far less common scenario.

Elected Supervisor Christina Dillard and the township's day-to-day manager, Superintendent Torrie McAfee, convened the special session with a call for citizen volunteers to assist with the clean-up of the structure, more than 30,000 square feet. The former home of the BV High Knights has stood vacant and abandoned since 2013, when financial troubles led to a state shutdown of the former Buena Vista School District.

Township leaders are taking a do-it-yourself approach in what they hope will be a cornerstone of new life in a community that has endured its share of post-millennium hardships, marked not only by the school system shutdown but by closure and demolition of a previous landmark,

Fort Saginaw Mall.

Nearly 20 people, including Dillard and McAfee themselves, signed up for work sessions on April 15th and April 16th. So did State Rep. Amos O'Neal and his successor on the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners, Gerald Little, who emphasized that a key empowerment step was the township's \$35,000 deal last summer to take ownership from the Saginaw city school system.

More activities will be scheduled, as needed, during weeks to come.

McAfee emphasizes that no major damage has occurred, and that much of the cleanup will involve removal of leftovers such as outdated textbooks, tables and chairs. The volunteers will be encouraged to preserve any memorabilia that they may encounter.

As she encouraged the volunteers, Dillard described Buena Vista High as "a beloved entity that we all grew up in." She graduated in her blue-and white cap and gown in 1985, six years ahead of McAfee in 1991.

Onlookers may ask, how can township leaders hope to rescue the school campus when they ultimately were powerless to save the Fort Saginaw shopping center?

"The mall was private enterprise," Dillard answers. "This will be a community initiative that focuses not only on business development, but also on services for our residents."

She initially mentions health care projects and, as a product of the military herself, veterans services. McAfee from the start has suggested a farmers market, noting that the high school east of I-75 is located as a window to Buena Vista's widespread agriculture areas.

But as the twosome indicated to their audience in the gymnasium at the BV Community Center, no definite plans or proposals are in place, although potential development investors are showing increased interest in the township as a whole. They simply are aiming to build on economic momentum that has started with new restaurants, new convenience stores and marijuana dispensaries, with the latest boost coming from Amazon locating a warehouse in BV's northern industrial area.

"We're going to do whatever it takes to get this thing going (at the high school)," Dillard informed the audience, "from the initial cleanup, to the planning, including everything."

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+ COMMUNITY

# I-675 pavement and bridge improvements in Saginaw County start April 19

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will invest \$10.5 million to improve more than 8.5 miles of concrete pavement along the I-675 corridor in Saginaw County. This project includes work on 36 bridge and culvert structures to address steel improvements, bridge deck surfaces, railing upgrades, and painting.

Crews will begin work starting April 19 with shoulder and intermittent single-lane closures to begin staging the work zone and addressing work to the Veterans Memorial Parkway bridge spanning I-675. Concrete pavement patching is expected to start May 3.

A Microsoft Teams virtual public meeting will be held Wednesday, April 28, to address detour changes identified to expedite the timeline and improve safety in this work zone. Additional information regarding timelines and detours for various phases of the project will be shared during the meeting.

Work is expected to occur this April through November, and April - June 2022.

This work will improve the driving surface of I-675 while addressing various improvements to 36 bridge and culvert structures along the corridor.



*Thank You.*

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## The Museum

BY DONIQUA SOVIA

In the silence of museum pieces, that were all once there, holds the many stories although all that's heard is air. If you could sit in a slavery ship and hear the memories cry, you'd hear the sound of chatter, frightened mothers, and the waves crashing in the tide. You'd smell the scent of bodies, mixed with herbs of the tribe, and be a bit distracted at footsteps you heard up high. That's the sound of captivity...may it never leave your mind.

In the next room over, you can hear singing; Here's where they lived, on this plantation. You sense a feel of fear, with a just a dash of hope, and that will remain, no matter how many times they feel the sting of that rope. Bravery is in the hearts of some slaves cause LOOK! there they go!

Check out these artifacts; some clothing stained with blood. Can you hear the sound of marching? The Civil Rights Movement has begun. They're singing one of my favorite songs: We Shall Overcome.

Oh! Would you look at this old radio?! Does it play anything? Let's see! Ah yes the famous speech by Dr.Martin Luther King, given August of 1963. We've come a mighty long way, just to be free.

Take a look at this here television; the year is '91, and what they did to Rodney King shows there's still work to be done. But if we take a look back down this hallway, and all the years we've been through, we see the results in areas of FREEDOM, just like we wanted too.

Now the year is 2021, but may we NEVER forget how far we've come. I guess what I'm trying to say is do your ancestors proud, have nothing go in vain for they fought for your freedom, and they'd do it again.



## + HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

# MDHHS extends epidemic order, strengthens mask requirement for children

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) extended its Gatherings and Mask epidemic order. The Order - which preserves the strongest public health order in the Midwest - is designed to balance day-to-day activities while controlling the spread of COVID-19 and saving Michiganders' lives. It includes expansion of mask requirements to children ages 2 to 4 to further protect the state's residents.

Although progress has been made, it is crucial that Michiganders continue to

mask up and socially distance as the state takes steps to get back to normal.

Expanding the mask rule to children ages 2 to 4 requires a good faith effort to ensure that these children wear masks while in gatherings at childcare facilities or camps. It takes effect April 26, 2021. This addresses the increase in cases among younger Michiganders and follows recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.

"Michigan continues to implement

smart health policies and mitigation measures to fight the spread of COVID-19," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "This includes the requirement to wear a mask while in public and at gatherings, limits on indoor residential social gatherings larger than 15 people with no more than three households, and expanded testing requirements for youth sports. Additionally, the most important thing people can do right now is to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and their families, and help us eliminate this virus once and for all."

As of today, 29.5% of Michigan residents 16 and older had been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and 44% had received at least a first dose.

"More than 5.5 million doses of the safe and effective COVID vaccines have been administered in Michigan, and we are well on our way to vaccinating at least 70% of Michiganders ages 16 and up," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. "However, I continue to be incredibly concerned about our state's COVID-19 data. We are still very much fighting this pandemic and seeing concerning trends in new cases and hospitalizations. Michiganders need to be using every tool in our toolbox right now to get these cases and hospitalizations down. Just because something is open and legal does not mean you should be doing it. We all must continue doing what works to slow the spread of the disease by wearing masks, washing our hands, avoiding crowds and indoor gatherings, and making plans to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible."

MDHHS had been closely monitoring three metrics for stabilization or declines over the past several weeks. Michigan's metrics have been increasing for the past few weeks, although the rate of increase is declining. The presence of more infectious variants, such as the B.1.1.7 variant, threatens progress in control of the epidemic and MDHHS will be monitoring data closely. In recent days:

**CONTINUES ON PG 33, MASK**



## Continued from pg 32, mask

- **Positivity rate:** had increased for eight weeks but has seen a recent 5-day decline to 17.1%. However, this metric remains up 390% from the mid-February low and remains above the December peak of 14.4%.
- **Statewide case rate:** This metric has increased over the past eight weeks to 613.9 cases per million. The rate is more than 475% higher than the low in mid-February but remains below peak of 737.8 cases per million on Saturday, Nov 14.
- **Hospital capacity:** The percent of inpatient beds dedicated to those with COVID-19 is now at 18.8%. This metric peaked at 19.6% on Tuesday, Dec. 4, and is up 373% from the February low.

"Nurses are exhausted. Many hospitals

are close to 100% capacity. RNs around the state are being put in the impossible situation of having to decide which patient to attend to. Nurses are working up to 18 hours at a time, often without breaks," said Jamie Brown, president of the Michigan Nurses Association. "We are begging for everyone in the community to do their part. Stay home. Wear a mask. Get a vaccine when you are able. We are barely able to keep our heads above water. We are in crisis. We need our communities' help."

"We know that wearing a mask significantly reduces the spread of infection and should be part of the comprehensive strategy to reduce COVID-19-including for children age 2 and up," said Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MIAAP) President Dr. Matthew Hornik. "Use of masks does not re-

strict oxygen in the lungs even in children, it is recommended to wear a mask with layers to filter droplets effectively."

The order extension is through May 24. An infographic that highlights order requirements can be found on Michigan's COVID-19 website.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://CDC.gov/Coronavirus). To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine).



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- 4,100 shoe/boot covers
- Thousands of donated meals
- Thousands of dollars in gift cards and monetary donations
- Countless prayers and messages of encouragement

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has supported us. You are all extraordinary.



+ HEALTH

# COVID-19 vaccine clinic open Tuesdays at UAW Local 699 Hall in Saginaw, walk-ins are welcome

Saginaw, MI – Great Lakes Bay Health Centers is providing the COVID-19 vaccine from 8 am to 4 pm every Tuesday at the UAW Local 699 Hall, 1911 Bagley in Saginaw, by Wanigas Credit Union.

Anyone 18 and older who wants to be vaccinated can walk in during these times or register online with GLBHC at [www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org](http://www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org). Staff will contact those registered to schedule appointments.

GLBHC is following vaccine distribution guidelines as set by the State of Michigan. Those registering do not have to be patients with the health centers. We are committed to delivering the COVID-19 vaccine to our communities as quickly and safely as possible. Please do not call about scheduling a vaccine appointment as

these invitations are managed exclusively through the online registration process.

Getting the vaccine is only one of the tools to end this pandemic. Please continue to follow safety guidelines and wear your mask, avoid gatherings and stay 6 feet apart. Get tested if you have been exposed to someone with the virus.

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**Once you get your dose of hope, mask up while others get theirs.**

One day in the future, we won't need to wear masks. But for right now, we all need to keep wearing masks. Even after you get vaccinated. The virus is still out there. Help protect your friends, family and neighbors.

Learn more at [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](http://Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine)

Spread Hope  
NOT COVID



## + EDUCATION



# How to help a student who has gotten behind in school work



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

For WNEM TV 5, I offer thoughts once a week in a segment called, “Education Matters.” It typically airs during the 9 a.m. local news on Tuesdays.

On April 6th I addressed a tough situation many parents could be facing this school year. Spring reveals if a student has fallen behind in school work. Typically marking periods or trimesters reveal grades with two-thirds of the school year completed. Often parent teacher conferences have been held. These benchmarks tell us if students are keeping pace.

The pandemic, in my opinion, amplifies the possibility of students falling behind. It is especially true now with many schools returning from Spring break with revised plans to return to remote instruction; some have announced a return to “virtual” instruction for a period of time in

response to recent spike in COVID 19 virus cases. On April 9th, our Governor urged high schools to return to remote instruction for two weeks as pandemic numbers surge.

Instructional changes and the related uncertainties unsettle students and may cause them to fall behind.

What can be done to help the student who is faced with being behind in school work?

There are MANY resources on the web for parents to consider, yet I would urge that parents consider reaching back to their school and the teacher(s). Starting with local educators who are working with the student will help identify the cause(s) and define the problem.

- Is it a subject area challenge?
- Is it a study skills issue?
- Is it a motivation issue?
- Is it a time management situation?
- Could there be a learning gap that is surfacing?
- Is it a tutoring need?

The possibilities are many, and the teacher(s) working with the child have insight into what may be occurring to cause the “falling behind” cycle. Also, consider reaching out to the guidance counselor

and principal who are in the picture. Parents, seek input from all who are involved at school.

Once the problem has been better defined, hopefully in unison with the teacher and others at school, consider the most relevant course of action to reverse the trend. If it related to a subject area (often it is math, for example), consider how to help the student in the subject. Tutoring? Study buddy? Extra help online?

Whatever the solution, raise awareness and set some goals- immediate goals! – to reverse the tide. One goal might be as simple as setting aside 15 minutes each day to review the next assignment that is due.

Or it might be a regular communication with the teacher(s) about progress being made, something like a “Friday” note (or email) that the parent can receive for feedback on how the school week went.

Simple! By keeping a goal simple, it will seem more realistic and attainable.

Putting this into a generalization, the student fell behind over a period of days or weeks or even months....it is probable that it is going to take some time (and patience!) to get things back on track.

The good news is this: it is April and there is time in the school year to address such issues.....it is not “too late” to do something. And with the pandemic, more students are facing being “behind” than usual...thus more options and resources are being made available for students caught in the bind of being behind.

This is tough but can be addressed with patience and support from home and from school. Be encouraged in knowing you are not alone if you are facing such a situation.

### Resources:

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-help-when-your-teen-falls-behind-in-school-4047447>

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/partnering-with-childs-school/instructional-strategies/5-common-techniques-for-helping-struggling-students>

[https://www.wnem.com/news/education\\_matters](https://www.wnem.com/news/education_matters)



## Saginaw Promise Golf Outing

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**For Questions**, please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 755-0545 or email [DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org](mailto:DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org)

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## + EDUCATION



SAGINAW PROMISE

## A College Scholarship for Students who live and Graduate in Saginaw!

*Saginaw Promise—Making an Investment in the future of Saginaw and in the lives of its students through a postsecondary education scholarship*

Saginaw, MI – The Saginaw Promise is an economic initiative intended to affect Saginaw’s economy and quality of life by promoting and supporting a culture of postsecondary education for all of its graduating students through information, programming and a “last dollar” scholarship. The Saginaw Promise is working to affect change in Saginaw through a “residence based” scholarship; a benefit and incentive for families who live in Saginaw. The Saginaw Promise believes that postsecondary education is the “change agent” to affect the future of Saginaw and the lives of its students. Postsecondary education, once earned, will open the doors to life’s opportunities and possibilities. Since 2012, \$1,025,049 scholarships have been awarded to 590 scholars. “To impact the life of an individual through education, will impact their family, people they inter-

act with and the community in which they live”, stated Joyce Seals, Saginaw Promise, Chairperson.

2021 marks the 10th group of scholars to be awarded scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to students who reside in and graduate from a high school in the Saginaw Promise Zone (which includes the cities Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District). The scholarship is an agent for change. Since 2011, high school graduation rates in Saginaw Public School District have risen, dropout rates have decreased, FAFSA completion has grown and scholars are earning program certificates and degrees.

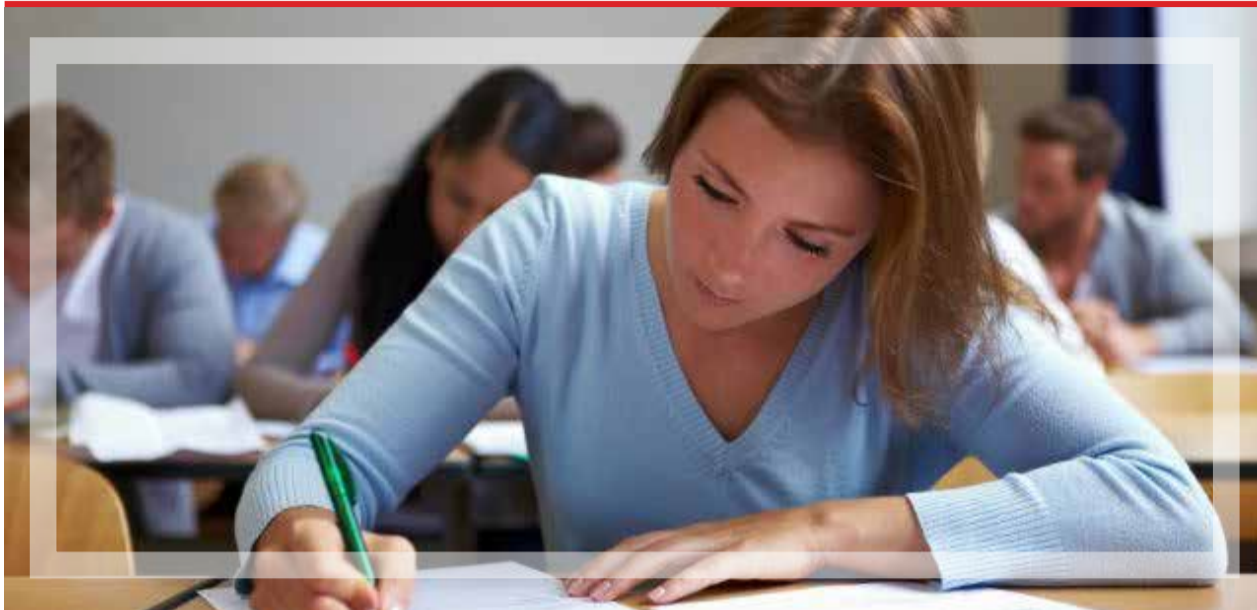
Program and scholarship funding are raised annually through direct appeal and special events. Donors include, individuals, organizations, businesses and foun-

dations who believe that postsecondary education is “key” to affecting Saginaw’s future and that of its students.

**How to apply:** Students must complete the online Saginaw Community Foundation scholarship application at [saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/](https://saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/), which opens November 1, 2021. The scholarship is renewable up to two years and must be applied for annually. Students must also complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>. The Saginaw Promise scholarship can be used at community colleges, universities and technical/trade schools in Michigan for tuition and mandatory fees only.

To support the Saginaw, Promise or for information call (989)755-0545 or visit [www.saginawpromise.org](http://www.saginawpromise.org).

## + EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

## USED denies Michigan's request to waive federal requirement to test students During a pandemic

Lansing, MI – The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has denied Michigan's request to waive the federal requirement to administer the state summative assessments, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) reported.

In late January, given the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted the education of Michigan's 1.5 million students, MDE requested waivers to federal requirements for state summative tests, as well as waivers of associated high-stakes accountability requirements. The accountability waivers were approved on March 26.

State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice and State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich explained in an OpEd that ran both nationally and in Michigan that it has been a brutally difficult school year for students, parents, and educators and that it would be made worse if schools are forced to spend a good portion of the spring on Michigan's year-end state summative tests when teachers could better spend that time working with their students.

As an alternative to the state summative tests, MDE argued that locally chosen and administered national benchmark assessments, required by state law last sum-

mer for this school year, would be more beneficial in providing parents and educators with the knowledge of where children are academically and to help target resources and supports as a result.

Dr. Rice noted the following regarding the denial of the assessment waiver request:

"With its decision today to deny Michigan's request to waive M-STEP testing in the midst of the pandemic, USED continues to demonstrate its disconnect from conditions in public schools in Michigan and across the country. Michigan has the highest rates of recent COVID-19 cases and recent cases per 100,000 in the nation at the moment. Our state legislators and governor had the foresight to require districts to administer benchmark assessments in the fall and in the spring of this school year to provide data to educators and parents and to help target resources, interventions, and supports to students in districts. USED even canceled its own assessment—the National Assessment of Educational Progress—in November, an acknowledgement of the pandemic at that time.

"For a state that has mandated benchmark assessments this year to inform edu-

cators and parents of where students are in reading and math, USED's lockstep allegiance in a pandemic to state summative assessments such as M-STEP is simply fidelity to two decades of education policy drift under the federal No Child Left Behind Act and its uncreative and still punitive offspring.

"Is it any wonder that educators are leaving the profession when, in a pandemic, USED insists that Michigan use time, which should be dedicated to children's social emotional and academic growth, to test a portion of its students to generate data that will inform precisely nothing about our children's needs that we won't already know more substantially and quickly with benchmark assessments this year?"

State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich also had sharp criticism of USED's decision.

"This is beyond disappointing. It's shameful," Dr. Ulbrich said. "USED had an opportunity to do the right thing for the right reasons, and instead chose to appease special interests rather than support students. Michigan citizens, educators and parents will get virtually no useful and actionable information from this year's state tests. It would be shameful now if the state legislature used these 'results' to impose negative consequences on children or schools."

With USED denying Michigan's request to waive the federal requirement for state summative assessments, local school districts will be expected to administer the state tests as scheduled. These tests include M-STEP for students in grades 3-8; PSAT 8/9 for students in 8th grade; MME, including SAT, for students in 11th grade; MI-ACCESS for students receiving special education services in grades 3-8 and 11; and WIDA for students in English learner programs in grades K-12.

MDE has informed school districts that during the COVID-19 pandemic, it does not support requiring otherwise remote or virtual students to be brought into school solely for the purpose of state assessment. Districts will have to offer remote or virtual students the opportunity to come into school to take the appropriate state summative assessments. However, those remote-only students will not be required to come into school for the sole purpose of taking the assessments.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

### About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

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

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

Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers,

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

#### Office Hours

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

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

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

**“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”**

**Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrmn., Dist. 43.**

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



## + BUSINESS

# Members = Owners

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DOW CHEMICAL EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION

## Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union surpasses \$2 billion asset mark

Midland, MI – Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union ([dcecu.org](http://dcecu.org)) has achieved a milestone by surpassing \$2 billion in assets.

DCECU hit the \$2 billion mark near the end of 2020 – even after giving back \$15.57 million to members through Member Giveback rebates and rewards on eligible loans, debit card purchases and deposits for 2020, as well as closing a record-high 1,400 Mortgage Loans worth a total of approximately \$198 million in 2020. As of March 31 of this year, the credit union's assets had reached \$2.1 billion.

“Surpassing \$2 billion in assets is a tremendous milestone for us, and it's a testament to our members' loyal participation in our financial cooperative and their faith in us to prudently manage their deposited funds,” said DCECU Chief Executive Offi-

cer Michael Goad. “Having a healthy capital cushion allows us to continue offering great rates on loans and high returns on savings, enhancing our products and services, and contributing to the community at large.”

Based on assets, DCECU is Michigan's ninth largest credit union and is among the nation's 200 largest credit unions, according to LendingTree's DepositAccounts.com website.

“Being a single-branch credit union and holding enough assets to be one of the largest credit unions in both the state and the nation truly is an achievement,” Goad said. “We anticipate that our assets and these rankings will continue to flourish as we remain focused on growth.”

As part of its commitment to growth, the credit union recently expanded its

membership eligibility criteria to include donors at the \$10 level and above to the DCECU Members Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is managed by the Midland Area Community Foundation. DCECU membership also is open to employees and retirees of nearly 100 Select Employer Group companies, as well as to their family members.

“If someone has ever thought about joining DCECU but assumed they wouldn't qualify, now is the time to think again,” Goad said. “With our newly expanded membership eligibility through contributions to our scholarship fund, plus our expanding roster of Select Employer Groups, it's easier than ever for someone to become a DCECU member.”

## + BUSINESS

## ELEVATE

## SMALL BUSINESSES GRANT

PROGRAM  
GUIDE

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis (Bank) created the Elevate grant to help stimulate local economic development, business expansion, workforce development, and job creation through small businesses in the Bank's district states of Indiana and Michigan.
- In 2021, the Bank will target to award \$500,000 in Elevate grants, not to exceed \$20,000 per recipient. The Bank will conduct one application funding round in 2021.
- All small businesses seeking funding under the Elevate grant (Applicant) must partner with a Bank member to submit the Elevate application.
- Members can be found here: [fhlbi.com/member-directory](https://fhlbi.com/member-directory)

## KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- **APPLICATIONS DUE** May 18, 2021
- **AWARDS ANNOUNCED** August 13, 2021
- **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES** June 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022
- **DISBURSEMENT DEADLINE** January 31, 2022

## PERMITTED USES FOR ELEVATE GRANTS

Applicants may use Elevate grants for the following purposes, together with the incidental costs related to any of the below (Permitted Uses):

- Purchase of real property
- Improvements to property (owned or leased)
- Machinery, tools or equipment costs
- Workforce development or training costs
- Technology enhancements
- Working capital (max amount of \$10,000)

The grant will only cover permitted uses identified in the budget in the application. Substitutions of similar products with similar pricing may be allowed but is not guaranteed.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Members submitting applications for small business applicants should complete the following steps prior to submission. The Member must submit fully executed copies of the following documentation by the Application Deadline:

## STEP 1: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

The application will be available starting March 15, 2021. The application can be found at [fhlbi.com/elevate](https://fhlbi.com/elevate).

- Make sure to fill out the application completely and accurately.
- Attach supporting documentation regarding an overview of the business, grant fund uses, and/or grant impact details.
- Create a compelling case for the grant and pay close attention to the evaluation factors listed in the application.
- Email [elevate@fhlbi.com](mailto:elevate@fhlbi.com) if you have questions



## + BUSINESS



DAVE YOUNGSTROM

## Yeo & Yeo announces Dave Youngstrom as CEO effective January 1, 2022

Saginaw, MI – Yeo & Yeo is pleased to announce Dave Youngstrom as its next President & CEO-elect. Effective January 1, 2022, Youngstrom will assume leadership of the firm's nine offices and all Yeo & Yeo companies – Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants, Yeo & Yeo Medical Billing & Consulting, Yeo & Yeo Computer Consulting and Yeo & Yeo Wealth Management.

"I am deeply honored that the principal group selected me as the next CEO," Youngstrom said. "While I've enjoyed the daily contact with our clients I have known for the past 25 years, I believe that I can make a difference in this new role, and I am excited to lead the firm into the future."

Youngstrom is a principal and shareholder, and he serves on Yeo & Yeo's board of directors. In his recent role as assurance service line leader, Youngstrom was responsible for directing and strategizing the firm-wide audit practice throughout Yeo & Yeo's nine offices. During his 25 years at Yeo & Yeo, Youngstrom championed many initiatives for the assurance service line

and the firm.

"He has unified the firm-wide audit team, ensuring that our professionals work together to best serve our clients," said President & CEO Thomas Hollerback. "Under his leadership, our assurance service line revenue increased 45 percent

during the past five years. These accomplishments took energy, knowledge, and patience to effectively lead and motivate others."

Hollerback will retire at the end of 2021 after nine years as CEO and 38 years with the firm. He looks forward to the new ideas Youngstrom will bring to the role during the next year of transition.

"Dave and I have worked together for more than 25 years supporting, mentoring and challenging one another along the way," Hollerback said. "I know from my long history of working with Dave that he will bring new energy and innovation to Yeo."

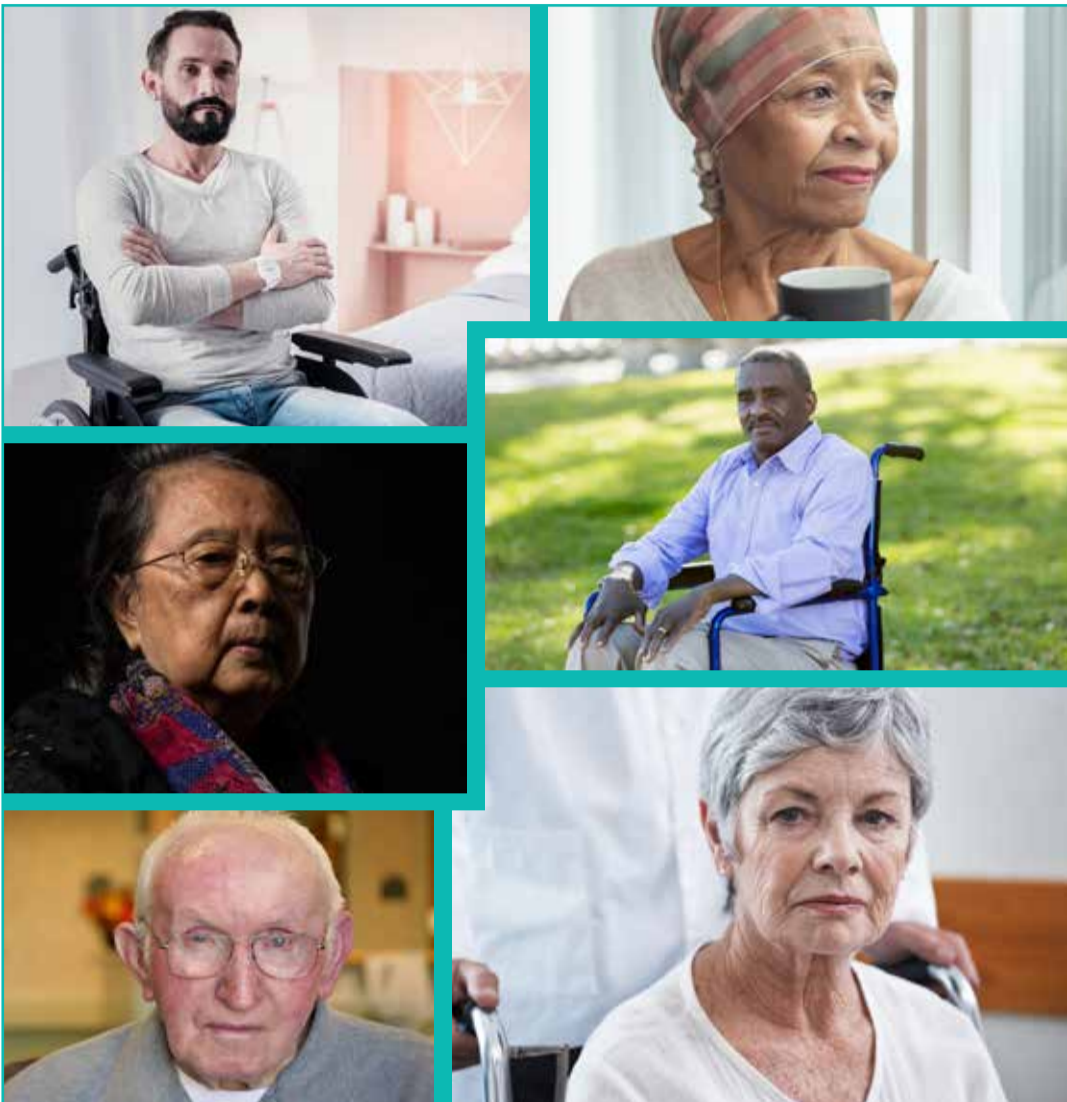
Yeo & Yeo board member Tammy Moncrief added, "Following a comprehensive leadership succession process, the board and our shareholder group are confident that Dave is the right person to strengthen our firm and drive future growth. Dave has made significant contributions towards Yeo & Yeo's success. He is an inspirational leader with great vision and a strong advocate for our employees and clients."

Youngstrom plans to continue to put Yeo & Yeo's core values first by supporting employees, giving back to our communities, and focusing on the firm's long-term success.

"I am passionate about our culture and making Yeo & Yeo the best place to work for everyone," he said. "I am committed to ensuring our clients receive the best service in the most efficient ways possible, and I pledge to continue down the path of innovation and growth for our firm."



YEO &amp; YEO SAGINAW LOCATION



# No one should have to face this pandemic alone.

**34,000 job opportunities are available for caregivers.**

In their faces, you may see your mother. Your grandfather. Your neighbor. If you have the heart of a caregiver, someone needs you. Due to this pandemic, there is a critical shortage of caregivers. Whether you have a few hours a week to spare to pick up groceries or make meals, or can give care full-time, earn income while making a difference.

Register at [ConnectToCareJobs.com](https://ConnectToCareJobs.com).



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## + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

# How are fundraising goals set at your nonprofit

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*How are fundraising goals set at your nonprofit?*

*Where did these numbers come from?*

*How are you progressing towards your fundraising goals?*

*Can you take a moment to review and – if needed – reset them? Could your goals be too aggressive? Were they set too low? Do people want to fund your programs, or do they feel you should have other priorities?*

Whether your fiscal year ends June 30th, December 31st, or another date it is always a good idea to check your progress towards your fundraising goals. We suggest starting with a simple question: how were your goals determined? Knowing this can help you assess what you need to do reach your goals prior to your fiscal year end. The following are examples of how some nonprofits set their fundraising goals.

Some organizations set their fundraising goals by calculating anticipated revenue from fees, services, multi-year grants or contracts, and then subtracting expenses. The difference is the fundraising goal. Others add a pre-determined percentage to last year's goal, regardless of the circumstances. Still others look to what their "competitors" are raising and use that as

their goal. Some just use last year's goal, regardless of whether they met it. A variation on this is to operate with no goal: the organization raises what it can.

During the goal setting process some nonprofits place an emphasis on ensuring they replace donors that were "lost" in the prior year. They keep an eye on their donor attrition numbers, the amount of money that represents, and focus on replacing those funds. Others focus on emerging or urgent community needs and make a commitment to raising funds required to be part of the solution.

Sometimes goals are set by including "windfall" gifts from the prior year. Most major estate gifts, or other unexpected large gifts or grants will not be repeated. If you include this in your current year planning, you can set yourself up for disappointment. Finally, gut feelings drive some goal setting. This is where a leader "feels" the organization has the ability to raise a certain amount regardless of prior year fundraising, number of prospective donors identified, or findings from a fea-

sibility study.

When you assess your ability to reach your fundraising goals we suggest looking to see if any of the methods above were used to set your goals. If they were, look at your data and revise your goals (up or down) based on market information. After that, look to increase your pool of prospective donors and those who can assist you with fundraising. Look at your capacity and infrastructure: were your goals too modest for what your staff and board can achieve? Too ambitious? Finally, start pulling reports on donors from this year and last: who needs to be asked for a gift? The number one reason people don't give is because they weren't asked!

Most importantly, engage in goal setting that is based on realistic information, including market research gained from a feasibility study or conversations with current and potential donors. Don't pull numbers from a hat: set realistic goals. Your staff, board, and donors will thank you.



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

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

# + CHURCH DIRECTORY

## B



**Bethel AME Church**  
Rev. Dennis Laffoon  
535 Cathay St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-7011



**Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith**  
District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor  
3521 Webber St  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601  
989-755-8381



**Bread of Life Harvest Center**  
Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart  
3726 Fortune Blvd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-790-7933

## C

**Christ Disciples Baptist Church**  
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson  
Pastor Genevieve Benson  
3317 Lapeer Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2444

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



**Christ Image Community Church**  
5501 Gratiot Rd  
Saginaw, MI 48638  
(989) 759-9161  
christimage.us

## F



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



**Faith Ministries Church**  
Dr. Anthony Revis  
3420 E Ashman St.  
Midland, MI 48642  
989-837-7777  
faithministrieschurch.org

## G



**Glimpse Of Hope Ministries**  
Pastor Leslie D Lewis  
2211 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw Michigan 48601  
989-755-9237  
g.ministries@aol.com

**Grace Chapel Church**  
Pastor James Nelson  
2202 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3212



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

**Greater Williams Temple**  
608 E Remington St  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-5291

## J



**Jacob's Ladder**  
Bishop Elect Dempsey Allen  
1926 Fairfield Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-6601

## L

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

## M

**Messiah Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Otis Washington  
2615 Williamson Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-2636  
Fax: 989-777-2640  
messiahmbc@att.net  
messiahsag.org



**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
Pastor Marvin T. Smith  
1114 N. 6th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8064

## N



**New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry**  
Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin  
2609 E. Genesee  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-8272  
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net

**New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries**  
Pastor Otis Dickens  
2312 S. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3650



**New Birth Missionary Baptist**  
Pastor Larry D. Camel  
3121 Sheridan  
Saginaw, Michigan  
989-327-1755



**New Covenant Christian Center**  
Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8485



**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey  
1721 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7600

## New Life Baptist Ministries

Dr. Craig Tatum  
1401 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1151  
newlifelcm.com

## New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

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

## New Way Ministries

Pastor Dwight & Princess Dobbins  
29200 Shiawassee St.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
(248) 987-2434  
thenewwayministry.org

## P

## Prince of Peace Baptist Church

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

## R



**Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins  
2320 Sheridan Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-395-3142

## S



**Saginaw Valley Community Church**  
Pastor Richard Sayad  
3660 Hermansau  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-752-4769



**Saint Paul Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Vincent D. McMillon  
120 North 15 St.  
Saginaw, MI. 48601  
stpaul2@yahoo.com  
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



**Second Baptist Church**  
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith  
1770 W. Youngs Ditch Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48708  
989-893-8631

**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Carl Ballard  
915 Federal Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-754-0489  
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com

## T



**Transforming Life Ministries**  
Pastor William Brown  
523 Hayden  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-9573



**True Vine Baptist Church**  
Pastor Paul E. Broaddus  
2930 Janes Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-0751

## V



**Victorious Belivers Ministries Church**  
Pastor Chris V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
989-755-7692

## W



**World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries**  
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.  
2405 Bay Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-752-7957

## Z



**Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rodrick Smith  
721 Johnson  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-754-9621

# + SPORTS



**Congratulations to Jessica Peatross for being named 2021 MCAA North Conference Women's Coach of the Year!**



In her second season, Jessica Peatross took on the new role as Interim Head Coach. In Peatross's first season, she assisted with the player development, film breakdown & scouting. The Lady Pioneers made it to the Great Lakes East Region Final Four during the 2019-2020 season and finished the season with three student-athletes receiving All-Conference & Honorable Mention awards. This year, coach Peatross earned 2021 MCAA North Conference Women's Coach of the Year.

Peatross went out and got the athletes to build a program, taught them the game, kept them focused during the rollercoaster ride of Covid and finished conference champs, regional runner-up and ranked #20 in the Nation.

A native of Lansing, Michigan, Coach Peatross graduated from Holt High School in 2010. There she was twice named All-State honorable mention in basketball. A member of the 1,000-point club and holds the record for career assists at Holt. Peatross was also named Lansing State Journal (LSJ) Female Athlete of the Year as well as LSJ All-Decade Team and LSJ Dream-Team for both basketball and golf her senior year. She received a Division I scholarship to play golf, basketball and track at Chicago State University. Peatross is a 2014 graduate of Chicago State University with a BA in Communications. After completing her playing career at Chicago State University, Coach Peatross continued her education at Valparaiso University where she received her MA in Sports Administration, Information & Marketing in 2016. While there, she joined the Women's Basketball program as a Graduate Assistant, assisting with daily practice planning, player development and social media marketing, amongst other duties.

Using her experience at the D-I level as the foundation of her playing and learning, Peatross is unceasingly focused on motivating, as well as teaching the importance of academics, commitment, perseverance, dedication and to all student-athletes.



+ SPORTS

Congratulations to Pioneer Men's & Women's Basketball student-athletes on the 2021 MCCA All-Conference selections!



2021 MCCA NORTH CONFERENCE WOMEN'S POST-SEASON AWARDS

Defensive Player of the Year

KA' MAIRA ARMSTRONG



2021 MCCA NORTH CONFERENCE MEN'S POST-SEASON AWARDS

KEVIN RICE

Freshman of the Year

Player of the Year



ALL-REGION ALL-MCCA



All-Freshman Team



First Team All-Conference



NIA BOSTON

Freshman of the Year

Player of the Year



ALL-REGION ALL-MCCA



All-Freshman Team



First Team All-Conference



ALL-REGION ALL-MCCA

Kevin Rice



Jackarus Smith



ALL-REGION ALL-MCCA

Nia Boston



Paige Sanders



**+ SPORTS**



**REGISTRATION:**

[www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com](http://www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com)  
to register and pay online.

**Registration Deadline June 13, 2021**

\*League registration reserves a free spot in the  
Sugar Beets Baseball/Softball Camp at Hoyt Park  
June 15-16th (12-3 pm)

**COST:**

**\$20 per player**

\* \$3 additional fee charged on registration site

**NEED A TEAM?**  
T-Ball & Coach Pitch teams will be formed by  
the League. Division Players needing a team  
may sign up and will be placed on the waitlist.

Additional information is available on our  
website: [www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com](http://www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com)  
or call SCPRC at 989-790-5283



**Hey Batter Batter!**

**WHO:**

All Saginaw County  
**BOYS & GIRLS**

Age 5-6 (T-ball)

Age 7-8 (Coach Pitch)

Division teams:

10U, 12U & 15U

**WHEN:**

10 Game Season

July 6th - Aug 5, 2021

Tuesday & Thursday

Evenings

**WHERE:**

Hoyt Park

1574 S. Washington Ave

Saginaw, MI

Division Teams (10U, 12U & 15U)  
require a team sponsor. Please  
send \$200 sponsorship fee to:  
Saginaw County Parks  
111. S. Michigan LL 012  
Saginaw, MI 48602.

Division players are still required  
to register and pay online to be  
qualified to play in the league.

## + SPORTS



GREAT LAKES LOONS

## Teaming up: DCECU, Great Lakes Loons partner to benefit community

Saginaw, MI – As Minor League Baseball prepares to resume play in 2021, Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union (dcecu.org) and the MiLB's Midland-based Great Lakes Loons (loons.com) also are resuming their partnership to benefit the local community.

For the Loons' 2021 season, which begins May 4, DCECU once again will be the presenting sponsor of Loons wins, donating \$100 to Arnold Center, Inc. – a nonprofit organization that empowers individuals with disabilities and other barriers to independence through enhanced vocational, social and life skill training and services that lead to greater self-sufficiency – for every regular-season Loons victory.

According to Arnold Center Executive Director Jennifer Grace, the organization will use the funds to expand the Midland Fresh mobile food pantry program, which delivers fresh produce and other food items each week to 11 locations throughout Midland County during the summer months, providing both a service to the community and meaningful volunteer opportunities for individuals in the Arnold Center's programs.

DCECU also returns as the sponsor of the Loons' "Rookie Signing Bonus" promotion in 2021. Children ages 3 to 12 may have their parent or guardian register them at loons.com/dcecu for a chance to be the DCECU Rookie of the Game at

a 2021 Loons home game. Each Rookie of the Game will receive four tickets to their appointed game, a T-shirt and \$50 to put toward their savings courtesy of DCECU. The child also will earn an additional \$10 for each run the Loons score during their appointed game.

In addition, DCECU remains the exclusive credit union partner of the Great Lakes Loons and naming rights partner of the Northern Lights Pavilion, the 500-person hospitality venue located down the left field line at Dow Diamond, the Loons' home stadium.

"As we all eagerly await the return of professional baseball to Midland this spring and summer, it truly is an honor and a privilege to continue serving as the official credit union of the Great Lakes Loons," said DCECU Chief Executive Officer Michael Goad. "We are grateful to once again have the opportunity to make an impact on the Great Lakes Bay Region via our partnership with our friends and neighbors at Dow Diamond."

Loons Interim President & General Manager Mike Hayes also expressed enthusiasm about the partnership.

"The Loons and DCECU share many values focused on the betterment of our communities, and our partnership is a strong reflection of those values," Hayes said. "We look forward to working closely with DCECU to create meaningful opportunities for local youth and nonprofit organizations in 2021 and beyond."

Despite the cancellation of the Loons' 2020 season, DCECU made an \$8,500 contribution to Personal Assistance Options (PAO), which had been slated to be the 2020 beneficiary of the credit union's sponsorship of Loons' victories. PAO is a Midland-based nonprofit organization that serves area residents with disabilities.

"It just didn't feel right to let the cancellation of the Loons' season mean the cancellation of our contribution to PAO," said DCECU Senior Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Susan Phillips, who leads many of DCECU's philanthropic endeavors. "So, we decided to make a donation to PAO anyway – matching our 2019 'Loons wins' sponsorship contribution to The Diaper Alliance and adding another \$100, for a total of \$8,500."

# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 8

## Young Adults Find Support, Success Through R.I.S.E.



COURTESY PHOTO

Flint, MI – Sometimes people just need a little extra support to succeed to the best of their abilities. This was true for 23-year-old Angel McLilly, a young woman in Genesee County who was disengaged from school and work after giving birth to her son. That was until she found R.I.S.E., a peer-to-peer group that is part of the Flint & Genesee Opportunity Youth Coalition and helps disengaged young people ages 16 – 24 find the resources and encouragement they need to succeed.

“R.I.S.E. helped me find my direction in life,” says McLilly, who has been involved with the program since its inception. “The group helped me learn how I could be better for myself, my family and

my community.”

McLilly is now working full-time while raising her son and still participating in R.I.S.E. as the current president of the group.

“If anyone needs help with school, or need other resources, R.I.S.E. is there to help,” says McLilly. “It also helps individuals grow into thriving adults.”

R.I.S.E., which stands for respect, inspire, stand up and energize, is uniquely positioned to help young people in the community. As a part of the Flint & Genesee Opportunity Youth Coalition, a coalition of 20 members from area organizations, R.I.S.E. bridges the gap between disengaged young people and the resour-

ces coalition members provide.

“When we refer to disengaged youth, we mean that in any sense of the word,” says Dennis Williams-Mitchell, youth ambassador at Flint & Genesee Education & Talent. “It can mean disengaged from school, the workforce or even the community.”

Williams-Mitchell adds that R.I.S.E. is also a group for individuals that may be on the right path but want to be part of something that is bigger than themselves.

Currently, R.I.S.E. meets virtually due to social distancing restrictions. For more information and to join R.I.S.E., contact Dennis Williams-Mitchell at [DWilliams-Mitchell@FlintandGenesee.org](mailto:DWilliams-Mitchell@FlintandGenesee.org).

**ON THE JOB:****Jewel Langston**

JEWEL LANGSTON

Flint, MI – Carman-Ainsworth High School Graduate, Jewel Langston, has been working hard toward her future. After graduating high school, Langston attended Mott Community College, where she received an associate's degree. She then went on to attend Wayne State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in business management.

"When I first graduated from Wayne State, I was working third shift at a casino," says Langston. "I was trying to find my footing as an adult when I applied with Rock Connections."

There, the recruiter at Rock Connections referred her to a client experiences position. With that position, she worked with partner company StockX until March 2020 when her company shifted to help the Detroit-area brace for the pandemic.

"When everything shut down, I was in

Chicago," says Langston. "After coming back, I had to self-quarantine and then everyone started working from home. I was supposed to transition to a different team, however, the company needed help with Project Halo."

According to Langston, Project Halo helped Detroit citizens schedule COVID-19 tests at the beginning of the pandemic. Now, she works with a team that supervises contact tracers for those monitor those who were exposed to individuals who tested positive for the virus.

Moving forward, Langston has big plans and states that Rock Connections and the family of companies has a lot of opportunity for growth.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I want to transition into human re-

sources. My current supervisor knows this and is helping me build my administration skills and will assign me tasks to help do that.

**How did lessons learned in TeenQuest help you on your path to this position?**

Through Summer Youth Initiative, I had a summer job every year after I graduated TeenQuest up until college. It helped teach me how to work with different types of people, increased my communications skills and taught me business etiquette.

When I went to college, I could see a difference in myself compared to my peers who may not have had an opportunity like TeenQuest or Summer Youth Initiative.

**What skills did you use from TeenQuest when interviewing for your position?**

Learning how to update my resume and adjust it for the position that I applied for, making sure I made good eye contact in my interview and practicing common questions before the interview like naming my strengths and weaknesses.

**What is a memory you have from TeenQuest/Summer Youth Initiative?**

Working my last SYI job at Mott Workforce Development. Some of the relationships I built there I still have to this day.

**What advice would you offer current TeenQuest students?**

Take advantage of all the programs and opportunities they have to offer. And don't be nervous in your interview!

**What is your proudest moment since TeenQuest?**

Last year I started doing community service projects and it sparked a passion in me. This year I have six community projects lined up. It gives me a great sense of pride to be able to give back to my community.

*TeenQuest and Summer Youth Initiative are made possible through the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.*



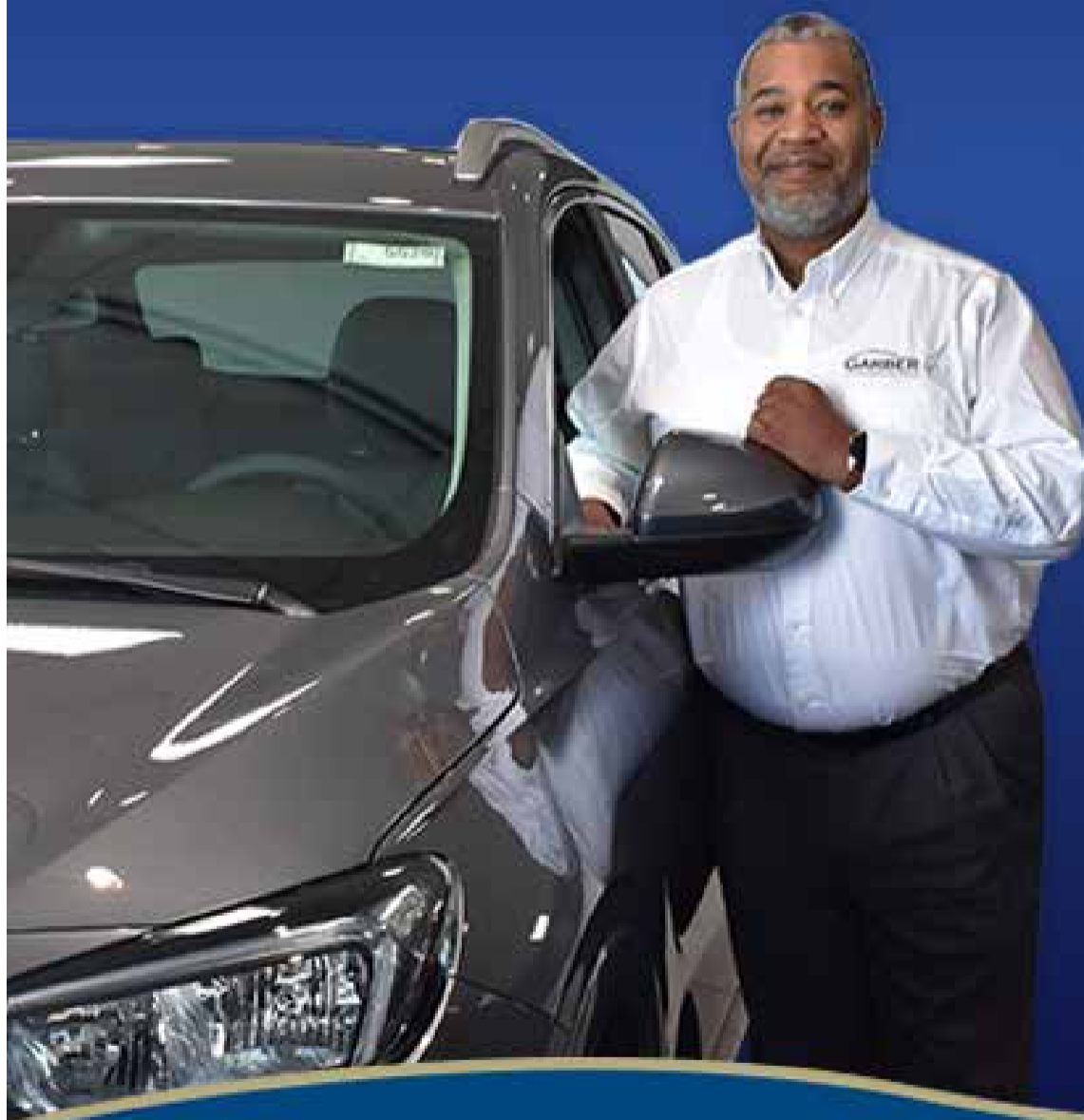
## PICS OF THE WEEK FLINT CHAPTER - JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC.

The youth of the mothers of the Flint Chapter - Jack and Jill of America, Inc. generously donated \$1,000 of their own hard earned money to help those in need in their community. The Flint Chapter of this service and learning organization are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> year of nurturing children into future leaders.



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**We**

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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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