

A focus on ethnic equity in covid vacs

COMMUNITY, PG 36

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EDITION



ANGELIA WILLIAMS

Health care leader overcame challenges

*She thought of quitting,
now she's in charge*

By MIKE THOMPSON

Angelia Williams followed a difficult path to her status as director of special projects at the anti-poverty Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, formerly Health Delivery Inc.

She first dreamed of becoming a doctor, but she shifted quickly to registered nursing. She began at Michigan State University and transferred to Florida A&M, where she achieved her 1979 bachelor's degree in nursing.

CONTINUES ON PG 38, ANGELIA WILLIAMS



New ALPACT role for Parishioners on Patrol founder

COMMUNITY, PG 11



'Gospel Lady' moves forward from a humble start

COMMUNITY, PG 13



Newcomer replaces long- time Delta trustee

COMMUNITY, PG 43



BLACK HISTORY HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHTS

THREAD128 CREW

Recognizing Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford

By MB STAFF

In our 'Black History Hometown highlights' series we recognize Saginaw native, Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford.

Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford, a cancer survivor, has a noteworthy career in healthcare, civic service, and business that has spanned nearly five decades. At present he is the Chairman and CEO of Diversity-Vuteq, LLC, an automotive supplier of molded plastic parts and assemblies for the automotive industry. Diversity-Vuteq, LLC is an international joint venture between Dr. Crawford and Vuteq, a major Japanese

automotive parts supplier that supports Toyota operations in Indiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.

With Dr. William Picard, Dr. Crawford co-founded VITEC-USA, a supplier of plastic fuel tanks and systems to the automotive industry. VITEC was the first major manufacturing business in the Detroit Empowerment Zone and recorded annual sales in excess of \$150 million.

Dr. Crawford has also been chairman of the Delta Dental Plan of Michigan, Indiana,

CONTINUES ON PG 2,
DR. LAWRENCE D. CRAWFORD

BLACK HISTORY HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Hair replacement, 'natural woman' style

*The life of Saginaw-born cosmetologist
Gloria "Gigi" Roberson*

COMMUNITY, PG 14



Cover Story, Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford

and Ohio. He currently serves as immediate Past Chair of the Delta Dental Foundation.

Dr. Crawford is currently chairman of the Booker T. Washington Association of Detroit, and of Real Times Media Inc., the parent organization of numerous publications that include *The Chicago Defender*, *The Memphis Tri-State Defender*, *The Pittsburg Courier*, *The Michigan Chronicle*, *The Michigan Front Page*, and *Who's Who In Black America*, among others throughout 26 cities.

Dr. Crawford graduated from The University of Michigan, School of Dentistry in 1974, and practiced dentistry in his hometown of Saginaw, Michigan, for many years.

In November 1983, he began a four-year tenure as mayor. He was the third African American, following Henry Marsh and Joe Stephens. Emphasis was diversity within the city's workforce and contractors.

Additional distinguished civic service

has included the following: Liaison to the I-75 Corridor Mayors at the Michigan Department of Commerce; presidential appointment to the National Advisory Board of the Small Business Administration; and Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Gender and Racial Equity in the Courts.

Dr. Crawford is a native of Saginaw, Michigan. He is a member of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan. He is a life member of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and The University of Michigan Alumni Association. His honors include Michigan Dental Association Dentist Citizen of the Year, Chamber of Commerce Brick Award, Frontier's Businessmen of the Year Award, Alpha Phi Alpha Community Service Award, the Zeta Phi Beta Professional Achievement Award, Saginaw High School Distinguished Alumnus.

He also received The Legends of Automotive Award from Rev Jessie Jackson and Operation Push.

Dr Crawford received an Honorary Doctorate of Entrepreneurism Degree from West Virginia State University in 2012.

Dr. Crawford, and his wife of 40 years, Winnie, have two sons, Alan, and Larry Jr., Howard Law and University of Massachusetts Law Alumni, with U of Michigan undergrad degrees. Larry Jr. works for Diversity Vuteq. He and his wife, Krysta, grandsons, Lawrence III, William, and Preston have returned from a three-year internship with Vuteq in Japan. Alan practices law in the Michigan I-75 Corridor. The Crawford Family Holdings, LLC comprises the entire family and works throughout the USA to improve the lives of team members in all communities where the family has invested.



ANGELA DAVIS

SVSU to host virtual conversation with Angela Davis

As part of the Visiting Scholars and Artists Series, SVSU is honored to present Angela Davis - feminist, writer and advocate for social reform - as February's Black History Month Speaker. A virtual Zoom conversation on

"Social Justice & Ongoing Racism" will take place Thursday, Feb. 18, at 5:00 pm.

Angela Davis (born Jan. 26, 1944) is a political activist, academic, and author, who has been highly involved in the civil rights

movement in the U.S. She is well known for her work and influence on racial justice, women's rights, and criminal justice reform. Davis is a professor emerita at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in its History of Consciousness Department, and a former director of the university's Feminist Studies Department. In the 1960s and 1970s, Davis was known for her association with the Black Panthers Party—but actually spent only a short time as a member of that group—and the Communist Party. For a time she even appeared on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's "Ten Most Wanted" list. In 1997, Davis co-founded Critical Resistance, an organization working toward the dismantling of prisons, or what Davis and others have called the prison-industrial complex.

Through her activism and scholarship over many decades, Angela Davis has been deeply involved in movements for social justice around the world. Her work as an educator – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice.

To register for the virtual event visit www.svsu.edu/angeladavis.

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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

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Mailed or e-mailed
Preferred format: Jpeg or PDF

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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Change for the better

Perhaps you have noticed that the format of The Michigan Banner has changed. A great deal of thought went into the decision to upgrade.

Changing for the better is an old phrase that recommends committing to the hard work now for improved circumstances or outcomes in the future. While it was very important to The Michigan Banner staff that we modernize our format for our circulation, it would not have caused harm if we had waited to do so. There are other more important changes to be made that are critical to the safety and well-being of local communities and on a broader scale, to the betterment of the nation. These changes will require us to roll up our sleeves and actively seek to maintain peace and bring about a much-needed healing. Pulitzer Prize winner, social activist and literature great Alice Walker said, 'Activism is my rent for living on the planet.' In other words, the survival of this planet will require active participation from each of us but with the understanding, like Walker, it will cost us something – we must pay the rent.

Changing the world around us for the better is a process – it is not a single act or contribution to a favorite charity or organization. It requires a willingness to listen to varying viewpoints for the purpose of learning more about other races, cultures, religions, and political positions or views. Maintaining one's integrity and long-held beliefs while recognizing the value of those who see the world differently is not an easy task. Adlai Stevenson once said, 'Change for the better is a full-time job.' It is work – hard work and it is on-going. There are no quick fixes or short cuts to creating and maintaining lines of communication which will allow us to have courageous conversations and result in building better relationships. Motivating others to participate in this process requires commitment. I will share a few tips which can be useful during any phase of the journey to change:

- Read, read, read i.e., educate yourself. Read opposing points of view with the intention of better understanding (not necessarily agreeing with) family, friends, and colleagues. We can get hooked on our preferred news reporter(s) and believe personalities with little regard for the truth.
- Speak up! Certainly, speak up for yourself but for others as well. Safely refuse to allow hurtful expressions or actions to be shared in your presence.
- Start now and prepare yourself to start again and again. This is not a sprint – changing the world for the better will take time.



Jerome Buckley

Jerome Buckley
Publisher, Michigan Banner

The change list could go on and on. If we grasp and practice the basics to a successful transformation, we will be off to a very good start. Maya Angelou said, 'We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.' Changing for the better – costly and challenging work. We are up to the task.

Enjoy another Black History Month edition of The Michigan Banner filled with educational, historical, and uplifting pieces. It is our privilege to continue to serve the Great Lakes Bay region with enlightening and balanced news.

IN THIS ISSUE ▶

Latino Banner	LB 1 - LB 5
Community	11
Politics & Public Policy	34
Health	36
Education	43
Business & Wealth	48
Sports	54
Youth Banner	56 - 57

THE MICHIGAN BANNER NEWS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AT&T



IN AN EMERGENCY, SECONDS MATTER.

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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

9th Annual Premios K?ONDA! Awards

 JACK LUNA Knowledge of K?onda Award	 DOMINGO WARDIEZ Outstanding Musician Award	 CELESTINA ROBLES Newspaper Singer Award
 KAPULLI TEKPATL Distinguished Dance Group Award	 JUVE ALDACO JR. All Time Achievement Award	 BOBBY BARRERA Creative Lyricist Award
 ELIDA ANDAVERDE Appreciation Award	 NINA HAGNESS Appreciation Award	 PRIDE INC Appreciation Award
 MIGUEL LUNA Heritage Award	 JESSE SALCEDO Heritage Award	 MIDWEST Allstars

Saturday April 17, 2021 at Horizons Conference Center
6200 State Street Saginaw, MI 48503
5pm Social Hour 6pm Dinner and Awards.
Dance featuring Jr. Aldaco and the Midwest Allstars.
Tickets are \$40 per person and a table of 8 \$320.
Tickets on sale at Maria's Mexican Restaurant
or by calling (989) 332-1107.
(Following COVID-19 guidelines)

K?ONDA EVENT FLYER

VIRTUAL TERCER JUEVES BUSINESS NETWORKING

Conéctate con MHCC!

January 21, 2021 4:00 PM - 5:00PM
Registration: bit.ly/3bgY5DA

Special Presentation by:
Huntington
Welcome.

TERCER JUEVES BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT FLYER

New date for 9th Annual K?Onda! Awards

The date of the 9th annual Premios K?Onda! Awards has been changed from Saturday, April 3, 2021 to Saturday, April 17, 2021. The organizers apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but still plan for an eventful evening.

Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased at Maria's Mexican Restaurant (6090 State St., Saginaw, MI).

Join K?Onda for a night of celebration as they recognize the contributions of Hispanic music in the state of Michigan.

For more information, call (989) 332-1107

Virtual Tercer Jueves business networking event

Join The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, January 21, 2021 for their very first Virtual Tercer Jueves Business Networking event of the year! Connect with old friends and get to know new ones!

The event will feature speakers from Huntington to discuss the Lift Local Business Program. Huntington offers a program designed to create more opportunities for woman-, veteran-, and racially and ethnically diverse-owned businesses in the hopes that more opportunity generates more

possibilities throughout the community.

Huntington is interested in crafting solutions for the unique challenges faced by entrepreneurs from all walks of life. No unnecessary extras—just a streamlined plan aimed at growth.

Part of Huntington's \$20 billion Community Plan, this program is looking out for you, so you can look out for what's best for your business, your family, and your customers.

The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce promotes economic advancement, growth, and sustainability for its

members by enabling access to business opportunities and developmental resources through strategic initiatives.

Tercer Jueves events bring Chamber members together for networking and business development. Featuring a rotating program hosted by an MHCC member company, they are a favorite of Chamber members big and small and offer extraordinary opportunities to connect with area decision-makers and learn more about member businesses.

To register for the event, visit bit.ly/3bgY5DA.

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS

Hispanic Public Relations Association Announces National Board of Directors for 2021-2022



2021-2022 Board of Directors

President - Sonia V. Diaz
President-elect - Jaime Rojas
Secretary - Maggie Santos
Treasurer - Elia Verduzco

PRNEWSFOTO/HISPANIC PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

Miami, FL – The Hispanic Public Relations Association (HPRA) today announced that Sonia V. Diaz of Balsera Communications will serve as president of the HPRA Executive Board for its 2021-2022 term. Diaz, who has been part of the organization for seven years, previously served as president of HPRA's Miami chapter from 2014-2016. Jaime Rojas of Los Angeles-based Rojas Communications Group will serve as president-elect for 2022.

"As an organization of professionals that has been greatly impacted by a series of economic and social crises within the past year, we believe it is more important than ever to engage our industry in a way that will ensure its continued growth and development in 2021," said Diaz.

According to a 2018 report from the Harvard Business Review, Latinos makeup only 5.7% of the industry while representing

17% of the workforce nationwide. The gender gap at the executive level is much wider with 70% of the industry's workforce being female while only holding 30% of its executive positions.

"Our new executive board is comprised of a diverse set of communications leaders who are eager to share their best practices for addressing critical issues that are affecting our industry across all sectors, such as the fast rise of disinformation online, organization diversity, equity and inclusion, and fundraising in a virtual world, among others," she added.

In addition to Diaz and Rojas, the HPRA 2021-2022 Executive Board includes:

- Treasurer: Elia Verduzco, OCTA
- Secretary: Maggie Santos, City of Doral
- Directors at large: Darcy Brito,

AFLAC, Mario Flores, Sportivo, Maggie Hernandez, Cision, Mayra Ramos Miró, Red Heels PR, Jennifer Morales, Amazon, Carla Santiago, Edelman, Oscar Suris, Zeno Group

- BRAVO Committee Co-chairs: Andy Checo, Havas FORMULATIN, Brenda Mendoza, Guardian Life
- Past Presidents: Stephen Chavez, Chavez PR, Andy Checo, Havas FORMULATIN, Yvonne Lorie, ReFresh PR

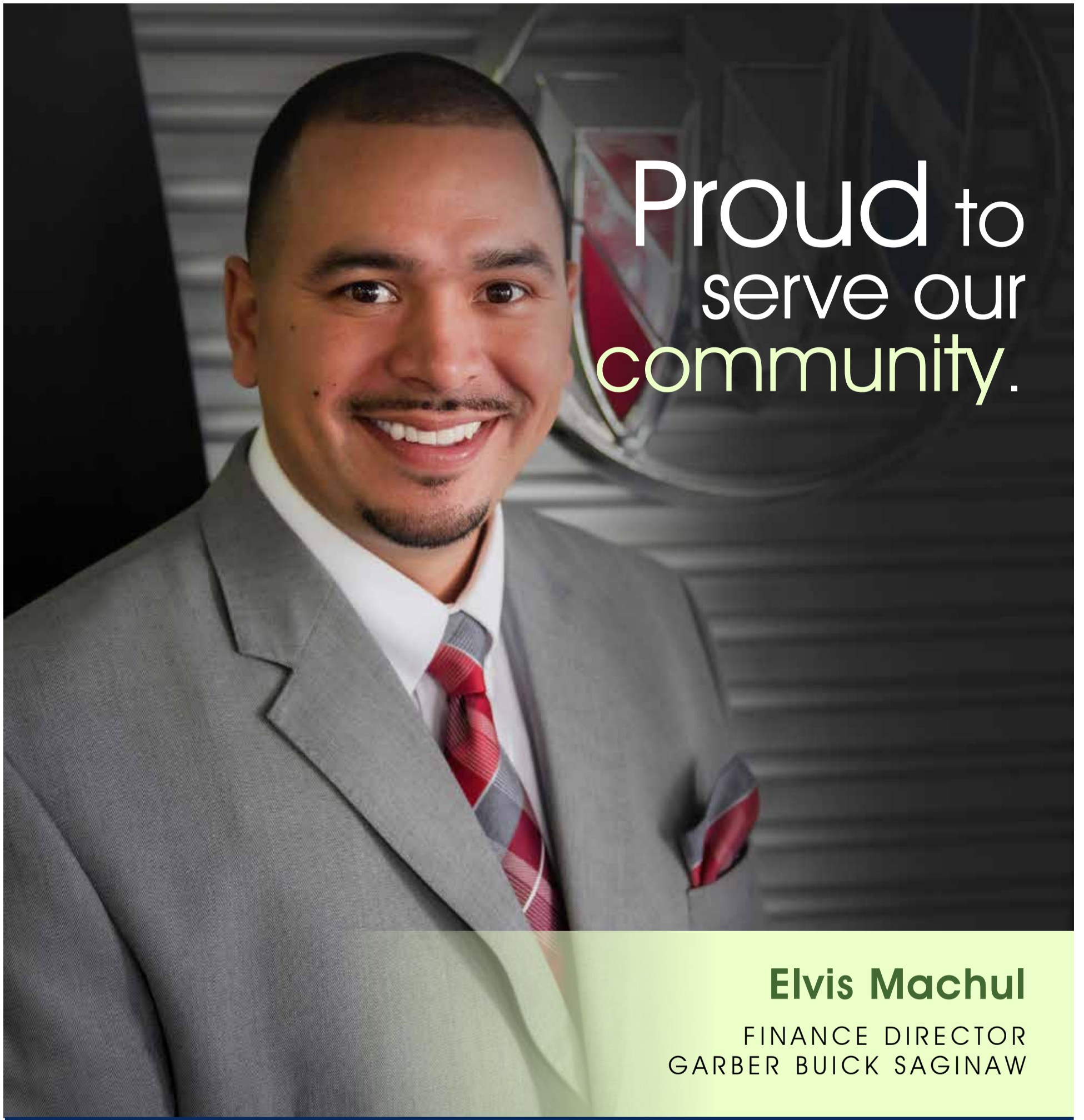
HPRA's professional development and leadership opportunities, including presence at key industry conferences, are also supported by the organization's local and regional chapters, which offer in-market professional development initiatives and exclusive networking activities with top journalists and industry thought leaders.

HPRA Chapter Presidents include:

- Los Angeles – Jaime Rojas, Rojas Communications Group
- Miami – Erika Cruz, Edelman
- New York – Erika Sanchez, Braid Communications
- Texas – Audrey Ponzio, APC Collective
- The Carolinas - Natalia Flores, APR, Inspire PR
- HPRA Collegiate - Catalina Santana, University of Florida

Additionally, every year, HPRA's Annual iBRAVO! Awards recognizes the most innovative, creative, and cultural campaigns across several categories including technology, food & beverage, healthcare & nutrition, sports, automotive, digital, non-profit and integrated marketing, honoring individuals who are pioneers in their industry. The 2021 iBRAVO! Awards are currently slated to take place in New York City in September.

For more information on HPRA, local chapters, iBRAVO! Awards and/or the organization's scholarship program, please visit www.hpra-usa.org.



Elvis Machul

FINANCE DIRECTOR
GARBER BUICK SAGINAW



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5925 STATE ST, SAGINAW, MI 48603

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 5TH
5PM - 7:30 PM
&
SATURDAY,
MARCH 6TH
12:00 - 3:30 PM**

**28TH ANNUAL DIA DE LA MUJER
LEADERSHIP &
EMPOWEERMENT
CONFERENCE**

**LA LUCHA
ANCESTRAL:
EL FUEGO
EN MI**

This year's conference
will be held via Zoom.
More information is
available at
<http://ddlm.ocat.msu.edu>

DIA DE LA MUJER LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMEN CONFERENCE FLYER

Spring 2021 Dia de la Mujer Leadership and Empowerment Conference

East Lansing, MI – We are excited to officially announce the dates for our Annual DDLM conference that will be held this spring. DDLM is a statewide leadership and empowerment conference dedicated to the advancement of Latinas. The Día de la Mujer Conference is celebrating 28 years of existence during the weekend of March 5th and 6th. DDLM has become a hub in the Midwest region for the empowerment of thousands of Latinas that have attended. The success of this community initiative is due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and sponsors each year. The goal of the conference is

to empower, motivate, inspire, train, and work collectively to expand opportunities for Latinas and all women. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's conference will be held virtually, in compliance with CDC and State of Michigan best practices.

WHO: You are invited to attend this year's Dia de la Mujer Leadership and Empowerment Conference

WHAT: This is the largest Latina Conference in Michigan

WHEN: Friday(5:00-7:30 PM) &

Saturday (12:00-3:30PM), March 5th & 6th 2021

WHERE: The conference will be held via Zoom, Registration will be opened on February 19th, 2021, and can be found on our website <http://ddlm.ocat.msu.edu>

We want to once again thank you for your leadership and initiative to offer solutions to social issues affecting Latinas and all women. We appreciate your support of the conference.

COMMUNITY BOARD

Submit your **announcements** and **events** at michiganbanner.org



¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS AND THE BIG LEAGUES

JANUARY 23, 2021 - APRIL 18, 2021

THE CASTLE MUSEUM OF SAGINAW COUNTY HISTORY HOSTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S "¡PLEIBOL! IN THE BARRIOS AND THE BIG LEAGUES" TRAVELING EXHIBIT. EXPLORE HOW LATINOS/AS HAVE MADE THE GAME WHAT IT IS TODAY, AND BASEBALL'S PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THEIR CULTURE. WITNESS HOW BASEBALL UNITES ALL RACES, CLASSES, AND GENDERS IN THIS NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN EXHIBIT.





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+ COMMUNITY

New ALPACT role for Parishioners on Patrol founder

By MIKE THOMPSON

Bishop Larry Camel helped to launch Parishioners on Patrol as a citizens' coalition to combat and prevent crime.

More than 10 years later, he will serve as co-chairman of a group that aims to promote improved police/community relations.

The organization is ALPACT, Advocates and Leaders for Police And Community Trust. To reflect the link with law enforcement, Camel's co-chair is Saginaw Police Chief Robert Ruth.

Camel, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church at 3121 Sheridan, may bring increased focus to the Saginaw ALPACT Committee, which has remained mostly in the background during its six-year history.

He says he will not hesitate to bring Parishioners on Patrol strategies to the ALPACT table, ranging from peace marches to food giveaways to career training in various trades.

"We can work on issues relating to Black Lives Matter," Camel begins, naming a national movement that is opposed by some conservative police supporters. "We should address social justice, education, economic development. Police and the community must work together for a common cause toward reform."

Aid to people in need may not seem part of an ALPACT mission, he adds, but the connection happens because poverty often is linked to resulting police involvement with residents.

Chief Ruth says he sees potential in the



BISHOP LARRY CAMEL

approach that Camel describes.

"It's all about communicating with the community," Ruth says. "I've known Bishop Camel for years, and he's going to be a great asset."

The chief focuses on ALPACT's purpose: "to examine issues affecting police and community relations to ensure equitable enforcement of laws including: racial profiling, police discretion, use of force, recruitment and training, citizen complaint processes, community partnering, and police leadership."

Michigan's first ALPACT group was formed in Detroit during the 1990s and models have spread to various communities, usually with open-minded police chiefs taking the lead. Chief Ruth launched Saginaw ALPACT shortly after taking the city's police helm in January 2015. One of the reasons he cited was ongoing bad feelings that lingered after the July 2012 police slaying of Milton Hall, a homeless and mentally ill 49-year-old who died in a hail of 47 bullets at Riverview Plaza. Police claimed he dangerously brandished a pocket knife. None of the six officers involved was charged with any crime or misconduct.

ALPACT generated scant attention until last summer, when Chief Ruth called a press conference after the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd (following Breonna

Taylor's death in Louisville) generated national protest demonstrations, including a Saginaw march. Ruth was flanked in the police headquarters lobby by community leaders and ALPACT reps, such as Carl "Mac" Williams and Bobby DeLeon, while he asserted that Saginaw would not stand for such terrible misconduct. He cited ongoing officer training in culture diversity and mental health.

A second news conference took place six weeks later, after Ruth terminated an officer who beat a 57-year-old female prisoner who had spat on him. Police unions took a 46-1 no-confidence vote toward the chief and staged a weekend of "blue flu" absences, but ALPACT stood behind the city administration.

A local clergyman who works with Camel says the minister is an ideal choice to serve as the Saginaw ALPACT co-chair.

"Bishop Camel is a very keen-minded person who will be an excellent bridge to the community," said the Rev. Craig Tatum, senior pastor at New Life Baptist Ministries Church, 1401 Janes, and president of Saginaw African American Pastors. "He knows how to work with young people through mentorship programs. He will bring ALPACT to do great things."

To contact Larry Camel, visit his Facebook page, email LDCwin@aol.com or call Parishioners on Patrol at 401-6213.

+ COMMUNITY



DR. JEAN GOODNOW



NAACP Saginaw Branch issues statement of qualities and characteristics for new Delta College President

By **TERRY PRUITT**

PRESIDENT NAACP SAGINAW
BRANCH

The Delta College's Board of Trustees has initiated a national search process to fill an important leadership position with the announced retirement of President, Dr. Jean Goodnow. During the NAACP Saginaw Branch Executive Committee meeting held on February 6, 2021, they outlined a list of qualities and characteristics they felt should guide the search effort and decision-making of the Delta College Board of Trustees in the appointment of a new leader for the college.

These are the following qualities and characteristics the NAACP Saginaw Branch feels finalist candidates should have:

- Demonstrate strong and consistent organizational leadership ability over a period of a minimum of 5 years preferably in an urban setting.
- Demonstrate the ability to function in a leadership capacity in a diverse, multicultural institutional environment.
- Demonstrate a sustainable commitment to institutional diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Must be committed to walking the talk. Candidates should have an ability to inspire optimism and enthusiasm and demonstrate the ability to be decisive.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop, lead and enforce the implementation of programs and services that support the recruitment and success of students of color.
- Demonstrate an ability to strengthen the academic and global profile of the college through a willingness to be visible on campus and in the community (especially in underserved areas of the community).
- Demonstrate an acute ability to adapt to the cultural and political changes occurring in the GLBR.
- Demonstrate a willingness to be transparent, fair and objective in the management of institutional matters.
- Demonstrate an ability to be collaborative with assertive efforts to develop strategic partnerships and build strong relationship with community stakeholders, especially with, legislators, donors and those who can address the needs of the local workplace and the community's quality of life. This must include strengthening the relationship with Saginaw Valley State University, the Intermediate School District and local school districts, especially urban schools.
- Demonstrate an ability to develop and retain, within the local college community, leaders across all sub-groups (senior staff, cabinet members, faculty, students, etc.) with a mindset toward establishing organizational career pipelines.
- Demonstrate a willingness to encourage and accept technology innovations that enhance learning and expand the ability of the college to pursue its mission and meet strategic objectives.
- Be a visionary leader who is future-focused with a strong communication and listening skills. Must be able to position the college as a key driver and leader in addressing identified concerns and needs in the community.

The Saginaw NAACP Branch also issued the following statement:

We expect that the Board of Trustees will extend every effort to appoint a well-qualified individual to serve as the President of the college. The NAACP Branch wishes to go on record that the search should also include a significant effort to identify minority individuals as part of the pool of finalist candidates to be interviewed for the position. Although this not listed as an absolute requirement for the next President of the college, this step will certainly signal and confirm the Board of Trustees' leadership and commitment to the principles of diversity and equity in the development of the senior administrative team.

+ COMMUNITY

**BLACK
HISTORY**
hometown
highlight:
Vicki
Hill

'Gospel Lady' *moves forward from a humble start*

By MIKE THOMPSON

Vicki Hill grew up singing in church choirs, and continued as a young adult in the late Jerry Redeemer's Saginaw Valley Mass Choir. She did not immediately consider the concept of becoming mid-Michigan's popular "Gospel Lady," a Sunday morning staple on KISS 107 FM since 1995.

Encounters with a pair of radio personalities rooted in the initial "W-3-Soul," WWWS, got her started.

Dante Toussaint expressed that her rich, cheery voice would be ideal for a public service announcement he was producing, and Station Manager Kermit Crockett hired her on the spot, not only for the 60-second PSA but for a part-time staff opening.

"Twenty-six years later, I am still there,"

she declares, with the same exultation that we hear on the radio.

Hill made her debut with R&B segments that she followed with an assortment of Gospel music. Gradually she moved more and more into her first love, gospel, and became the successor to Dr. Christopher Banks at the station.

"I had always listened to gospel music shows on the radio, especially to Chris Banks, and he became my inspiration," she notes.

Her benefactor, Dante Toussaint, was known as a smooth-voiced man of few words, but Hill doesn't hesitate to extend her encouraging, uplifting, and inspiring points to her audience.

"Whatever listeners may be feeling, my theme is that they can gain strength by trusting and leaning on the Lord," Vicki explains. "I do sometimes talk a lot,

but it's simply to assure my listeners that somebody cares about them and that I too may have been down that same road. I know that the Lord can bring you through."

She adds, "In fact, often people tell me that when they can't get out to attend church, for whatever the reasons prior to the covid days, that I became their 'church' because of the uplifting and inspiring music that I play."

Hill's strategy and her style have led to an array of awards. They include the Stellar Music Gospel Award at the Grand O'le Opry in Nashville, the Key to the City given by former Mayor Wilmer Jones Ham McZee, a proclamation given by former Mayor Dennis Browning, and a Certificate of Recognition from current Mayor Brenda Moore. Also, an Honorary Tribute was offered by former State House 95th Rep. Stacy Erwin Oakes, along with Woman of the Year from Women of Colors and a host of other honors, including one from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Hill's management talents are also an asset, with a work career in the financial business that spans more than 30 years. She is a branch manager for Jolt Credit Union, once known as Catholic Federal Credit Union.

Vicki has deployed these skills to put together the Vicki Hill Gospel Fest for the past 20 years, which is conducted on the first weekend of August at Ojibway Island, with national as well as local artists. In August 2020, Gospel Fest was forced by the covid pandemic to go online, which took place on Christmas evening live on Facebook and still was a success. The 2021 outlook still remains uncertain, but she anticipates another virtual show if the covid numbers remain high and if social distancing is still in place.

As a community organizer as well as a radio personality, Hill keeps in touch with Saginaw-area ministers and makes sure to promote their church programs and events. She aims for her fans, as well as community members, to always receive the information needed to enhance or improve their everyday lives. And as she ends her show each Sunday, she leaves her audience members with a thought for the day so that they may carry it with them and meditate on it. Her KISS 107 airtime is 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.

+ COMMUNITY

BLACK HISTORY

hometown highlight:

Gloria "Gigi" Roberson

Hair replacement, 'natural woman' style

By MICHAEL THOMPSON

From styling and trimming women's hair to replacing their locks, Saginaw-born cosmetologist Gloria "Gigi" Roberson has seen virtually all aspects of her profession. Today, she equips and empowers the next generation.

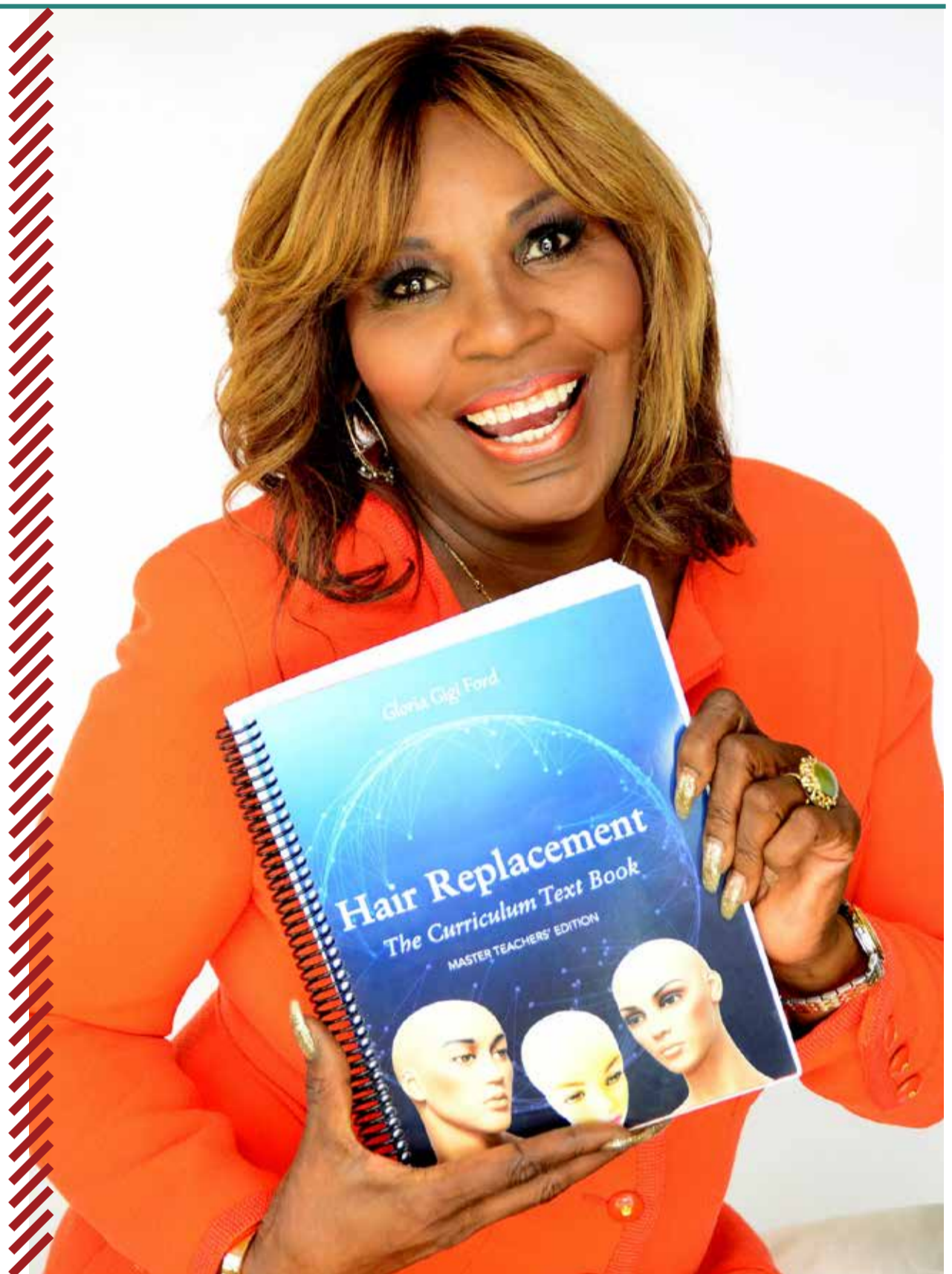
After four decades in California's Bay Area, she is the founding owner and operator of All About Non-Surgical Hair Replacement Training Center in Oakland.

Just like men, ladies also lose hair, she notes.

"But while men can simply shave their heads and still be stylish, women are expected to keep up appearances," she explains.

Roberson's clients do not undergo surgeries or scalp medications. Rather, she designs a custom cover, known in the trade as a prosthesis, with the hair styles of their choice, that gives the illusion that it is growing right out of their scalp.

Gloria is among eight children of Edd Roberson Sr. and Zeola Roberson. She grew up observing her mother earn extra family income as an at-home weekend stylist for the family's South Side neighborhood, and by age 10 her mother noticed her gift, spurring her daughter to practice on family



GLORIA "GIGI" ROBERSON

and friends.

She graduated from Saginaw High School in 1972 and enrolled at Saginaw Beauty College, finding herself as the only African American in her class, from which she graduated at the top. She started at what she says was an otherwise "all-white salon" on the city's west side. After that, she was recruited to the downtown to the upscale Jacobsen's Beauty Salon.

Personal circumstances led Gloria to

her 1978 move to California with one of her sisters, Jannie Johnson. She was 24 years old and a single mother with a 3-year-old son, Deon Strother. She soon attained the "Gigi" nickname, and in 1982, this was the moniker for her first Oakland salon.

As her career evolved, she increasingly

**CONTINUES ON PG 15,
GLORIA "GIGI" ROBERSON**

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 14, Gloria "Gigi" Roberson

encountered women who were struggling with hair loss. Her first strategy involved weaving to cover the bare spots, a skill she had learned from Carlean Gill in Saginaw.

"Pulling the hair just seemed to cause more hair loss," Roberson notes. "I want to be a solution, not the problem."

Her resulting studies in hair-replacement prostheses took her to the Far East and the South Pacific -- China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea -- for research and studies.

This encouraged her to start her own hair and wig line for women of color, an underrepresented group, and to delve into hair replacements.

Between 1991 and 2010, she served mostly as a provider. In 1996, she also became a prosthesis designer for other manufacturers. She has grown to spread the women's hair replacement message as an expert trainer, a consultant, and an author. Her first book is entitled, "Don't Lose Your Clients Because They Are Losing Their Hair," which educates cosmetologists to make informed decisions on hair replacements.

Prices for a custom prosthesis can begin in the \$4,000 range, and may rise upwards of \$25,000 for customers with full insurance, veteran's benefits, or elite financial resources. Gigi offers financial aid through access to private insurance, and if necessary sometimes from her own donated time and resources.

She assists patients coping with chemotherapy, radiation, severe burns, Lupus, Alopecia, and so on. Some are school age children. She has received honors from the American Cancer Society, Alopecia Foundation, and other worthy



GLORIA "GIGI" ROBERSON

causes. She also received an honorary masters degree in cosmetology from the Beauty Culture League. Her nonprofit agency is named "Locks to Give" because supporters have lots to give.

She says, "When a woman is losing her hair, there's almost nothing more important or gratifying than having a good hair day."

You can learn more about Gloria "Gigi" Roberson at hairreplacementbygigi.com.



GIGI
Gloria Ford

NONSURGICAL HAIR REPLACEMENT
EDUCATION & TRAINING

+ COMMUNITY



BLACK HISTORY
hometown highlight:
Sammy Coleman

SAMMY COLEMAN

Sammy Coleman is a Sales Professional at Labadie Buick GMC Cadillac, located in Bay City, MI where he assists with new and pre-owned vehicles. He has been employed at Labadie for 11 years.

A Native of Saginaw, Sammy graduated from Buena Vista High School. He has been married to his wife Lisa Coleman for 15 years, a feat he calls a blessing.

Sammy is a Deacon and serves on

the Board at Glory House International Church. He also faithfully serves as a Trustee at HIS Restoration Ministries alongside his wife Lisa who is Executive Director. There they provide a refuge for homeless adult pregnant women.

One of Sammy's passions in the marketplace is to facilitate and assist potential buyers in making the best decision that Best benefits their needs.

Sammy never meets a stranger; he loves everyone and in everything he does he serves with his whole heart.

CREATIVE PERSPECTIVES

COLORS

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!



Brigitte Johnson

SAGINAW COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor | Saginaw, MI 48607
P 989-752-7161 | info@saginawchamber.org
www.saginawchamber.org

+ COMMUNITY

United Way board chair feels right-at-home

By MIKE THOMPSON

Terence "Terry" Robinson, new board chairman for United Way of Saginaw County, knows the value of community.

He really didn't have one as a childhood "Army brat" in a military family that moved from place to place until they settled in Ypsilanti, but he found a home in the Great Lakes Bay region when he launched a 30-year career at Hemlock Semiconductor and Dow Corning, where he held several positions in engineering and manufacturing leadership.

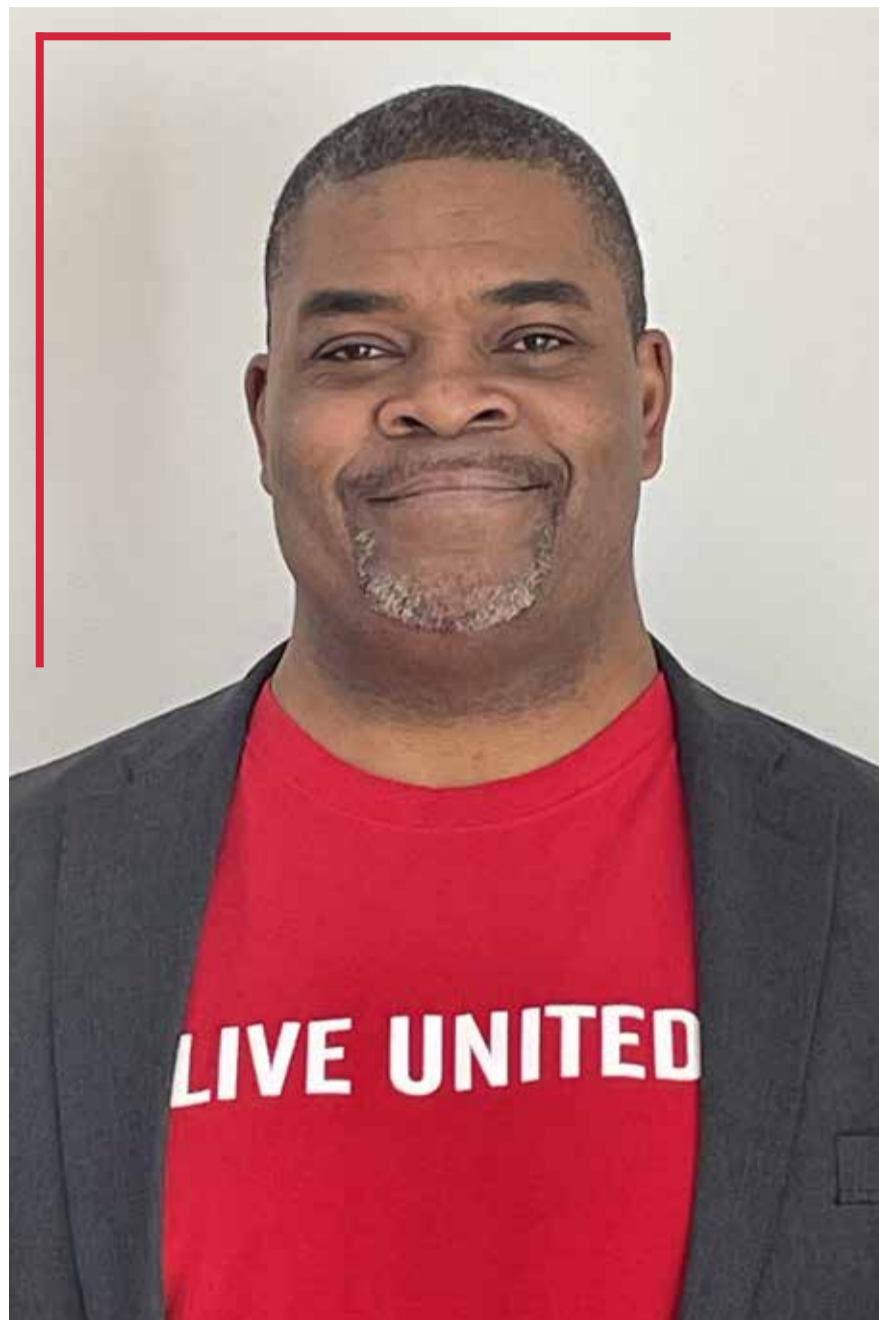
This explains why he was eager to accept a 2009 appointment to the United Way Board of Directors after he learned about the organization through leading several United Way campaigns at Dow Corning's Healthcare Industries Site (now DuPont) and taking part in Leadership Saginaw. He is an alumni of the Class of 2008, which he describes as "the best class ever."

"I learned to see the United Way as a pillar in the community," Robinson says. "I was impressed with their overall vitality in serving people's needs."

For example, he points to a pair of sudden crises during the past year -- first the spread of Covid-19, and then Midland dam-break flooding that extended into northwest Saginaw County. In both instances, Saginaw's United Way has been there to provide services, supplies and support to those who have needed assistance.

Robinson gained skills in quality control, teamwork, and leadership from his work and from his college studies in mechanical engineering at Michigan Tech University. These are ideal in his United Way role.

United Way leaders who volunteer as board members do more than sit



TERENCE "TERRY" ROBINSON

in conference rooms and allocate the donated funds. Robinson experienced this expanded involvement two summers ago. He engaged in a local United Way fundraiser, "Over the Edge", where volunteer pledge-seekers rappelled in rope holders from the roof of the six-story Covenant Healthcare facility at Mackinaw and Tittabawassee roads. He raised \$1000.

Still, when finances become constrained, United Ways across the nation have experienced a fundraising challenge.

- Other worthy causes seek their own support, creating more pitches for donations.
- Reliable payroll-deduction sources, such as the auto plants, are sharply reduced in scope.

- In a Catch 22 type of scenario, increased hardship leads to a higher need for finances, but sources are less able to contribute,

The consequence is campaigns have been down over the past few years. To adjust, the United Way of Saginaw County has held fundraisers such as "Over the Edge" and "Saginaw's Most Stylish." These efforts helped United Way allocate \$650,000 to 17 programs, among 41 applicants, in 2020. Supporters who wish to donate, or run a campaign at their place of business, may call 755-0505 or visit unitedwaysaginaw.org.

Also, some activities and outreach require little or no funds. A "21-Day Equity Challenge" that started on Feb. 15 encourages online participants to do their part to "dismantle

racism, shift attitudes, and change outcomes." The VITA program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, is a tax preparation outreach in which trained volunteers provide free tax preparation services to those that qualify. The UWSC secures a grant and manages the effort, which has returned millions of dollars in tax refunds to our citizens.

On the bottom line, Robinson asserts that when finances are short, people still may donate their time. United Way provides counseling upon request to interview potential volunteers and place them in roles that best fit their skills, their interests and their time schedules.

"It's not always about money," he says. "Time and effort also contain value, often more value than we may fully realize."

+ COMMUNITY

My View of the Legacy of Henry Marsh



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**
EDUCATOR

Henry Marsh passed away on May 11, 2011. Hard to believe we are approaching ten years. It is because the legacy of Henry Marsh is alive and well.

Henry remains in our hearts and minds. I can still hear his deep voice as he declared to me, “Mr. Superintendent, how are you?” He said this *every* time he saw me. He made me feel far more valued and important than I really was.

Here he was ... attorney, community leader & icon, and the former Mayor! A greeting like this, coming from Henry Marsh, *meant* something special. The way I saw it, I was just an educator. Henry made me feel more than that, and he never missed a beat. At the “Bishop’s Breakfast” (Henry was a founding member) and at the Saginaw Bay Symphony, anywhere we interacted, Henry initiated his warm wishes: “Mr. Superintendent, how are you?”

Many who knew Henry Marsh will recall a phrase that he coined. Marsh often would cite, “enlightened self-interest”

whenever he was explaining how differing sides would come together. *Goodness, we need “enlightened self-interest more today than ever!”* “Enlightened self-interest” might draw democrats to work with republicans; liberals to work with conservatives, and so on. Henry seemed to attract opposites towards “middle ground” by using their own self-interests to guide them. Such thinking keeps Henry Marsh relevant in 2021.

There are the structures Henry Marsh Bridge and the Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy, each alive and well today. These are landmarks aptly named after Henry. Is that because of his strength or what he stood for? Likely both, plus doses of Marsh’s characteristics of reliability, honesty, strength, truth, courage, and dependability. Traits that are at the core of Marsh’s legacy and may explain why his name is associated with a precisely engineered structure~ a bridge~ winding upward to I-675 with grace, beauty, safety, and dependability. A bridge strong enough to endure over time. Worthy of the challenge offered by heavy semi tractors and trailers, loaded with grain, produce, and other goods, unwavering during all of Saginaw’s weather extremes.

The Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy is at Saginaw Valley State University and is also known for Marsh-like attributes of strength, truth, courage, reliability, honesty, and dependability. It is leadership in the form of Public Service. The Institute is established to provide ten-month experiences for emerging and existing leaders. The mission is,

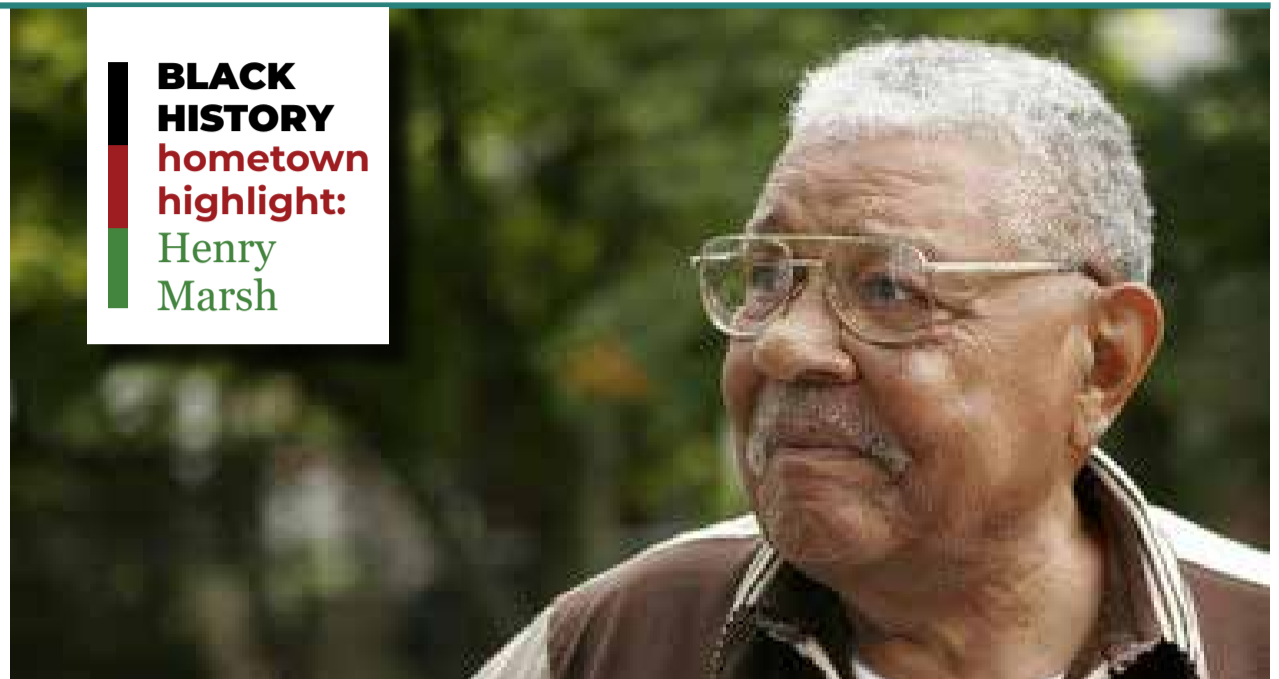
“educating citizens to be effective advocates and change agents in the Great Lakes Bay Region.”

I have seen references that a number of recent cohorts have successfully sought public office, and what better legacy to Henry Marsh could there be than that? Henry served on City Council (1961) and as Mayor pro tempore (1965). He became Saginaw’s first African-American Mayor (1967) and led the city through some of the most serious civil rights challenges ever faced. Thus, the legacy of the Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy is a reflection of Henry Marsh the leader, our public servant.

To make my final point about Henry Marsh and his legacy, I will draw upon my favorite quote. Very likely you know it, too; it was offered by the late American poet, Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014) and is often cited.

*I’ve learned that people will forget what
you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you
made them feel.*
– Maya Angelou

That is Henry Marsh in a nutshell. All who knew him remember how he made us feel. It is a memory that has not faded and never will. Could it be that the more we emulate Henry Marsh, the better people may remember us, as well? What better way to build a legacy could there be? It is the legacy of Henry Marsh; I hope one day that may be ours, as well.



HENRY MARSH

**BLACK
HISTORY**
hometown
highlight:
Henry
Marsh

5th annual
AFRICAN
american
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Director, Arts & Culture
for City of Detroit
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THAT THEY LIVE
AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD
ROCHELLE RILEY AND ERIC ST. SMITH

 Love. Empower. Inspire. Asha LaViolette 1:00pm	 Impact Parenting- Pandemic Jonathan Wynne 1:20pm	 Kwanzaa Year Round Noni Ervin 1:40pm	 Urban School Theory Dr. Shelley McIntosh 2:00pm	 Legal Sticky Situations Krystal Banks 2:20pm
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"The Next Generation" Sat. Feb. 20th ~ 12 noon - 3pm ET
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Book City 5th annual
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Preserving literacy in our community

Join us LIVE at this culturally rich, virtual book expo during Black History Month. For three-exciting days, we connect you to a fierce group of Black writers of adult & children's books from Detroit & across the country. During Feb. 2021, visit our website to scroll the on-line...

2021 Virtual Author Exhibition
Click to website, watch video, view sample book & BUY NOW book option

Enjoy the Author's Boardroom! A host of live stream events; open-mic poetry, author pitch sessions, storytelling, read-ins and cultural entertainment! Download free coloring sheets for the kids featuring African American legends & leaders who helped shape America.

This is an annual Black History event. To exhibit, sponsor or watch...visit website

Watch LIVE	Friday Night Feb. 19 6pm-9pm EST	Saturday Feb. 20 12 noon-3pm EST	Sunday Feb. 21 2pm-3pm EST
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+ COMMUNITY

CUTS & CONVERSATIONS

with a popular
local barber



By MIKE THOMPSON

The retired owner of Freddie's Barber Shop often sounds like an old-time bartender as well as a hair specialist.

Freddie Hodges operated her enterprise first during the 1970s on Lapeer behind the downtown fire station, and later on the same street near Outer Drive. She since has practiced privately for the past 30 years, stopping only with covid's arrival last spring.

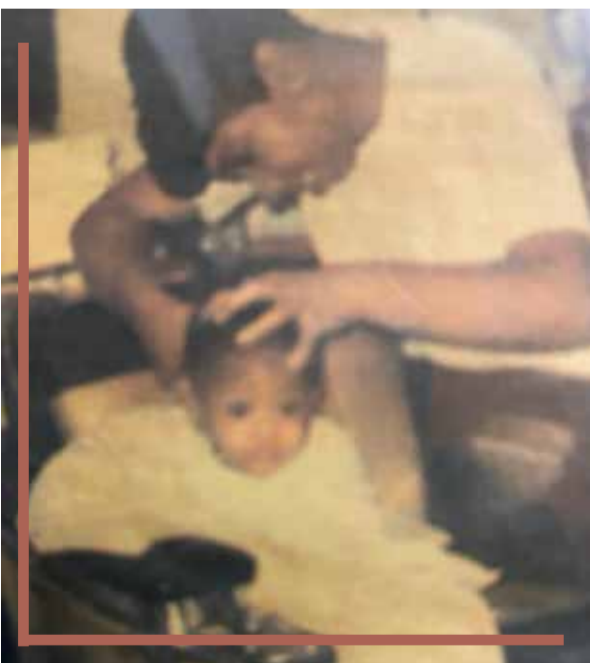
She begins by explaining that her favorite aspect of trimming hair is "to meet people," and then she expands.

"The most important thing is trying to please your customer with the quality of the cut, and then the conversation," Hodges says "You hear all kinds of things. It's almost like being a psychologist."

But what if a customer is the shy, silent type?

"I'll just ask, how are you doing, and then leave it go. I've had 'em like that," Freddie notes.

She adds, with total up-front honesty,



FREDDIE GIVING HER SON HIS FIRST HAIRCUT



FREDDIE HODGES

"But then a few will talk your ears off. You almost want to tell them to just shut up."

She sometimes styles ladies' hair, but rarely, because, "Women are hard to work with, hard to please. I will cut their hair and do their brows, but that's about it."

She is the daughter of Richard and Nellie Moton, who "blessed" her with four brothers but no sisters. One brother, Ron Allen, eventually styled for women in the back of her shop while she would clip the fellows. Another, Dempsey Allen, is known for a term as director of First Ward Community Center and now as pastor of Jacob's Ladder Ministries.

Freddie attended Potter Elementary, then Houghton, then Central Junior. She graduated from Saginaw High School in 1958, and soon after she wedded William "Sonny" Hodges, who now is a retired truck driver who worked for Sysco Foods.

She would occasionally trim her siblings' hair but she really didn't get into it until after her marriage to Sonny, aiming to stay active and to supplement the family's income. She started out at Barbara's on North Sixth in the First Ward, she enrolled

at Detroit's Michigan Barber College, and gradually she assembled the experience and finances she needed to open her own place.

"I thought this was something I'd like to do and it only required nine months of school, and so that was that," Hodges recalls.

She now visits hospitals and nursing homes to care for long-time customers, which allows her to schedule her own hours and workload without the responsibilities of maintaining a candy-striped storefront.

Freddie still values the chit-chats, and she recalls one that took place away from the shop and the mirrors and the clippings on the floor. A childhood patron, now away at college, called her at night. He had been a model honors student but had fallen into campus drug sales, and he spoke of killing a relative who had swiped his personal stash. She patiently talked the young man down over the telephone, and potential disaster was averted.

"You never know," she says. "You listen to some of their stories, and after a while the people become like family."

+ COMMUNITY

BLACK HISTORY

hometown highlight:

Lula R. Woodard



LULA WOODARD

Lula has resided in the City of Saginaw for over 39 years relocating from her original home of Tuscaloosa, AL and her second home Chicago, IL. She is the mother of two amazing adult daughters. She has five inspiring young adult grandchildren and four fantastic great-grandchildren that “Rock her World”. They call her ‘GG’.

She is a retired teacher, teacher consultant, social worker, served in the Alabama National Guard and is an aspiring entrepreneur. Currently, Lula is an Adjunct Professor at Delta College in Saginaw, Michigan in the English Division, a Prevention Specialist, facilitating the Botvin Life Skills along with Prime for Life programs which are evidenced based program and became a Certified Recovery Coach in order to support individuals affected or infected by substance abuse in the Great Lakes Bay Region as a resource or referral. Furthermore, Lula has added two other endeavors becoming a Certified Notary and expecting to launch her business (PIP) Purposeful Intentional Parenting focused on parents of teens ages 12-15 to help encourage, enhance, empower, and promote skills that will hopefully, change parents lives intentionally for their child/children.

She has an Education Specialist degree in Education Leadership from Saginaw Valley University, A Master of Arts degree from the University of Alabama, (Tuscaloosa). She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from Chicago State University and an additional major in Mental Health and Psychology from Chicago

City College. In addition to being an entrepreneur, mentor, facilitator and coach, Lula has studied outside the United States in Guadalajara, Mexico, is involved in the community at multiple levels through various venues. She has completed training to become a Multi-Cultural Competency Facilitator for MAX Systems of Care through Mental Health in Saginaw County. She is a Certified Facilitator for Strengthening Families.

Lula is extremely passionate and compassionate about the field of education, community involvement, and social justice. She provides parenting sessions, coaching, facilitating, and mentoring through Women of Colors in Saginaw, Michigan with being a member of this group for over 20 years including being awarded The Woman of the Year 2012. She was awarded Adjunct of the Year in the English Division at Delta College in 2017 and in 2020 received a Special Tribute from The State of Michigan from our former 95th House of Representative Vanessa Guerra signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer along with participating on many community forums including Delta Community Broadcasting and KISS 107.

Lula exemplifies leadership in both her church at Victorious Believers Ministries under Pastor Christopher V. Pryor, and her community, has held various board positions with Women of Colors, The Underground Railroad and the Delta College Ricker Committee.

“I am a Trailblazer of Light and Peace for these times along with being a Lifelong learner.”

Williams Promoted to Midland Market President



JEROME SCHWIND

Midland, MI – Jerome Schwind, President of Isabella Bank announced the promotion of Mike Williams to Midland Market President. In his new role, Mike is responsible

for leading the sales and customer service initiatives in Midland and the surrounding areas. A vital part of his role will be serving his commercial lending customers, while remaining engaged in the community.

“Mike positively impacts his team and community with his knowledge and commitment to Isabella Bank. We look forward to the future as Mike continues to build and deepen relationships in the area,” stated Schwind.

Williams is a graduate of Albion College, Leadership Midland, and Great Lakes Bay Region Alliance Leadership. Mike has 22 years of banking experience, spending the majority of his career in commercial lending and credit underwriting. He is actively involved in his community, volunteering with the Midland Noon Rotary, The Legacy Center for Community Success, United Way of Midland County, Midland Business Alliance, Greater Midland Community Center Operating Board, Midland Center for the Arts NextGen Council, Junior Achievement of Central Michigan, Midland Center City Project Committee, and Midland Habitat for Humanity. He is an avid outdoorsman, enjoys watching girls fast pitch softball, and college football. Mike and his wife, Amy, reside in Midland with their two daughters, Morgan and Caroline.

+ COMMUNITY

Significance of Black History Month



By **PASTOR DICK SAYAD**
SAGINAW VALLEY COMMUNITY
CHURCH/GLORY HOUSE
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

The month of February has been set aside nationally each year to recognize Black History.

Before learning anything about Black History, it's important to recognize why the holiday exists.

For many of us, Black History Month is something we've grown up hearing about. If we were fortunate, we went to a school that even taught facts about Black History Month and Black history as a whole each February. Often, though, it's easy to forget that Black History Month was only first nationally-recognized in 1969. That's barely more than 50 years ago. Before learning anything about Black History, though, it's important to recognize why the holiday exists. After that, it's easy to understand why having a dedicated month to acknowledging and celebrating the accomplishments of Black Americans is so incredibly important.

According to the Library of Congress, National African American History Month first began in 1915 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, or ASALH.

As the ASALH site says, Woodson was urging other organizations to promote the achievements of Black Americans as early as 1920. He continued these efforts through the 1920s and in 1926, he put out

a press release naming a week in February as Negro History Week.

As ASALH also explains, Woodson was the son of former slaves and completed his undergraduate, bachelor, and master's degree in just a few years. He attended Berea College and the University of Chicago. In addition to this, he also earned a PhD from Harvard in 1912. At the time, he was only the second African American to do so.

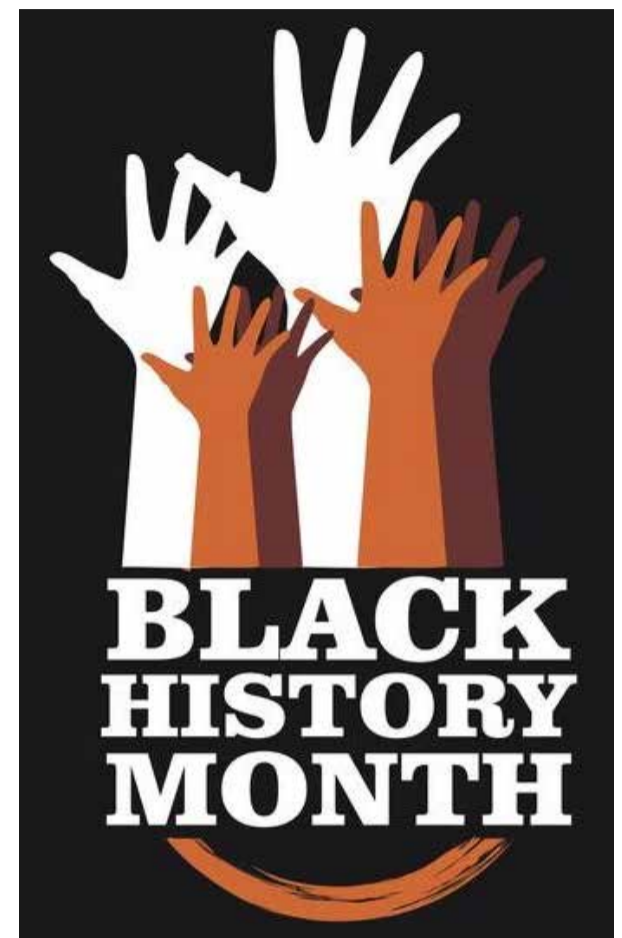
The 2021 theme for Black History Month is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity." According to the ASALH site, the 2021 theme for Black History Month is all about the Black Family and how it has been "stereotyped and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time."

According to the ASALH site, Woodson died in 1950 but we continue to believe in the Black History Week he had created. As an article entitled "The Origins Of Black History Month" on the ASALH site says of Woodson, "He pressed for schools to use Negro History Week to demonstrate what students learned all year. In the same vein, he established a Black studies extension program to reach adults throughout the year" It wasn't until the 1976 that Black History Month was nationally-recognized. President Gerald Ford made Black History Month a national observance. The month of February was chosen for two specific reasons.

According to History.com, February was chosen as the specific month for Black History Month because it's the month of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.

Each year's Black History Month has a different theme and focus. "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity" is the theme for 2021. As I consider the theme for 2021, I think of families where key Black men and women from diverse families have had an impact on us individually and in America.

One such event was done by a son from a Black family, Rev Martin Luther



King Jr. he was the leader of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. Another person I personally honor is Katherine Johnson, the mathematician, who led the calculations of orbital mechanics, which were critical to the success of NASA sending astronauts into space. Others I highly regard are Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron who led the way into baseball. Hank Aaron was a great baseball player for 23 years and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I could go on about others who have had influence in education, politics, etc. The key I see in their achievements was the spiritual influence of the families in spite of the many hardships they faced.

The concept of family is extremely important in the Bible, both in a physical sense and in a spiritual sense. The concept of family was introduced in the very beginning, as we see in Genesis 1:28. God's plan for creation was for men and women to marry and have children. A man and a woman would form "One-flesh" union through marriage (Genesis 2:24), and they would with their children become a family, the essential building block of human

CONTINUES ON PG 23,
BLACK HISTORY

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 22, Black History

society.

The importance of family can be seen in the provisions of the Mosaic covenant. For example, two of the Ten Commandments deal with maintaining the cohesiveness of the family. The fifth commandment regarding honoring parents is meant to preserve the authority of parents in family matters, and the seventh commandment prohibiting adultery protects the sanctity of marriage. From these two commandments flow all of the various other stipulations in the Mosaic Law which seek to protect marriage and the family. The health of the family is important to God.

This is not solely an Old Testament command. The New Testament makes

many of the same commands and prohibitions. Jesus spoke on the sanctity of marriage. The Apostle Paul talks about what Christian homes should look like when He gives the twin commands of "children obey your parents" and "parents, don't provoke your children" in Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20-21.

So, what does the Bible say about family? The physical family is the most important building block to human society, and as such, it should be nurtured and protected. But more important than that is the new creation that God is making in Christ, which is comprised of a spiritual family, the Church, made up of all people who call upon the Lord Jesus Christ as

Savior. This is a family drawn "from every nation, tribe, and language" (Revelation 7:9), and the defining characteristics of this spiritual family is love for one another: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (I John 13:34-35)

So, I congratulate my many African American friends and their heritage. Together through the love of Jesus Christ, we can together make a difference regardless of race, color, or ethnicity - the love of Christ in our hearts will help us work together to bring healing, reconciliation, and friendship!



FACEBOOK.COM/THEEZEKIELPROJECTSAGINAW

Ezekiel Project goes viral for MLK event

By MIKE THOMPSON

The Ezekiel Project's 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, a prime fundraiser for the organization, will go online at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Covid-19 restrictions are difficult for all worthy causes, but none more than Ezekiel, which relies on people-to-people interaction for community organizing efforts. Ezekiel is congregation-centered, supported by an array of two dozen local

churches, and the MLK event will feature clergy offering inspirational orations and hymns.

Five "justice task forces" are the focus. They aim to address the economy, the environment, education, health care and criminal justice.

While finances are vital, supporters may also contribute time and effort, in general or to specific concerns of their choice.

The MLK program schedule features Ezekiel leaders:

- Willie Haynes and his pastor, Rev. A.J. Harris, New Mount Calvary
- Co-pastors Thomas Brown Jr. and Denise Brown, Word Ministries
- Co-pastors Charles Coleman Sr. and Elizabeth Walton Coleman, New Faith COGIC
- Pastor Sue Hand, Zion Lutheran Church
- Co-pastor Joyce Seals, New Christ Community Church
- Pastor Hurley J. Coleman Jr, World Outreach Campus Church
- Librado Gayton, director of Hispanic ministry, Catholic Diocese of Saginaw
- Pastor Emeritus Doug Loeffler, First Presbyterian Church
- Pastor Emeritus Doug Mater, Ames United Methodist Church

For information on the Feb. 27 event, with pre-registration encouraged, visit theezekielproject.com or call the office, 714-2347.

+ COMMUNITY

BLACK HISTORY

hometown highlight:

Charles L. McNair

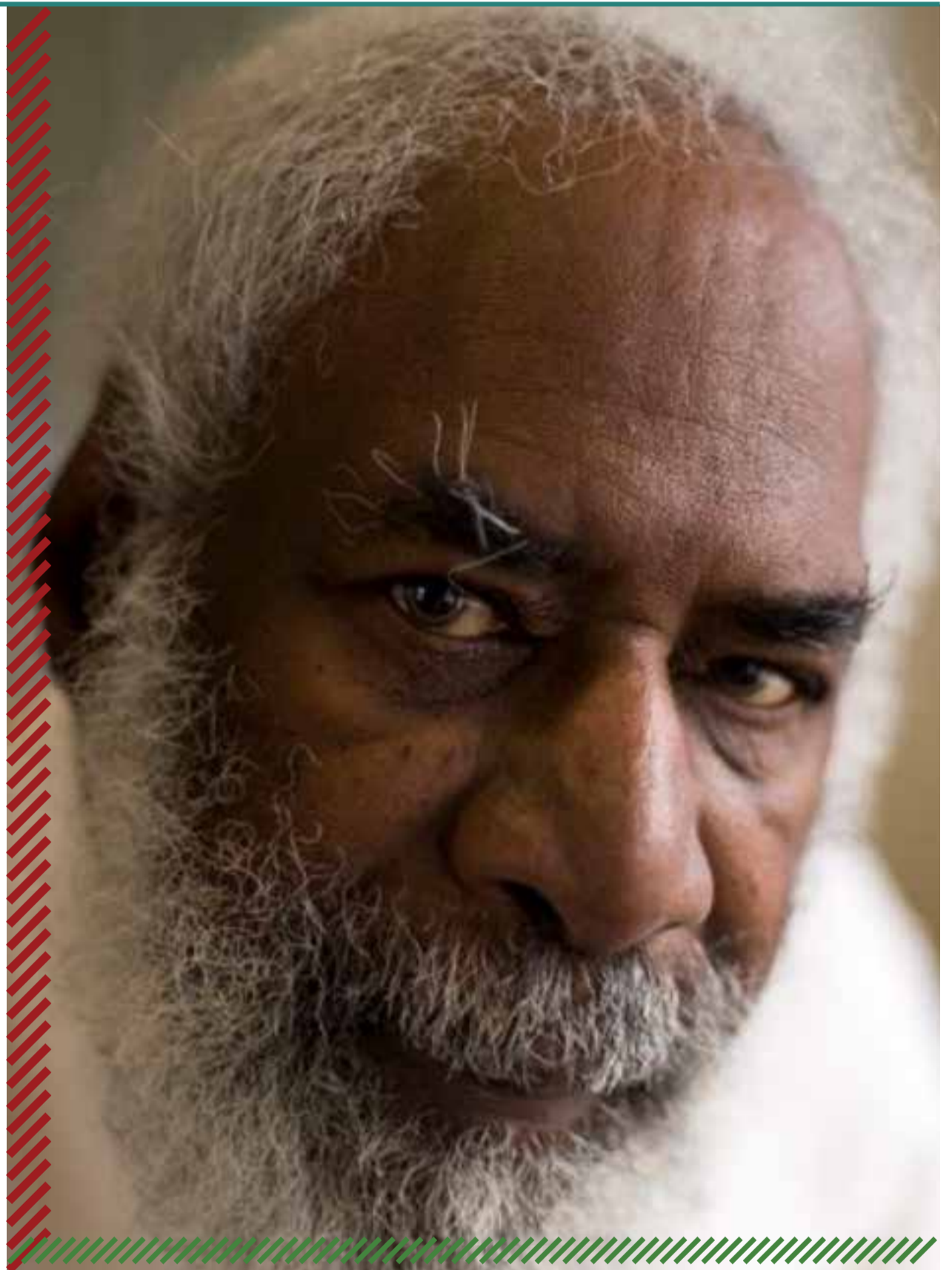


By **KAREN L. LAWRENCE-
WEBSTER**

Mr. Charles L. McNair was born on September 3, 1934 in Gadsden, Alabama and in 1973 made Saginaw, Michigan his home.

Mr. McNair was a special man who loved people. He loved education, children, music, chess and sports. . . not to mention his attire. It gave him great joy to see young people succeed in all things related to education and the betterment of themselves and the community. He believed in the students even when they didn't believe in themselves. His character was magnanimous as he had such a way with words that he could scold and give you constructive criticism with such love that you would receive it as if it were almost complimentary.

He founded the Booker T. Washington Charles McNair Scholarship Foundation in 2011, holding the first reception at Saginaw High School where he awarded scholarships to several deserving students. His foundation, now endowed, is on pace to distribution over \$100,000 to deserving high school graduates. The foundation also made substantial contributions to the Chess Park that is located at Mission



CHARLES L. MCNAIR

in the City Park. His love for the Saginaw African Cultural Festival and City of Saginaw Public School District students is matchless. After retirement, you could find Mr. McNair in elementary libraries teaching chess at lunch time. The Saginaw African Cultural Festival's children tent was not complete without chess sets.

Mr. McNair received his high school diploma from Carver High School in 1952, attended Bethune Cookman College from

1952 – 1954 and transferred to Tougaloo College graduating with a Bachelor of Science in 1956. He became an elementary teacher in LaGrange, Georgia and after 12 years he taught 8th and 9th grade science and math. Mr. McNair completed his Education and Administration studies at Ohio State University in 1973 and

**CONTINUES ON PG 25,
CHARLES L. MACNAIR**

+ COMMUNITY

**Continued from pg 24,
Charles L. McNair**

in the same year was assigned his first assignment in Saginaw as the principal of Potter Elementary School. His career in Saginaw Public Schools included principal and assistant principal positions at Potter Elementary, Saginaw High, Morley Elementary, Houghton Elementary and Webber Middle schools.

Mr. McNair was a pillar in the community and will be missed by many, across all age groups. Along with his students and teachers, Mr. McNair received numerous awards and letters of recognition including science fair awards and the Golden Apple Award.

He served his community in so many ways. . . He was a member of SANKOFA, Inc. for 20 years; member of the Morley Enrichment Center Inc for 7 years; active volunteer for the Boy Scouts for 35 years; 20 year member and volunteer for the Growth in Afrocentric Program (Program similar to the Boy Scouts of America focusing on African culture and heritage). He was a 50 year member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

My Tribute to Mr. Charles McNair

My earliest memory of Mr. McNair goes back to the 1970's and the Saginaw Black Arts Festival. My favorite part of the festival was going into Morley School and listening to the speakers and observing lively debates. This is when I was exposed to Mr. Carl Smith, Mr. Jessie Daily and many others.

My next memory was in 1982. I was a student at Bridgeport High School. My Saginaw High friends and cousins (Lynda Cooper, Barbie Hall, Hanneke Hall, Tina Foster and Jayniece Surlles) asked Mr. McNair if I could attend their senior picnic. After much thought, Mr. McNair said, "She can participate, it's not her fault that she goes to Bridgeport, so she can come." That was the opening that I needed.

Years later in 2004, I was leaving Delta College Ricker Center and bumped into Mr. McNair and Dr. Wilson Smith as they were leaving a SANKOFA meeting. They held me in the parking lot for two hours, going from one subject to another. All of my comments were challenged and debated.

I felt like I was being hazed and had to remember that I had already pledged. It was in that year that Mr. McNair slowly recruited me to do the work of the festival and he never allowed me to turn back.

In 2010, Mr. McNair retired, James McDonald and I became his financial advisors and that is when he became my friend.

During 2011, Mr. McNair worked with and attorney Robert Miller to establish the Booker T. Washington Charles McNair Foundation for the purpose of giving college scholarships to high school students. The first year awardees had to be Saginaw High seniors who had attended Morley Elementary School. That's when I realized how much Mr. McNair loved the work, students and parents from Morley. Scholarship awardees have to read Up from Slavery by Booker T. Washington. The foundation recently contributed funds for The Booker T. Washington life size chess park to be located at Mission in the City on 6th and Janes. Mr. McNair's legacy will live on through his foundation and those of us who try to live up to his ideals.

On August 4, 2012, the Saginaw High Class of 1982 made me a Honorary Trojan during our 30th Reunion. I couldn't wait to show Mr. McNair my certificate. When I proudly told him, he raised his voice and said "No, No, No ... who gave them permission to do that?" He said, "I knew I should have never allowed you to go on that senior picnic". He never forgot about that and one day, years later, Mr. McNair said, "I guess I'll give the class of 1982 permission to make you an honorary member." This was all in love.

Whenever Mr. McNair summons me to meet with him, I blocked off 2 1/2 hours, at a minimum. He would start off calling me Mrs. Webster (when we talked finances) and by the end of the meeting I was Karen (when he started giving me festival assignments). I always left our meetings with assignments. Check on Ralph Martin and make sure he ordered the dumpsters for the festival. Don't forget to call Gerald Kariem and see what he can do for the festival this year. Don't just mail letters to Morley Companies asking for money, go and see them and thank them for last year's contribution. Don't forget to get Rob Brown and the First Ward students to clean up the park and remember to thank them. His list went on and on. And what

I quickly realized, it took five people to replace Mr. McNair ... I was overwhelmed with just delivering assignments. If he mentioned your name, I tried to contact you and suggest that you call him (that would mean less assignment for me).

He would always ask about my family. He recently asked if my youngest son was still going to Xavier in New Orleans. When I told him that Daniel was thinking about going to Michigan, he raised up, pointed his finger at me and said "You tell Daniel that he will go to Xavier". He said, "Alrighty Now"

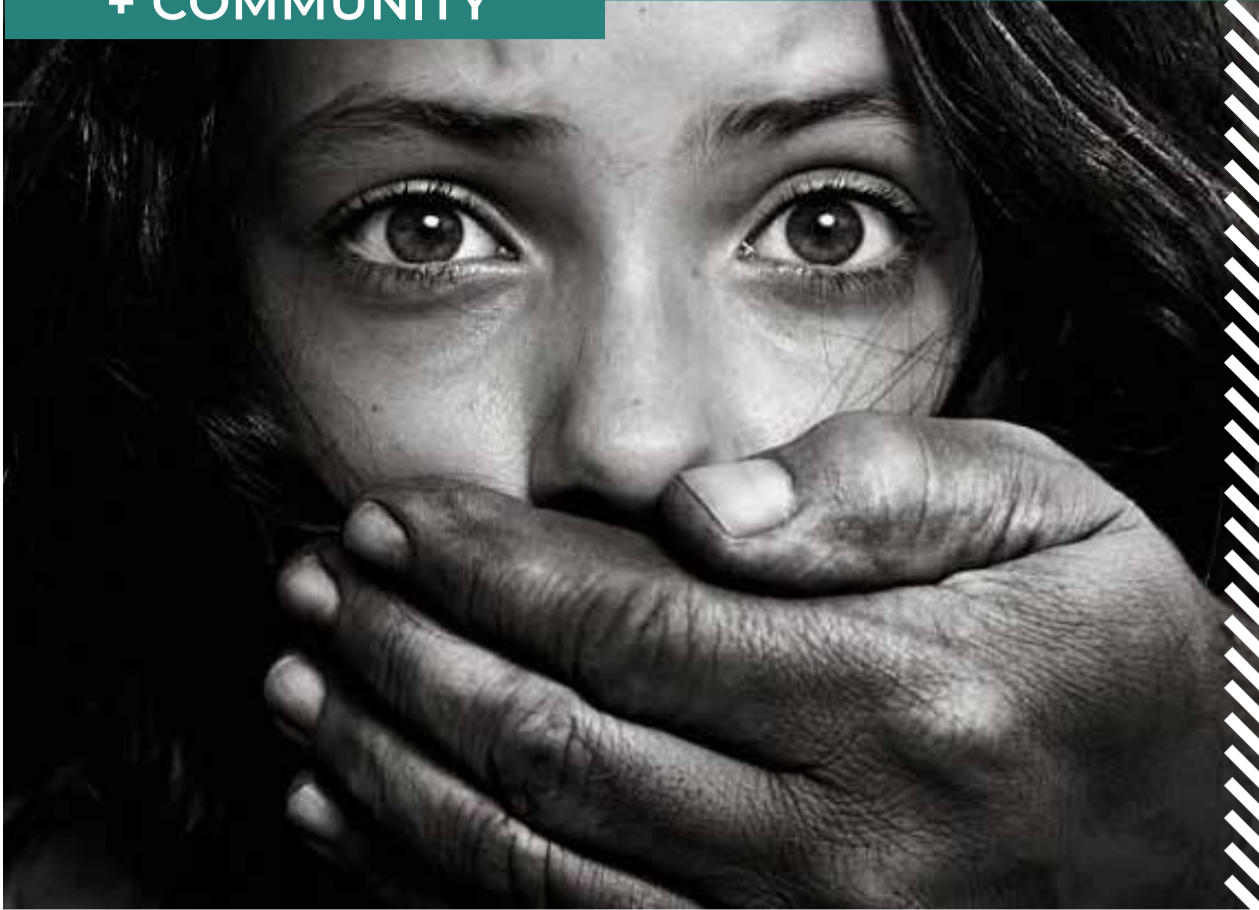
I talked to Mr. McNair over the phone for the last time on November 12th . He gave me a few assignments, one included asking the Saginaw Public School District to allow the festival to use Morley Grounds in perpetuity. I said you want me to asked them if we can use it forever, he said, yes ... now you take your husband, Mr. Martin and just go down there and talk to Dr. Roberts ... and that's what I did.

The final time that I saw Mr. McNair was the week before Thanksgiving. We didn't talk that day. Minister Corey Hamilton joined me on this visit and spent some time talking with Mr. McNair. Just as I thought I would leave without an assignment, Corey came out of the room with a picture on his phone of some drum sticks. He said, "Mr. McNair found out that I attended Mt. Olive and he remembers being at Mrs. Louberta Little's funeral and our drummer was playing too loud. Mr. McNair wants you to buy these drum sticks with rubber tips and I'll give them to the drummer". I said to myself, Mrs. Little passed away over 5 years ago, I then smiled, because deep down inside, I enjoyed getting assignments from Mr. McNair.

I am going to miss my friend and the many stories he would share about his childhood and his students. I am going to miss our debates and our long meetings. I am going to miss his thoughtfulness and careful deliberation on every decision, small or large. Mr. McNair fought a good fight and he kept the faith.

Me and You Mr. McNair
Me and You

+ COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

SEX TRAFFICKING, it's not what you think – it's worse

By **JOANN L. WASHINGTON**

She was trusting and full of life. I mean, she wasn't a beauty queen, but had plenty of good qualities. She was small, with long sandy-blonde hair that fell lazily down her back. She was funny, energetic and so full of life, back then. She was the youngest of seven children, and yes you could say she was spoiled. This Detroit girl spent her early years peddling her little pink and white bike, with the white tassels, flying in the breeze with reckless abandonment. She whizzed down the block, lickety-split, as fast as her bandy legs could carry her up and down Clements street, on the cities northwest side between Petoskey and Livernois.

She was the favorite. She was the one all the siblings looked out for...they had better, if not, a beating surely lay in wait, from the menacing leather razor strap, their father hung on the bathroom door if they didn't.

This laid the foundation of her life.

She grew up in what seemed to be a loving and God fearing family. Until all at once, in a single moment, it wasn't. Everything she thought she knew and understood about life shattered into a thousand pieces beneath her feet. The bubble of protection they built up around her popped. They did it to try and shield her from the harsh realities of life. With good intentions because she was classified as "slow," but it woefully backfired. Ironically the gut-wrenching betrayal that overtook her innocence came not from a stranger, but within her own family

The aftershocks of this betrayal severely damaged her family's relationships. It would take decades of psychotherapy sessions, violent temper tantrums, and a battery of AA meetings to paint a true portrait of her mental state. Unfortunately she would never completely recover. She consistently turned to alcohol for refuge and safety. She got involved in one abusive relationship after the other, until finally she met the perfect storm. A man she met

in a rehab center. He took full advantage of all of her imperfections, by gaining her trust, and subsequently gaining control of her mind, body and soul – pretending to accept her holistically and love her unconditionally. Thereafter, he became her god and savior. He walked on water. Whatever he told her to do she did it. He introduced her to a more nefarious demon second to her insatiable thirst for alcohol.

He led my sister laughing down that dark hole of perdition as a sex slave for 10 years.

I never believed I would come face to face with a sex trafficking situation. It only happens to girls and boys that are isolated and separated from their families, right? Wrong! In my sister's case, it was years in the making, like a slow motion train wreck. Looking back, it was fueled by our collective ignorance, because we didn't have the guts to stand up and look truth in the face. We were too prideful, too embarrassed and too ashamed to get help. Our biggest mistake was seeking to protect the guilty and live a comfortable lie, while we sacrificed our sister's life.

Make no mistake; there were signs all along the way of her being exploited as a sex slave. But when I finally realized the extent of her particular abusive situation, the mental and physical damage to her body had already taken its ominous toll; it was too late. She died on January 23, 2020 of alcohol abuse and concurrent medical illness related to her abusive and hard lifestyle.

Signs of Exploitation

Watch out for sharp mood swings, depression, sleeping a lot, unhealthy or inappropriate behavior, missing for long periods of time, increased signs of mental illness, lack of memory, changes in diet, anxiety, signs of substance abuse and withdrawals, etc.

Get HELP

Michigan is ranked 10th in the nation when it comes to human trafficking. If you suspect someone is a victim of sex trafficking, please contact: **1-855-444-3911** anytime day or night. National Human Trafficking Hotline: **1-888-373-7888**.



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How I Overcame

*INSPIRATIONAL STORIES SHARED BY
A PANEL OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS*

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7:00 P.M.
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First Lady of
Real Ministry
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Deborah Kimble
Former Saginaw
City Manager



Delesha Trice
Community Member
Concerned Citizen



Host—Vicki Hill
KISS 107FM Radio
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Funding for
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(Type in the subject line How I Overcame, and
once received you will receive a Zoom link.)
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+ COMMUNITY

Q&A

with **Evelyn McGovern,**
**President/
Cofounder of
Women
of Colors**

*The Michigan Banner sat down for a one-on-one interview with **Evelyn McGovern**, the woman behind **Women of Colors**, the nonprofit organization that's been serving the Saginaw community for nearly 30 years.*

Q Please give a brief description of **Women of Colors** for those who are not familiar with the organization.

A Women of Colors (WOC) is an independent nonprofit organization that has been an active community partner since inception in 1993. The organization was developed with a diverse group of women sharing their ideas to improve



EVELYN MCGOVERN

the Saginaw community. WOC recognize the strength of diversity by not focusing on our differences, but acknowledging our similarities. Members and volunteers provide empowerment and quality educational programs. WOC mission promotes multi-cultural diversity and enhance community relations in the Great Lakes Bay Region by empowering families, performing community service, mentoring youth and collaborating with other organizations.

In 2002, WOC developed the Great Empowering Motivational Sessions youth mentoring program that consisted of Girl Pride, Sugar & Spice, and Young Men Who Dare encouraging community service and

teaching social and life skills to develop young men and women of excellence.

WOC partnered with the Saginaw Community Foundation to establish the Annual Women of Colors Scholarship Fund to give opportunities to well-deserving students in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

WOC also collaborates with area schools, churches, businesses, agencies, and other organizations to make a difference and WOC spends countless hours to enrich the culture of volunteerism and service that makes the Saginaw community a great place for individuals

CONTINUES ON PG 29, WOC

+ COMMUNITY

Continued from pg 28, Women of Colors

and families to work, have fun, and live.

In 2017, WOC hosted the first “How I Overcame” and “I’m Still A Man” for women and men telling their personal stories of how they overcame life challenges to become successful and productive adults in today’s society. These events expanded into WOC hosting other events “Time To Have A Conversation” to address equity and justice and “Your Voice Your Choice” to give youth a voice to what matters to them.

WOC is passionate about providing training and services to reduce people making high risk choices.

Q What are some of the activities, events, and initiatives Women of Colors has been involved in?

A

- The Annual Warm A Child For Winter coat giveaway to over 400 children 16 years old and under every year since 2015.
- The Students and Future Technology program established in 2015 to help under privileged youth learn about advanced technology. Many of the support networks to further science education do not exist in disadvantaged communities when compared to communities like Midland, Michigan or areas surrounding Silicon Valley where high levels of professional experience exist. The contrast is stark. In the highly professional communities the support of parents, friends, coworkers and industries provide school programs and other resources that support the growth in science education for students living in these areas. Offer advanced education to disadvantaged youth given the huge economic differences that have contributed to a seemingly institutionalized lack of advanced training in low income areas. Parent and other adult support are almost non-existent in the disadvantaged

school systems when compared to highly professional communities. WOC develop help develop an accelerated program that introduces sufficient conceptual science and social training at low enough cost with community support that engage students and get them to take charge in pursuing their social and educational development.

Q What would you say has been Women of Colors’ biggest accomplishment to date?

A In 2017, WOC developed the life skills and substance abuse evidence-based prevention programs to service youth and parents in Saginaw County.

Q What advice would you give to someone looking to start a non-profit organization?

A Persevere despite the obstacles, hard work, and be willing to learn and accept changes.

Q Where do you see Women of Colors in the next 5 years (future goals)?

A

- Provide 15-20 certified professional trainers to help prevent drug use and addiction throughout Saginaw County.
- Partner with other communities within the Great Lakes Region and nationwide to empower families.
- Enhance partnerships and provide additional resources and services

to motivate and empower other people.

Q How can someone become a member of Women of Colors?

A Women of Colors is always looking for more members. To become a member you need to attend two membership meetings, obtain recommendation and approval from the Executive Board and pay annual dues of \$100.

To learn more about Women of Colors, visit womenofcolors.org



STUDENTS AND FUTURE TECHNOLOGY (SAFT), IS A WOMEN OF COLORS SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM TAUGHT IN COLLABORATION WITH FIRST WARD COMMUNITY SERVICES.



VOLUNTEERS ARE PICTURED WITH COATS THE 5TH ANNUAL WARM A CHILD FOR WINTER EVENT

+ COMMUNITY

Reverend Raphael Warnock: Not A Mere Victory of Votes, But The Manifestation Of A Vision



By **REV. LATRELL BAILEY**

The entire world watched the vitriolic, hate-filled, events unfold at the Capitol Building, the symbolic and sacred heart of our country, on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. And as an American, it was indeed shocking and hard to accept exactly what was occurring right before my eyes. But as an American woman, who's also unashamedly and proudly Black and Christian, it was gut-wrenching and caused a painfully nauseating ball to form in the pit of my stomach. Because I knew that, what was occurring, was the DIRECT result of *"stand back and stand down"*...hate-filled words spewed from the hate-filled, demagogic, lips of the leader of our country. As disdainful, disheartening and disgusting as what I and the world witnessed was, never do I forget Who created me and His Majesty. And I absolutely REFUSE to let the devil

steal ANY of The Divine's Shine!

Wednesday, January 6, 2021, was the day Congress was scheduled to meet and perform the Electoral College's process of legally certifying the results of the 2020: a process established in Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution; a process that has been mostly perfunctory, never high-profile, until THIS particular congressional session. It was during this session, that Congress convened to certify the electoral votes to elect Joseph R. Biden as the 46th President of the United States and Kamala Harris, Vice-President. At this point, it's important that I make one slight caveat... Keep in mind that the devil has a degreed occupation also, masters of manipulation. And he's so adept at manipulation and camouflaging lies that he has become the "Geppetto", who blatantly uses Donald Trump as his "Pinocchio", to do his evil bidding. But one shouldn't be surprised by this, especially Christians, because Jesus Christ tells us that *"he is a liar and the father of lies"* (John 8:44). And as Congress convened, the father of lies saw his perfect opportunity to slither in and use his evil devices of manipulation to make history. BUT...Omnipotent GOD, in His Divine Providence and Sovereignty, manifested the DOPEST history on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, too!

And, thus, how it began... GOD blessed the late Rev. Jonathan Warnock, and his wife Verlene, with 12 children. And on July 23, 1969, GOD began to supremely orchestrate His sovereign plan with the birth of their 11th child; a son, whom they named, "Raphael Gamaliel Warnock". And to fully understand the divinity of Wednesday, January 6, 2021, one must, first, understand the significance of choosing "names" for our children. Names have lineage, names have meaning, names have power, and they encompass "what" and "who" each of us will become. The essence of our name is at the very core of our existence. A child's name becomes part of their "identity", and a parent only gets one shot to pick a good one.

Raphael Gamaliel, Rev. Jonathan's and Mrs. Arlene's 11th child; "Gamaliel" meaning *"GOD is recompense, or the gift or reward of GOD"*. Now, it's essential that one know who Gamaliel was. Gamaliel was a first-century Jewish rabbi and prominent leader in the Jewish Sanhedrin. Gamaliel was also the most educated man



SENATOR RAPHAEL WARNOCK

of his time and was a widely known and well-respected teacher. Acts 5:34 says he was the rabbi *"who was honored by all the people"*. But unlike his fellow members of the Sanhedrin, Gamaliel was a man of a tolerant and patient spirit. And this tolerant and patient man would also have a PROFOUND effect on the early church.

So, let us set the scene... John and Peter had to stand trial, before the Sanhedrin Council, for preaching in the Name of Jesus. And the Sanhedrin sternly warned the apostles to cease preaching the gospel of Jesus. But, Peter...the same Peter that Jesus declared as *"the rock"*, on which, He would build His church and all the powers of hell would never conquer (Matthew 16:18)...wasn't trying to hear ANYTHING the Sanhedrin were saying. And to the Sanhedrin's warning, Peter BOLDLY and

**CONTINUES ON PG 31,
REVEREND RAPHAEL WARNOCK**

Continued from pg 30, Reverend Raphael Warnock

DEFIANTLY replied, “We must obey God rather than human beings!” (Acts 5:29) Regardless of the possible repercussions for his actions, Peter was NOT about to stop preaching and teaching Jesus. And Peter’s open defiance enraged The Council; so much so, that they sought to have the apostles killed.

And, thus, enters Gamaliel into the unraveling of this pivotal moment of the early church. He urged the Sanhedrin to be cautious in dealing with Jesus’ divinely-selected GOD-Squad when he said to them, *“In the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”* (Acts 5:38-39) And because of his influence, The Council pauses, rethinks their actions, and takes to his advice. In GOD’s sovereign plan, this Jewish rabbi saved the lives of the apostles and would go on to help equip the greatest Christian missionary in history: Saul of Tarsus; the man we would all come to know as “Apostle Paul”.

Which brings me back to the subject at hand: Wednesday, January 6th, 2021. See, while the devil was wreaking havoc, GOD’s sovereign plan was manifesting yet again. Because in Georgia...a state with a deep-seeded history of racism, prejudice, intimidation, suppression, and innumerable unconscionable and horrific acts of violence against Black people; a state which had been “red” since the formation of the Southern Confederacy. “Red” not only as an expression of its GOP political identity, but also “red” from the saturation of the precious bloodshed of countless brave, innocent, Black lives who were heinously and maliciously killed simply for the color of their skin. It is in this very same state that the Reverend Raphael Gamaliel Warnock;

- Black man who was the 11th child of the late Rev. Jonathan, and Mrs. Verlene Warnock,
- a Black man from Savannah, Georgia,
- a Black man who grew-up in the Kayton Homes housing projects,
- a Black man whose father was a



SENATOR RAPHAEL WARNOCK AND PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Pentecostal pastor, World War II Veteran and salvaged abandoned junk cars,

- a Black man whose mother spent her summers picking somebody else’s cotton and tobacco;
- was elected, NOT “selected”, the FIRST Black United States Senator of the state of Georgia...Sovereign GOD used a Black man to turn a traditionally “red” state blue, while creating a “NEW” history for the OLD South. And with that said... This Black, American, Christian woman who was also born and rooted in the every aspect of the essence that is the South, proudly AND boldly sends the GRANDEST **“Congratulations”** to Georgia’s Senator-Elect, Rev. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock!

In closing, I’d like to remind us all that GOD is a GOD of *kairos*, or “divine and perfect”, timing. And in spite of the racket

the devil was making in the atmosphere on earth, on January 6, 2021, my Divine Daddy was reminding the world of exactly “Whose Word” is FOREVER settled in Heaven, “Who” truly is in COMPLETE control, “Who” truly holds EVERY one of our tomorrows, and “Who” truly brings GREAT morning joy after all our dark nights of weeping. And just as the world watched the unfolding of the historical and devilish events on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, GOD will remind the world on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, that Jesus Christ defeated death, the grave AND the devil. For the world will serve witness to GOD’s sovereign plan MIGHTILY manifesting, yet again, through Kamala Devi Harris; the FIRST Black, South Asian, woman to be elected, sworn-in, and serve as Vice-President of the United States of America! And for this, Father GOD, I give You all the praise!!!



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+ COMMUNITY

Remember George Floyd



By JIMMY E. GREENE

Something I thought would happen had actually happened to my dismay. During the protests and agonizing discussions about police brutality that followed the death of George Floyd I said then that this

was a pivotal that we should take advantage of in order to improve the relationship between police and community. Note, I said community. I said that because I knew that if this turned into another black/white issue that it would dissipate and we would lose that moment in time. A moment in time to make the murder of George Floyd mean something more than just outrage.

The issue as I saw it then and now is that too seldom its acknowledged that white men are regularly killed by the cops as well, and that occasionally the cops responsible are black. White people vastly outnumber black people in America, so it should be no surprise that more white people die at the hands of the cops each year than black people. Nevertheless, it remains true that black people are killed at a rate disproportionate to their percentage of the population.

I'm not saying that race has nothing to

do with policing issues in America. But what I am saying is that this issue is more about an entire community and an opportunity for much more training to protect a citizenry from those charged with protecting them.

Police officers are too often overarmed, undertrained, and low on empathy. Some police officers are surely racist and act like it. To be the George Floyd murder was a golden opportunity to bridge a community together and talk about ways to address all of those issues and create a safer community for both the police and the community they are paid to serve and protect. Ask yourself how many of those conversations are still going on.



GEORGE FLOYD ART

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+ POLITICS



COURTESY PHOTO

Michigan election audit process affirms presidential election outcome

Lansing, MI – On February 12, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced that a statewide election audit process affirmed Michigan’s vote-counting machines are accurate and Joe Biden won the state’s Nov. 3, 2020 presidential election.

“This statewide audit process affirms what election officials on both sides of the aisle have said since November – that Michigan’s election was conducted securely and fairly, and the results accurately reflect the will of the voters. I congratulate our election clerks for carrying out the most successful election in our state’s history, and thank them for affirming the integrity of our elections by participating in this process,” said Benson. “The work of elected leaders now is to tell voters the truth and move forward with nonpartisan election policy to advance the will of Michigan voters, who have demonstrated clearly and unequivocally that they want our elections to continue to be secure, strong and accessible.”

Hundreds of Republican, Democratic and nonpartisan municipal and county clerks from more than 1,300 local jurisdictions – more than had ever

participated in such an audit anywhere – took part in Michigan’s statewide auditing exercise, hand counting more than 18,000 ballots that were randomly selected throughout the state.

In the hand count, President Biden received more votes than former president Donald Trump, and the percentage of votes for each candidate was within fractions of a percentage point of machine-tabulated totals. In the state’s three largest counties, each of which uses a different voting machine vendor, the audit results were also all within one percentage point of the November results. Although a random sample of 18,000 ballots would not be expected to exactly match the percentages of votes cast for candidates out of all 5.5 million ballots, the closeness in percentages between the hand-reviewed ballots and the machine-tabulated totals provides strong additional evidence of the accuracy of the machine count.

In the statewide sample, Biden received votes on 50 percent of all ballots reviewed while Trump received 48 percent. In Wayne County, which uses Dominion machines, Biden received 68 percent, while

Trump received 31 percent. In Oakland County, which uses Hart machines, Biden received 57 percent while Trump received 41 percent, and in Macomb County, which uses ES&S machines, Biden received 44 percent and Trump received 54 percent.

The audit exercise was conducted by generating a statewide manifest that included the number of ballots cast in every jurisdiction, and then using a randomly generated (by rolling 10-sided dice) 20-digit number to select 18,162 of them. Clerks then retrieved ballots that had been selected in their jurisdictions and shared if it had a vote for president and, if so, who it was for. Clerks retrieved a total of 18,084 ballots total. Twenty-one clerks did not retrieve 78 ballots in their jurisdictions, meaning the sample was 78 ballots short of a complete sample. For this reason, the audit is being considered a pilot exercise.

Secretary Benson’s Advancing the Vote, Protecting Democracy legislative agenda would require a statewide risk-limiting audit to be carried out prior to state certification of the election – which would both speed and simplify the process, as clerks would be able to retrieve the randomly selected ballots while the election canvass is ongoing. Current law does not allow such audits to take place until after certification. Candidates can request hand recounts of all ballots prior to certification, but neither presidential candidate chose to do so in 2020.

The Bureau of Elections is compiling a full report of the results, which will be published upon completion. Risk-limiting audits are considered the gold standard of post-election audits and provide an extra layer of security when partnered with the traditional audit methods already utilized by election officials. The Bureau of Elections and local clerks across the state began piloting the audits in 2018 and 2019, and also conducted a pilot of the 2020 presidential primary. The process was conducted with the assistance of VotingWorks, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. It also drew upon the advice of the Election Security Advisory Commission and an audit task force composed of election clerks.

+ POLITICS



MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS HONORING AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Michigan Legislative Black Caucus applauds the Governor's 2022 budget recommendations

Lansing, MI – We at the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus (MLBC) applaud Governor Gretchen Whitmer for putting forth a thoughtful budget that addresses the needs of every community with an intentional view through a socially equitable lens by allocating \$6.7 million in funds to the Sickle Cell Disease Initiative, which we have championed for decades.

We are thrilled to see \$8.3 million towards providing broader coverage and access to healthcare, along with an investment to promote racial equity in our health and human service initiatives. Using the knowledge gained from the healthcare disparities—an issue that became glaringly magnified during the Pandemic – to make much-needed improvements in health equity is a smart and wise investment.

MLBC also supports the \$70 million to assist communities around the state with vital support from income tax revenue lost because of the impacts of the Pandemic.

Finally, we applaud the incredibly substantial investment of over \$800

million in several areas of K-12, Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) education and childcare that our families so desperately need.

State Senator Erika Geiss (D-Taylor), MLBC Executive Vice Chairperson said, “I am thrilled to see Governor Whitmer’s continued commitment to addressing racial equity and uprooting systemic and institutionalized racism by building off the work started last term with the Covid Racial Equity Task Force, the Executive Order requiring implicit bias training for Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)-regulated healthcare professions and the creation of the Black Leadership Advisory Council. The equity and justice focus of the proposed budget shows that we have an excellent partner in Governor Whitmer in working towards uplifting Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in the state, and investing in them as a budgetary priority.”

Rep. Amos O’Neal (D-Saginaw), MLBC

Treasurer, added, “Over the last few months, MLBC has expressed concerns for the 24 cities that were impacted by their inability to collect much needed income tax revenue. I would like to thank the governor for her announcement today in her budget recommendation, and for her continued dedication, to help these cities recover from this Pandemic. Representing one of these 24 cities that were impacted, I know first-hand how much this means for the recovery of our city.”

MLBC thanks the Governor for hearing the voices of our members, and looks forward to partnering on many of our priorities moving forward. Now, it’s time for the Michigan legislature to act and vote this budget into reality.



AMOS O'NEAL

+ HEALTH

A focus on ethnic equity in covid vacs

By MIKE THOMPSON

When your turn arrives to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, how might you feel if you are asked to identify or verify your ethnic group?

The Saginaw County Health Department this month has added such a question, noting that leaders and staffers are "aware of and concerned about skepticism surfacing among some black and Hispanic members of the community regarding equity in the administration of COVID-19 vaccinations."



CHRISTINA HARRINGTON

Health Officer Christina Harrington states, "Ensuring equity and equal access to health care is the very heart and soul of public health. If we could, we would give the vaccine to

everyone all at once. We can't, of course, but we're doing everything in our power to make the administration of scarce medical resources as fair as possible, so that everyone who wants a vaccine will get one."

Dr. Delicia Pruitt, medical director, adds, "We are working extremely hard to be fair in every aspect of this complex process, but we can always do better. We're course-correcting every day."



DR. DELICIA PRUITT

The county's primary covid vaccinators



SPSD EMPLOYEE ERIC BRADDOCK RECEIVES COVID VACCINE

are the Health Department, Covenant HealthCare and Ascension St. Mary's.

Other than vaccinating its own employees, Covenant receives referral patients from the Health Department and does not ask for ethnic information on its own, says spokesman Larry Daly,

"We do support the Health Department in asking about race and ethnicity," Daly says. "This local statistical data will help to ensure that vaccines are provided in a fair and ethical manner."

Ascension spokeswoman, Christine Bergman does not express a specific viewpoint on seeking individual ethnic IDs for statistical analysis, but she offers a prepared statement that says:

"Ascension St. Mary's, and all Ascension Michigan hospitals, are proud to be partnering with our local health departments supporting the State of Michigan's plan for vaccinating our statewide 65-plus population, area healthcare professionals and eligible essential workers. Ascension Michigan is currently focused on providing vaccines to our healthcare associates across the state, as well as our over 150,000 Ascension Medical Group patients age 65 and

above, starting with our most medically vulnerable, representing all races and ethnicities, as well as eligible essential workers. To date, Ascension Michigan has administered over 80,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses.

"Ascension Michigan leaders are acutely aware of the need for COVID-19 vaccines to be distributed in a just and equitable way and will be conducting outreach to high-risk groups, including African Americans and other communities of color, to encourage and facilitate vaccination over the course of the coming weeks and months."

Among the critics have been longtime civic activists John Pugh and Monica Reyes, reflected in part by their posts on their Facebook pages. Reyes says members of a regional Latino coalition support the racial IDs as a first step.

Reyes explains, "We don't believe Saginaw Public Health was doing anything intentionally, but we felt it was imperative to raise the alarm. We all know that minorities have been hardest hit by the coronavirus. The national data shows this. We expressed our concern that it appears that our community is being left out of getting shots from the allocation that was set for 65 and older, but they had no data to verify or dispel that."



MONICA REYES



JOHN PUGH

In a written statement, Pugh says, "There are racial disparities in vaccine access in Saginaw and it is alarming. It has created a vaccine program that is leading to real problems for Black and Hispanic people who want to protect themselves, their parents and grandparents from the virus."

He continues, "I do feel that it is consciously done. The representatives of the Saginaw health system are not being

CONTINUES ON PG 37, ETHNIC EQUITY

Continued from pg 36, ethnic equity

truthful. They know that the problem is not that most Black and Brown people do not want to take the vaccine. The problem is that they have not and will not set up a distribution system that will give proper access to Blacks and Hispanics. A testing site is set up at Saginaw Valley State University but not in a Saginaw city community center or church in the 48601 zip code." (*Editor's Note: St. Mary's is within 48601.*)

"These people work public health all year. I can't believe that they did not know that building an infrastructure in the under-served community to help eliminate barriers was important."

Popping the question

The only method to gain racial data, of course, is to ask and survey individual patients. Peoples of color historically have been reluctant in this regard, but Reyes does not anticipate problems.

"I don't think this will be a deterrent" to Latinos seeking vaccinations, she says, "We were encouraged to take part in the census, which was all about collecting federal funding for our community, and we did so."

"The CDC (federal Centers for Disease Control) and the state assured us that there would be a fair and equitable rollout of the vaccine, but how do we know this is happening in our region if they are not keeping that data?"

Indeed, Harrington and Pruitt note that the CDC does not ask for ethnic IDs -- only for such basics as name, age, address, phone and nowadays, email. The Michigan Care Improvement Registry may ask for racial info, but does not share database info with local health agencies. And so the County Health Department also had not asked, at least until now with local equity concerns coming forth.

News analysis on national disparities has been widespread. Reports on Michigan inequities have emerged to varying degrees in statewide media, in particular in Bridge Magazine, bridgemi.com.

Pugh writes that the ethnic data is necessary and should have been compiled from the start. Unlike Reyes, he says he perceives conscious and intended bias.

"We cannot stop our efforts," he writes,

"until Black and Brown are vaccinated at the same level as Whites."

In another Facebook post, he adds, "A lot of people in the Saginaw Public Health are proving not to have a mission to treat everyone with dignity and fairness. This is frightening."

Event Center startup

Pruitt and Harrington respond that the Health Department will not wait for compiling the new racial data. A first step was a Feb. 11 "neighborhood-based mass vaccination clinic" at the Dow Event Center for an initial priority group, age 80 and older. They promise similar large-scale events in weeks to come across Saginaw County, including on the East Side, as federal vaccine shipments increase from an initial average of about 3,000 per week.

Covid vaccinations began in January, Pruitt notes, and they still mark new territory for the Health Department, for hospitals and for various agencies.

"We are meeting weekly to coordinate efforts," she says. "I can't speak for every provider, but we all 'own' the issue of equity and must demonstrate our commitment to it."

Equity goes beyond ethnicity. The Health Department is using the state's Social Vulnerability Index, SVI, to guide vaccination efforts and administration to ensure reaching population in high need. SVI indicators include socioeconomic status, family composition and disability, minority status and language minority, house type and transportation. This data is deployed in high SVI zip codes in neighborhood clinics such as the event at Dow Center, with more planned in coming weeks.

Age testing priority gradually will move to the 65-79 group. Anyone with overall questions may call the COVID-19 hotline, 758-3828, or visit saginawpublichealth.org. For free rides to vaccination sites, the STARS phone number is 753-9526, with at least one-day advance notice requested. Senior citizens may inquire at the County Commission on Aging, 797-6880.

Speaking to naysayers

Nationally, about one-third of adults



MASS DRIVE-THRU VACCINATION CLINIC AT DOW EVENT CENTER (FEB 11)

offer an array of reasons for refusing the covid vaccine. According to a University of Michigan study, blacks are four times more likely to naysay, Hispanics twice as likely.

To tackle the "vaccine confidence" concern, Dr. Pruitt has received her pair of vaccinations live and online. So have such luminaries as Saginaw NAACP President Terry Pruitt and Mayor Brenda Moore, along with Latino leaders who include Ana Hidalgo and attorney Deacon Librado Gayton.

Pruitt also has narrated media spots on KISS-FM 107, and the Health Department is mapping plans "to address vaccine distrust in minority communities, focusing on its safety, development, integrity, effectiveness, as well as its ability to protect families and provide a path to normalcy."

She says, "If there has been even a hint of inequity, it hasn't been on purpose. On the contrary, the Saginaw County Health Department's guiding principles for COVID-19 vaccination are expediency, effectiveness AND equity. We are working all day, every day to vaccinate this community. And we will continue to do so until we've gotten to everyone who wants one."

"We need to manage everyone's expectations. We simply have far more demand than supply right now. We hope that changes soon. But, meanwhile, waiting is as much a part of the process as registering."

Reyes concludes, "We want to work together to resolve any concerns and I hope they will work with us. We don't want to be left out and we don't want to be an afterthought."

+ HEALTH

Continued from Cover, Angelina Williams

At Saginaw St. Mary's and at Ann Arbor St. Joseph's Mercy during those early career years, she encountered what she perceived as several "qualified for promotions but denied" experiences, aka race bias.

And so then came decision time. Should she remain in her initial career choice of health care, or should she pursue easier options such as real estate?

Williams, the same as she has done often in life, relied on her religious faith to guide her path: "Regardless of personal adversities and sacrifices, stay focused on your God-given purpose."

Medicine won the battle. Angelia returned to Florida, but this time, if she faced more prejudice, she would possess an undeniable resume. She resumed nursing while earning 1989 certification as an adult nurse practitioner, and eventually completed a 2000 master's in nursing from Florida International University-Miami.

She already had advanced to an administrative position in the Miami area for nearly a decade, but back in her hometown, the best was yet to come.

Health Delivery founder David Gamez hired her in 2002 with a key requirement to attain grant-writing expertise for special projects. She first deployed her in-house training to win funds for school-based health clinics at Saginaw High and Arthur Hill, along with the Ryan White HIV Medical Service Program for Great Lakes Bay's 16-county region.

Her fulfillment comes not so much from all the paperwork, but from seeing the results in action. Other projects range from the HIV Hearth House on Hoyt Avenue to teen pregnancy services to tobacco cessation.

"All of these programs," Williams says, "continue to demonstrate positive outcomes that meet the needs of persons who might have had limited access to services."

This has been the Health Delivery/Great Lakes Bay mission ever since the 1960s, when Gamez first took leadership



VANESSA GUERRA

with outreach to migrants working on mid-Michigan farms.

"When the Covid-19 virus came along," Angelia says, "we reached out to collaborate with some of our community partners to help us identify more creative innovations for meeting the needs of the community. We overcame prohibitive costs that have resulted from the need for covid testing, health education related to the vaccine, outreach to support food insecurities, and other medical services education, with emphasis on keeping everyone safe during this pandemic."

The most recent among many honors over her 42-year career is the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National School-Based Health Alliance. In addition to getting Saginaw High and Arthur Hill started, she served in a lead role with Michigan colleagues to support school clinics in President Obama's Affordable Care Act.

Williams is the eldest child of the late George and Anna Williams, who now is 89. Like her parents, she is a faithful

member of Bethel AME Church. Her parochial education concluded with her 1974 graduation from the former St. Stephen High School, now a part of Nouvel Catholic Central. She credits her parents and mentors with "deeply embedding Christian values and faith that have led me to never forget that I am standing on the shoulders of many who treaded the nursing path before me and have made me who I am."

She adds she is "very grateful for the partnerships that Great Lakes Bay Health Centers have cultivated with people in our communities, in order to improve health outcomes."

Her top guidepost comes from Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, who lived to age 101 until her passing in 1989, an African-American pioneer in the law and in economics, and the first president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (1919-1923): "Don't let anything stop you. There will be times when you'll be disappointed, but you can't stop."

HealthSource Saginaw Board announces new President & Chief Executive Officer



MICHELLE TREVILLIAN

Saginaw, MI – The Board of Trustees of HealthSource Saginaw announced the appointment of Michelle Trevillian as President and Chief Executive Officer effective February 21, 2021.

HealthSource Saginaw is the Great Lakes Bay Region's largest and most comprehensive behavioral and medical rehabilitation provider. Recent renovation of the facility provided expansion of the therapy gyms including the addition of an aquatic therapy pool, all private rooms in the Long Term Care Center, and the addition of a Geriatric Psychiatric unit for adults 60 and older to the Behavioral Medicine Center which already services child & adolescent psychiatric patients ages 8-17 years old, and adult psychiatric

patients.

"I am thrilled to welcome Michelle as the HealthSource Saginaw President and CEO. Her wealth of knowledge in healthcare and proven track record as an exceptional leader will help drive the change and momentum needed to lead through the challenges the healthcare industry faces," stated Tim Novak, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Trevillian has 30 years of experience in healthcare with 20 years of experience in Rehab Management. Before becoming the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer in November 2020, she was the Post-Acute Care Services Executive at HealthSource responsible for the Medical Rehabilitation Center and the Long Term Care Center.

Ms. Trevillian said, "As President and CEO, I am proud to say HealthSource has an outstanding team working together to improve the physical and emotional health

of the lives we touch. I am committed to HealthSource continuing to be a premier provider of innovative rehabilitation, quality nursing care, and behavioral health services."

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Michelle and her family are lifelong residents of Saginaw County.

Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Veroncia Horn added these comments: "On behalf of the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Members, Board of Directors and staff, I congratulate Michelle in her new role as CEO of HealthSource. We welcome her leadership and look forward to continuing our close working relationship with this great organization."

To learn more about HealthSource Saginaw please visit our website at www.healthsourcesaginaw.org

MDHHS announces new program starting March 1 to help enhance state's vaccine equity strategy

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Health of Human Services (MDHHS) today announced a new program to enhance the state's equity strategy to reach more Michiganders with the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Starting immediately, mortuary service workers, who routinely work with infectious materials, will be able to be vaccinated as part of group 1A in accordance with CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations. In addition, 41 federally qualified health centers across the state will start receiving vaccine allocations to help vaccinate individuals age 65 and older. These community health centers are located in medically underserved areas to provide high-quality, affordable and comprehensive medical services to everyone – regardless of who they are, where they come from or their ability to pay.

Currently persons 65 and older are

eligible to be vaccinated across the state. Providers with specific plans to remove barriers to access across the state will also be allowed to request vaccine for people age 60 and up.

Additionally, workers in food processing and agricultural settings, about 79,000 Michiganders, will be able to be vaccinated as of March 1. This will help ensure the health and safety of Michigan's essential food and agriculture workers and keep the state's food supply chain moving.

MDHHS recently announced the state's strategy to get 70% of Michiganders age 16 and older vaccinated as quickly as possible. The strategy is being guided by the following principles:

- All Michiganders have equitable access to vaccines.
- Vaccine planning and distribution is inclusive and actively engages state and local government, public and private partners; and draws

upon the experience and expertise of leaders from historically marginalized populations.

- Communications are transparent, accurate, and frequent public communications to build public trust.
- Data is used to promote equity, track progress and guide decision making.
- Resource stewardship, efficiency, and continuous quality improvement drive strategic implementation.

Updated vaccine prioritization guidance 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 and CDC.gov/Coronavirus. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine.

+ HEALTH



ED BRUFF AND BETH CHARLTON

Covenant HealthCare board announces President/CEO Ed Bruff retirement and successor

Saginaw, MI – After a fulfilling 38-year career, Ed Bruff, Covenant HealthCare President/CEO, has announced his retirement on June 30, 2021. As such, the Covenant HealthCare Board of Directors also shared that Beth Charlton will officially transition into the role beginning July 1, 2021.

Bruff started with the former St. Luke's hospital in 1983 as the Director of Materials Management and shortly thereafter was promoted to Vice President of Support Services. In 1994, he advanced to Vice President of Inpatient Services. Ed held that position until May of 2000, and at that time he assumed the role of Executive Vice President and COO. Then in January of 2015, he transitioned into the role of President/CEO.

“To see the amount of growth since I began is incredible. When I started, St.

Luke's Hospital consisted of one building,” says Bruff. In 1998, a merger between St. Luke's Hospital and Saginaw General created Covenant HealthCare. “Now, there is a large medical campus with the CMU College of Medicine, construction of the Mary Free Bed at Covenant rehabilitation hospital, six urgent care locations, LifeNet air ambulance, the hybrid OR, and the entire Covenant Medical Group. The evolution and adaptation of this organization is amazing.”

Throughout his career, Bruff has served many roles with organizations in the community including Vice Chairman of CMU Medical Education Partners Board, Vice Chairman of Mobile Medical Response Board, Past Chairman of Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority, Past Chairman of Saginaw Future, Inc., Member of Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce

Board, and Associate for the American College of HealthCare Executives. Bruff has a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Industrial Relations from Michigan Technological University.

Gene Pickelman, Chairman of the Covenant Board of Directors commented that, “Covenant has been truly blessed by Ed's leadership. He has overseen such a well-run and efficient organization that has benefitted all its stakeholders- the employees, patients, healthcare partners, medical providers and the community.”

At Bruff's recommendation, and with unanimous support of the Covenant Board, Beth Charlton will transition from the Executive Vice President/COO/CNO position, to President/CEO of the organization.

“I could not be more pleased for Beth, and I take great comfort in knowing that the culture and the values we created will be continued into Covenant's future; she will do an outstanding job.” says Bruff.

Beth Charlton, a life-long Saginaw resident, began her career in May 1989 at the former St. Luke's Hospital as a student nurse extern. Today, Charlton brings nearly 32 years of hands-on healthcare experience. She has served in many capacities through-out the organization, including bedside nurse in the pediatric ICU, clinical manager for areas such as critical care, heart failure, and birth center, project manager for electronic medical records implementation, and Director of Critical Care, Progressive Care and Stroke Programs. Since 2015, Charlton has been the Chief Nursing Officer, adding Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer to her title in 2019. Charlton has a Master of Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Saginaw Valley State University.

Bruff states, “I consider Covenant as one of the premier organizations in the State of Michigan. This has been achieved because of our extraordinary employees, medical staff and volunteers. As I reflect back, I take great pride in what Covenant has accomplished over the years for the benefit of our patients in the community we serve.”

+ HEALTH



SV
SU SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY.

MARGIE BACH

SVSU establishes, hires Director for new on-campus Mental Health & Wellness Center

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University is responding to the growing demand for mental health services by building a new model to serve its campus community.

The incidence and prevalence of mental illness, substance use and emotional distress on college campuses have been trending up for years, and COVID-19 – with its health and economic consequences – is compounding the problem. The American Council on Education reported 68% of higher education presidents listed student mental health as among the most pressing issues in academia.

SVSU students, faculty and staff who need professional support on mental health matters will soon have a new on-campus resource to turn to.

SVSU is establishing a new Campus Mental Health & Wellness Center, and have hired the center's first director, Margaret (Margie) Bach.

James G. Muladore, SVSU executive vice president for Administration & Business Affairs, noted caring employers need to give more attention to the mental health and well-being of students, faculty and staff.

"Our first steps were to establish a

mental health and wellness strategy and define the role it will play in developing relevant outreach activities and programs, building relationships with internal and external stakeholders, and ensuring compliance with all appropriate counseling protocols," Muladore said.

A survey by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine reported 40% of students experienced a significant mental health challenge. In 2018-19, their survey found:

- major depression affected 18% of students compared to 8% in 2007;
- severe anxiety affected 14%, compared to 6%;
- 2% made a suicide attempt compared to 0.6% in 2007.

The new model is expected to strategically respond to a wide range of mental health concerns for students, faculty and staff to provide a range of short-term solutions and/or referral, as appropriate. Education and training will be made available for faculty, staff and students on topics such as alcohol and other drugs, substance abuse and suicide prevention.

Staff in the center will develop and maintain relationships with local and regional mental health and medical professionals. SVSU staff also will identify and establish a network of services accessible to students who have no insurance or limited resources.

In hiring Bach, Muladore added "she will play an instrumental role in the development of our Campus Mental Health and Wellness Center.

"Margie Bach is a proven and experienced professional in the mental health field who is well positioned to lead our new model," he said. "Margie's career experiences provide her the ability to communicate with and seek input from multiple university constituencies necessary for this initiative to be successful."

Prior to accepting her new assignment at SVSU, Bach had served since 2007 as president and chief executive officer for Child & Family Services in Saginaw. She was responsible for all program activities for the organization's counseling center, employee wellness center and sexual assault center. Before advancing to her senior administrative position, Bach was the director of program and operations from 2002-2007, and the sexual assault center director from 1999-2002.

Bach earned a Master of Social Work degree from Western Michigan University. She is a licensed clinical social worker through the State of Michigan Board of Social Work.

"I am eager to bring my experience in program development, relationship building, strategic planning and building counseling programs to Saginaw Valley State University," Bach said. "I believe mental health plays a central role in everyone's health, including students, faculty and staff.

"As the CEO of an organization that offers counseling, employee wellness and sexual assault crisis services to the region, I believe I can bring my experience to the campus and in turn learn from the campus community," she said. "I look forward to developing new initiatives that will support the entire culture of Saginaw Valley State University."

Bach will assume her new SVSU duties on Monday, April 5. Board of Trustees of HealthSource

THERE'S NOTHING MORE EXTRAORDINARY THAN A CARING COMMUNITY.

Thank you from everyone at Covenant HealthCare.

Covenant HealthCare prides itself on delivering extraordinary care. But lately, we've been on the receiving end. Our community has given us:

- 20,000 N95 masks
- 11,000+ handmade masks
- 10,750 face shields
- 10,000 ear loop/tie masks
- 50,000 gloves
- 2,000 pairs of goggles
- 312 gallons of sanitizer
- 5,000 caps and hair nets
- 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.



+ EDUCATION

Newcomer replaces long-time Delta trustee

By MIKE THOMPSON

Arshen Baldwin, a local educator, will replace Karen Lawrence-Webster on the Delta College Board of Trustees.

“I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to assist students in advancing their education,” says Baldwin, an instructor at the city’s Success Academy. “I believe in the mission of community colleges to provide individuals with a solid educational foundation. Delta College does that and more by addressing the constant changing trends in our community through workforce development and technical training opportunities.”

Lawrence-Webster in the November election had won her fourth six-year term, and so her stepping down so soon may come as a surprise to those beyond her inner circle.



KAREN LAWRENCE-WEBSTER

She notes that her total time of service was approaching two decades when she began in 2019 searching for somebody else to replace her on the board, but she found no immediate candidate and so she kept her name on the 2020 ballot. And then, when Baldwin expressed recent interest, the scenario was ideal for the seat to change hands.

Lawrence-Webster adds that a top achievement during her 20-year tenure is



ARSHEN BALDWIN

establishment of Delta’s new downtown building and campus.

In addition to teaching at Success Academy, Baldwin also serves part-time as an adjunct faculty member at Saginaw Valley State University. Another portion of her ultra-busy schedule is as the founding owner of Education Empowerment Solutions, a company that provides K-12 students with supplemental instruction, academic assessment and overall support.

She says her vision for Delta is to form stronger partnerships with neighboring school districts in drawing students to dual enrollment and post-secondary education.

“I am invested in the Saginaw County

community and always seek opportunities to make it better, not only for my own children, but the children I serve daily,” Baldwin says.

She achieved a bachelor’s degree in exercise physiology from Central Michigan University, a master’s degree in special education from the University of Phoenix and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Saginaw Valley State University. She holds several certifications in the areas of learning disabilities and restorative practices.

The appointment expires in 2022, creating a need for four-year election to complete the six-year term. Baldwin says she will be a candidate on the ballot.

+ EDUCATION

Charles Coleman chosen for schools' leadership

By MIKE THOMPSON

Most elected officials are given open windows to pursue at least some of their own goals and dreams

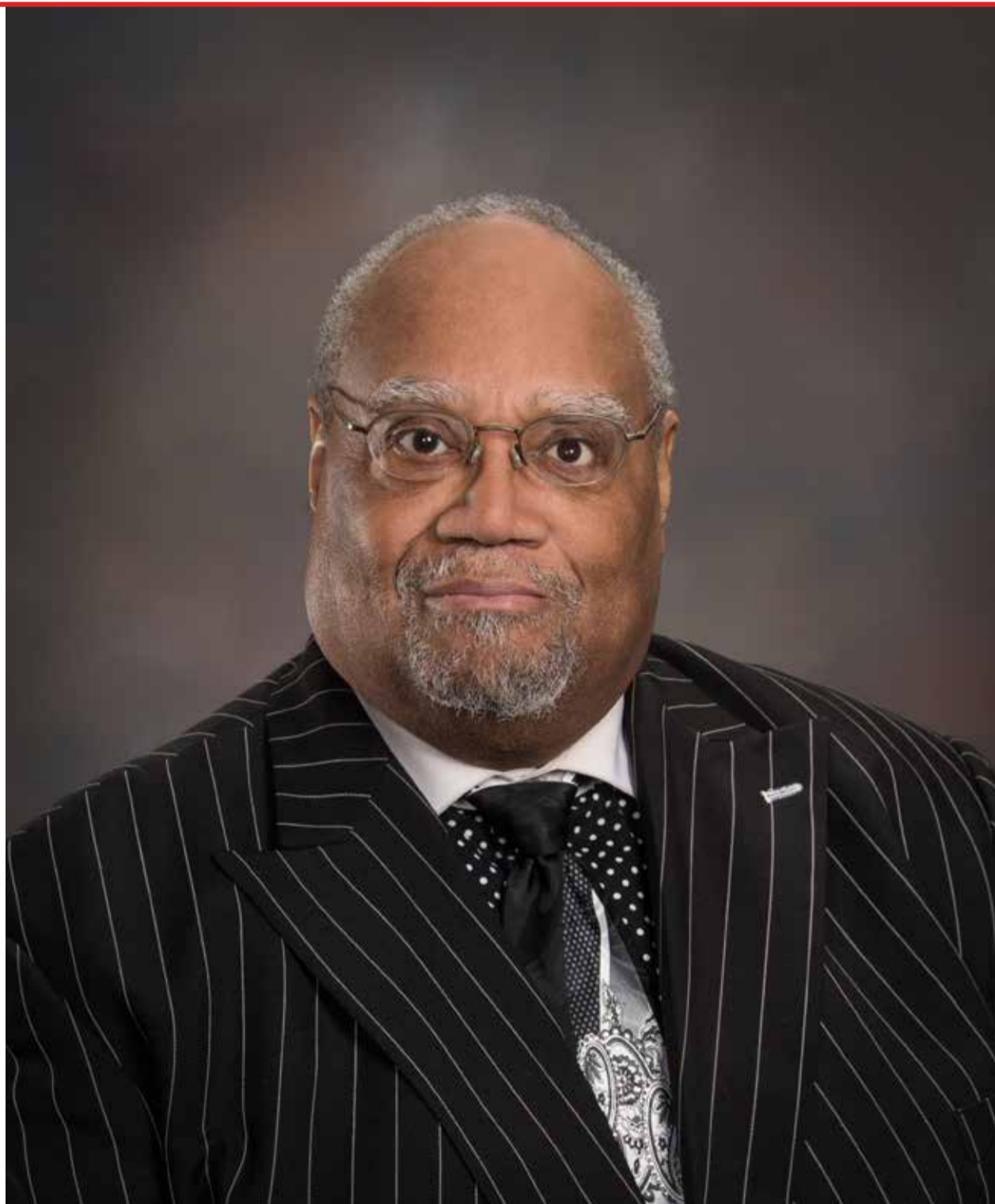
The scenario is different for Dr. Charles H. Coleman Sr., selected by his peers on the Saginaw Board of Education to serve as president during 2021.

They are locked into a pair of main priorities that are set in stone.

1. Like virtually all districts, Saginaw faces the challenge of hopefully returning to old-time classroom education after a full year of straining and struggling with COVID-19 home-computer "virtual" lesson plans.
2. But at the same time, like scarcely few districts, Saginaw offers a rare opportunity. Despite covid-era economic hardship, voters in a landslide (60 percent) last November approved a \$99.95 million plan for buildings and grounds that will call for each homeowner to sacrifice hundreds of dollars in annual property taxes for the benefit of our children's future.

Pastor Coleman and his six fellow and sister trustees may tackle other challenges that will arise along the way, but overall they are wedded with a mixed Big Two of corona virus and new buildings, featuring a new unified high school.

He describes the tax referendum as "one of the greatest votes of confidence"



CHARLES COLEMAN

that a local elected body ever could receive, and he says the board will respond with unity that didn't always exist during the past decade.

He says the comeback took root under his two predecessors as president, Ruth Ann Knapp and Jason Thompson.

"Under Ms. Knapp, our strategic plan came together, and then Mr. Thompson led the bond campaign" for the millage, Coleman says. "I will be standing on both of their shoulders."

Thompson narrowly lost his overall board seat in the election, but he remains an active supporter of the schools. Knapp now will serve as the board's treasurer,

while Kim Hamilton is vice-president and Vera Harrison is secretary.

Tax-plan turnaround

Under the millage, with a closing target of fall 2023:

- Saginaw High and Arthur Hill would combine in a new facility at the existing Saginaw Arts and Sciences riverfront site.
- Most of the SASA building would

**CONTINUES ON PG 45,
CHARLES COLEMAN**

Continued from pg 44, Charles Coleman

be demolished, with a move to a renovated portion of the Arthur Hill structure.

- Handley School would move from the aging former South Intermediate to a new building on vacant Arthur Hill land, unifying K-12 schooling for the gifted and talented.
- A portion of Saginaw High would become a middle school, providing an East Side partner with the West Side's Thompson Middle.
- Elementary schools would be better maintained.

Coleman says the plan and the tax referendum show the value of teamwork that was lacking during most of the past decade, which included some community battles over a falsely perceived choice between totally abandoning either Saginaw High or Arthur Hill.

In addition, Superintendent Ramont Roberts, a Saginaw product who is wrapping up his second year, has received board support that was lacking for his predecessors during the 2010-to-2019 period. The district of 7,500 pupils no longer faces annual debt nor threats of a

state takeover. Coleman describes Roberts' performance as "outstanding," and he says a revived school system will support not only education, but also economic development and more positive civic outlook.

He acknowledges the ongoing Covid-19 challenge in a school system where ethnic minority parents are most likely to reject vaccinations. What if they also decline for their children to receive the medicine, and then send their kids back to the school buildings later this spring or this fall?

Those questions remain to be answered. But Coleman notes that a large group of city teachers received their first vaccinations on Feb. 11. That was his day also, and he has posted a photo on his Facebook site as his way to offer encouragement to the community as a whole.

Saginaw background

Charles Coleman is an offspring in the prominent Pentecostal family of Drs. Hurley Sr. and Martha Coleman. He is a 68-year-old product of Saginaw High School and Central Michigan University (business administration) who launched a traditional work career, similar to

Hurley Jr., and then felt a midlife calling to the ministry. He has studied and taken local, regional and national leadership in coalitions through the Churches of God in Christ. His array of social activism has included the startup of the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Task Force and the re-establishment of the Ezekiel Project, and he is pastor of New Faith Temple COGIC, 2118 Burt.

In local elective politics, Coleman's participation began in 1993 when he barely missed a school board seat by less than 100 votes. He accepted an appointment to the City Council in 2000, was later elected, and served for six years. He finally won a seat on the Board of Education in 2018, a quarter-century after his first attempt.

He is father to six grown children, two added when he wedded the former Dr. Elizabeth Walton of Jacksonville. After she moved north, she taught special education for a decade in Birch Run and then another 10 years in city schools prior to retirement, after starting with 24 years in Florida schools.

"I am not a professional educator," Coleman says. "I need a teacher's perspective, and she can help me as I aim to help the board."



PICTURED FROM L TO R: KIM HAMILTON, JOYCESEALS, CHARLES COLEMAN, JASON THOMPSON, MATTIE THOMPSON

+ EDUCATION

Back to School

**By MB STAFF**

After almost one full year of virtual and/or a hybrid of remote and virtual learning, students enrolled in Saginaw Public Schools may be returning to the District's full, in-person learning model as soon as March 1, 2021. Understandably, there are mixed emotions and concerns surrounding the decision. Many students, staff, and parents long for a safe return to the classroom. They are concerned about the quality of virtual learning and the lack of social interaction for students and adults alike. On the other end of the debate, students, staff, and parents recognize the need to return to their buildings but are very much concerned about safety. This is one of the rare occasions where both sides are 100% correct! Students are falling further behind and having trouble with the isolation associated with the lack of contact with family and friends while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. They want this all to end. Students, staff, and parents who oppose the return also want an end to the current situation but consider the March 1st target much too soon. More safety measures are needed including providing the entire staff with the COVID 19 vaccine being at the top of the list of priorities.

In one of her recent 'State of COVID' updates, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer recognized the challenges associated with the total virtual learning models, the very slow but steady tapering of new cases and the availability of highly effective vaccines and recommended that Michigan's schools reopen – soon. States, counties, and locales across the nation are in the difficult position of having to answer questions such as: Does one of the concerns far outweigh the other? How do we alleviate the on-going fear and trauma children are experiencing during times of

uncertainty such as this? 'Is now the time for this district to go back to school?'

So many unique factors come into play that it seems impossible to develop a time frame or process for all to follow. For example, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there have been 16,115 deaths due to COVID 19 in the state of Michigan while the state of Washington has recorded a much lower number of 4,675. The numbers are higher and lower depending upon geographical locations. A uniform return policy implemented at a national level could not possibly meet the needs of students and families in these two states. A recent article in the Detroit Free Press notes that in an on-line survey conducted, more than half of the 22,500 teachers surveyed by the Michigan Education Association say they have already received at least one dose of the vaccine. John Wisely, Detroit Free Press February 10, 2021. Availability is not on the scale needed but an estimated 10% of Michigan residents are reported to have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Unfortunately, those numbers are not evenly distributed. There are counties with high rates of their teacher population having already been vaccinated and others struggling to secure enough of the vaccine to meet the needs of their district(s). The COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard page on the Michigan.gov website provides accurate, current, and educational data to answer questions and concerns.

So, it is Back to School for Saginaw Public School District. How can we mitigate the very real trauma many students may experience as they navigate a safe return to an environment which has been the topic of discussion and concern for such an extended period? As parents, guardians, caregivers, and service providers we must recognize the critical role we play in supporting students through this process.

- Exercise your options. It is reported that some students have actually thrived in the virtual arena. If your student is faring well and you need more time to feel safe sending him/her back into the classroom setting, take it. Your student can still work remotely if your family feels that is the best plan for you.
- Enhance your technology skills. Take an on-line course (many are free), check listings of trainings provided at the local library. We will be better prepared to assist our young learners with a basic knowledge and understanding of the technology they use.
- Engage in adult concerns and conversations with other adults. Airing our own grievances, fears and concerns surrounding decisions made by administrators and in many instances our elected officials in the presence of children makes it extremely difficult for them to feel secure and concentrate on learning. Phone calls matter – they are listening and unable to process the information we share with other adults.
- Expect a few 'bumps' in the road – the best laid plans often need modifications. Plan, be willing to adjust whenever possible and most importantly, remember to model appropriate communications for your student.
- Establish a routine as soon as possible. Many households have extended bedtimes, allowed a great deal more time on video games and basically 'relaxed' the much-needed structure or guidelines for students to experience the greatest level of success. If schools return to in house learning as soon as projected, we have very little time to get back to basics.

While many districts nationwide have already returned to full time in class learning, it is now 'back to school' for Saginaw. Let us work together to make this year as healthy and positive a learning experience possible under the current circumstances. Our students are counting on us.



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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

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

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

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+ BUSINESS

Upcoming Training Makes the Business Case for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Flint, MI – Diversity, equity and inclusion—also known as DEI—is an important topic for business and organizational leaders throughout Flint, Genesee County and beyond. To assist local employers in ensuring that DEI is treated as a top priority in the workplace, the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce is hosting a two-hour virtual training focused on the subject on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The Diversity & Inclusion Workshop, scheduled for 9-11 a.m., will make the business case for implementing DEI efforts in the workplace. Attendees will learn how to build more inclusive environments where employees are able to thrive as their authentic selves. Additionally, they will learn to check and control their implicit biases and effectively facilitate critical conversations.

The two-hour training will be led by Graci Harkema, who specializes in diversity, inclusion and implicit bias training and talent management within Fortune 500, small businesses and nonprofit organizations. The owner of Graci LLC, Harkema was recognized as a 2015 and 2020 '40 Under Forty Business Leader of West Michigan' and named a 2020 honoree of '200 Most Powerful Business Leaders of West Michigan' by the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*.

"I know what it feels like to work in



GRACI HARKEMA

environments where I couldn't be my authentic self, which presented barriers towards me reaching my potential," Harkema said. "Research shows that team performance increases by 50 percent when everyone feels included. This workshop will provide a safe space for participants to learn how to create a more inclusive and equitable work environment."

The training is \$40 per attendee, with discounted rates available for teams of five or more. According to Brianna Mosier, director of Organizational Development at the Flint & Genesee Chamber, workplaces are bound to see a greater organizational impact if they have multiple employees participate. That way, they will have a common knowledge around the subject and be better prepared to continue that discussion internally.

"We want to help businesses and organizations maximize their internal

efforts in developing inclusive and equitable workplaces," said Brianna Mosier, director of Organizational Development at the Flint & Genesee Chamber. "At the same time, we hope to see a positive, external effect on our community as we have more and more businesses and organizations adopt this mindset."

This isn't the only professional development opportunity to be hosted by the Flint & Genesee Chamber this spring. The organization will also host *Leading from Every Level*, which begins March 2 and runs through April 13. The four-part virtual series is designed to help attendees find their influence and adopt daily leadership practices, regardless of role, title or seniority.

To learn more or to register for these training opportunities, visit flintandgenesee.org/training.

+ BUSINESS

Associated Builders and Contractors Greater Michigan Chapter Honors Businesses Excelling in the Field of Safety

Midland, MI – ABC Greater Michigan Chapter is proud to announce the member companies that won the 2020 Safety Training and Evaluation Process (STEP) Awards. STEP recognizes ABC member companies who consistently excel in the field of safety, but more importantly it provides an evaluation tool to help identify areas to improve a company's safety program.

“Our contractors work safely for thousands of hours every year and are always looking to improve. With the continued focus on raising the bar it is no surprise that the list of Diamond and Platinum winners is growing year over year. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for working hard to make sure everyone goes home safely each and every day,” said Ken Misiewicz, ABC board chairman and President & CEO of Pleune Service Company, Inc.

The following ABC Greater Michigan Chapter member companies received awards in the following categories:

DIAMOND

Alloy

Blasy Electric
Central Concrete Products
Fisher Sand and Gravel
G.E. Insulation
Great Lakes Bay Construction
The Mackenzie Companies
Valley Electrical Contractors

PLATINUM

Architectural Metals
Consolidated Electrical Contractors
Fisher Contracting
Magnum Construction
RCL
Three Rivers Corporation
Town & Country Group

GOLD

American Plumbing
Pleune Service Company
Windemuller

SILVER

Answer Heating & Cooling
JE Johnson
The Tancor Corporation
United Electrical Contractors
Wolgast

BRONZE

A/C Electric
Albin Hengesbach Carpentry & Custom Cabinets, Inc.
Laux Construction

The highest honor recognizing a safety program that demonstrates the highest commitment is the diamond level. These companies must have an incident rate at least 50% below the National Bureau of Labor Statistics average in their particular NAICS code for the current year and each of the past two consecutive years and have an EMR (or “mod factor”) at or below 0.700 (0.800 for companies under 100 employees).

Also, recognized was the 2020 “Pete Crawford Memorial” Safety Leader of the Year award. The award was presented to Devin Hill of Windemuller.

The Craft Professional of the Year award was presented to Joe Zazo of Zazo Electric.

Dow named 2021 Best Places to Work for LGBTQ+ Equality by Human Rights Campaign

Recognition marks Dow's 16th consecutive year receiving a perfect score on the Corporate Equality Index

Midland, MI – In recognition of its inclusive workplace, Dow (NYSE: DOW) has been named by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) to its 2021 list of the “Best Places to Work for LGBTQ+ Equality.” This marks the company's 16th

consecutive year receiving a perfect score on HRC's Corporate Equality Index, a national benchmarking tool on corporate policies and practices pertinent to the LGBTQ+ community.

“Our work advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and equality over the years has served as a cornerstone of our larger efforts to build a more inclusive society for all,” said Amy Wilson, general counsel and corporate secretary of Dow, and executive sponsor of the company's LGBTQ+ and ally employee resource group, GLAD. “This recognition is an honor, a validation of the progress we've made, and encourages us to keep striving for our ambition: to be the most innovative, customer-centric, inclusive, and sustainable materials

science company in the world.”

Dow offers best-in-class policies and practices for LGBTQ+ colleagues, including equal benefits to same-sex partners for health, dental and life insurance, bereavement leave, relocation, dual-career assistance, and survivor benefits.

The company also advocates for public policy around the world to help bring fairness and equal treatment to the LGBTQ+ community. As part of this commitment, Dow continues to support the Equality Act, a comprehensive federal framework that ensures fairness and opportunity for all. Globally, Dow shares best practices with other like-minded organizations, leading the way toward a more diverse, inclusive and equal workplace and world.

+ BUSINESS

The 2021 Economic Outlook

By CHRIS DOUGLAS

The 2020 economy was the worst since the Great Depression. Production of goods and services decreased by over 33% in the second quarter, a rate not seen since the early years of the Great Depression. The unemployment rate increased from 3.5% in February to 14.7% in April. A double-digit increase in the unemployment rate in a two month period had never occurred in the United States' history. The hope is that 2021 returns the country to the peace and prosperity that existed prior to March. How quickly will that happen?

The answer depends on the course of COVID-19 and if policymakers respond with more shutdowns. The best case scenario is that the vaccines are widely distributed by spring and prove effective to new variants of the virus, such as those from the U.K, South Africa, and Brazil, allowing herd immunity to take effect which lets life get back to normal. Under that scenario, I would expect a rapid economic recovery in summer and continuing through the rest of 2021. It is unlikely that the unemployment rate returns to 3.5% by the end of 2021, but I would expect a substantial decrease from its current level.

A bad, but not worst case scenario is that the vaccine rollout continues to be plagued by bottlenecks and coordination problems so that few people are vaccinated by the summer. This would represent a massive missed opportunity and a substantial failure of public policy. Coronaviruses are seasonal, so one would expect a lull of infections in the summer before an uptick in the fall, which is what occurred in 2020. Policymakers need to take advantage of the seasonal decline in infections by widely vaccinating the public during the winter and spring months to prevent a seasonal increase in infections in the fall. This would ease pressure on hospitals and other medical resources, which would further allow life to return to normal. If this does not happen, then expect 2021 to look similar to the fourth quarter of 2020, meaning a sluggish, disappointing economic recovery.

The worst case scenario is that the vaccine is less effective in practice than in clinical trials or the vaccine proves less effective against variants of the virus. There is evidence that the vaccines are effective against new variants. However, variants such as the U.K. one are more infectious than the original virus, so variants may spread faster than

the vaccine can be administered. Or, new variants may emerge that the vaccine is not effective against, which would necessitate reformulating and re-administering the vaccine. This is feasible to do with the mRNA vaccines being used to fight COVID-19, but would involve substantial delays. During this time period, there would likely be pressure from some policymakers and public health professionals to shut the economy down again. The United Kingdom is currently in a shutdown that is scheduled to last until at least March.

A second shutdown would be devastating to the economy. Just because a business closes does not mean its costs fall to zero. Businesses continue to face some overhead such as rent or mortgage payments on the building, taxes, and the cost of a liquor license (if the business serves alcohol). The longer a business remains closed, the more likely it is to run out of cash reserves to pay this overhead and fail. For instance, the American Restaurant Association estimates that 110,000 restaurants were either permanently closed or closed long-term in December, representing 1-in-6 restaurants in the United States. This is an increase from the 100,000 restaurants that were permanently closed or closed long-term in September. Thus the economy will exit the recession with fewer restaurants, and fewer businesses in general, compared before COVID.

This will slow the economy the recovery as full recovery now will mean a new entrepreneur entering the market rather than an existing business owner simply reopening his or her business. The longer the shutdown, the more businesses that permanently fail, and thus the slower the recovery. Even business owners who survive the shutdown are likely to see their life savings depleted as they dip into them to cover overhead during the shutdown. A report by the Federal Reserve found a majority of business owners would do just that in order to cover a period of lost revenue.

The Federal government and the Federal Reserve have taken aggressive fiscal and monetary policy action to stimulate the economy through the shutdown. The first round of stimulus spending in March spent approximately \$2 trillion. The second round in December spent another \$900 billion on top of this. President Biden is proposing a third round of spending that is estimated to cost \$1.9 trillion. Thus, \$2.9 trillion has already been spent to deal with COVID plus another proposed \$1.9 trillion in addition. To put this in perspective, \$1.9 trillion represents approximately a year of federal income tax revenue. The first two stimulus packages pushed the 2020 budget deficit to \$3 trillion and the amount of outstanding federal debt as a share of the economy to a level not seen since World War II. The deficit will almost certainly as large in 2021 and 2022.

The Federal Reserve has increased the money supply by 68% over the last year, meaning that 40% of all the dollars ever created were created over the last year. As the Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman famously pointed out, inflation always stems from an increase in the money supply. We were fortunate not to see inflation in 2020. It is unclear how long this expansion of the money supply can continue before we do.

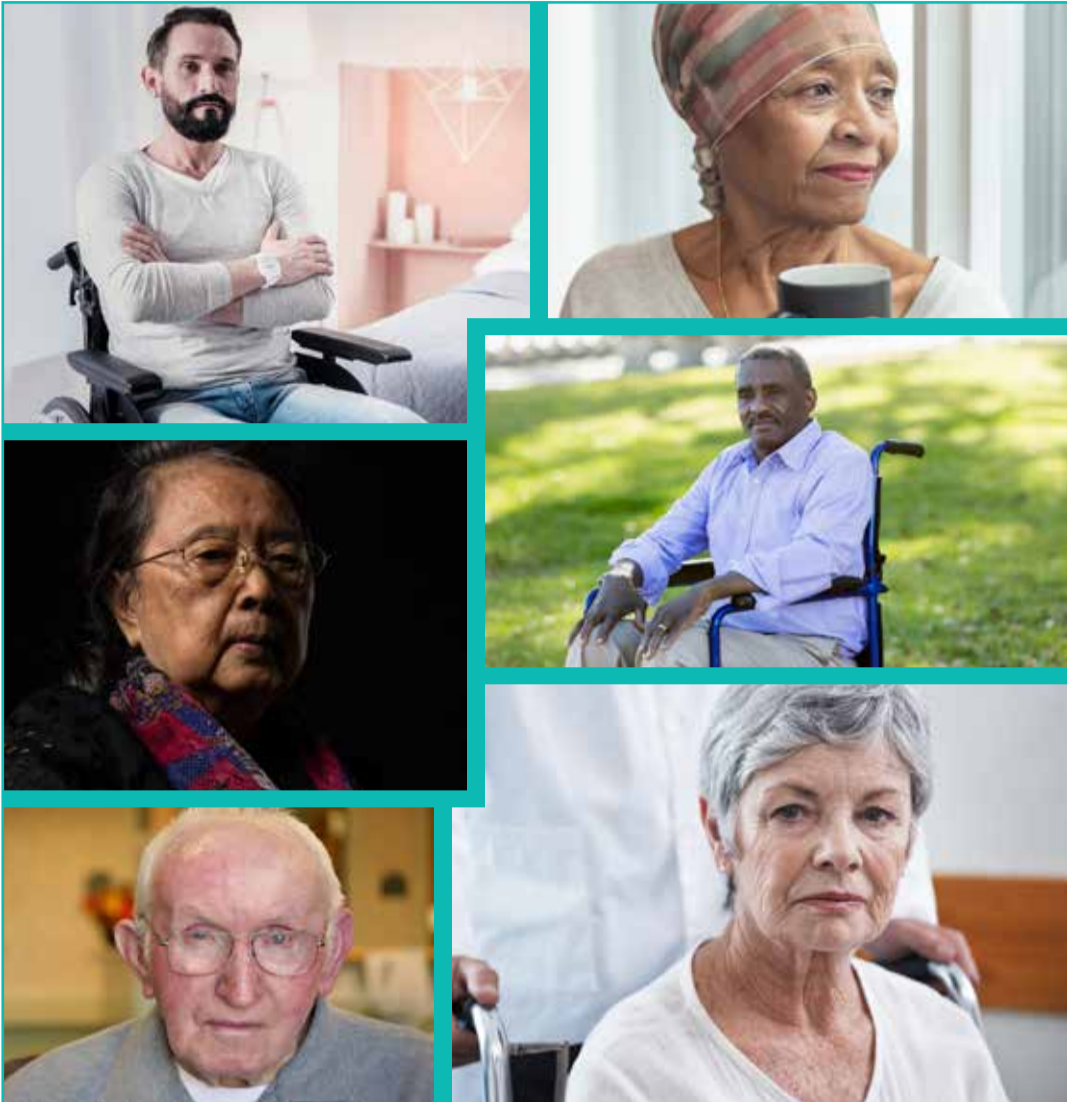
The shutdown has also devastated over

aspects of American society. A survey by the Center for Disease Control found that there is a threefold increase in Americans suffering from anxiety and fourfold increase in depression compared to 2019, with about 25% of respondents suffering from them. A quarter of respondents aged 18-24 had seriously contemplated suicide. Sixteen percent of respondents aged 25-44 had as well. Diagnoses of various types of cancers has fallen by double-digit percentages as shutdowns and fear of the virus kept people away from the doctor.

The shutdown has been mentally and economically devastating to the 60% of Americans who cannot work from home and the anger this has generated likely manifested itself in some of the civil unrest witnessed over the last year, the unexpected strength of President Trump in the November election, and the January short-squeeze of Game Stop stock that is at least partially motivated to punish the hedge funds who seem to live under a different set of rules than everyone else. The visible flaunting of COVID-19 rules by those in power, such as the California governor's infamous trip to the French Laundry, only added fuel to this anger. The effect the shutdowns are having on American economy and society are not sustainable, and the policy measures being undertaken by the federal government Federal Reserve are not either.

The economic recovery stalled in fall and winter 2020. The shutdown caused 20 million jobs to be lost, or twenty years of job growth, and only half of those jobs have returned. Employment in Michigan plunged to the lowest level on record in April and how has only recovered to 2012 levels. Job growth for 2021 has already shown to be disappointing, with January only seeing 49,000 new jobs created. This would be a disappointing jobs report even if the economy was strong, let alone recovering from the worst recession since the Great Depression. Fourth quarter economic growth was an anemic, resulting in the economy contracting by 3.5% in 2020. A 3.5% yearly contraction in economic output is a significant contraction, on par with what was witnessed during the 2008-09 Great Recession. The economy essentially moved from the Great Depression in the spring to the Great Recession by fall and winter and remains stuck there.

The forecast for 2021 resembles Harvey Dent, who was the villain "Two Face" in Batman. Dent had a good and bad side to him, and it always remained to be seen which face appeared. The good forecast for 2021 involves a rapid economic recovery by the summer and life returning to normal. The bad forecast involves a COVID continuing to disrupt American life, further waves of economic shutdowns, which pushes the American economy and society down an unimaginable path. Which face of the recovery appears depends on the course the virus and shutdowns take in 2021.




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+ FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

Don't keep data out of decision making

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Data managers are one of the most underrated – and least engaged – members of a fundraising solicitation team. Don't make the mistake of overlooking their value.

Sometimes we inadvertently forget to include the most important people in our fundraising planning. We make sure we have top leadership, board members, community leaders, major donors, and local/regional influencers at the table. We have our fundraising staff and volunteers prepared and ready to go. But we don't invite the person responsible for data management. That is a big mistake! Here's why.

The person or people responsible for data management within your organization are very familiar with your donors. They spend their time looking at data – names, giving amounts, address changes... If your nonprofit takes the time to record known relationships between donors, volunteers, and board members then these staff members know a lot about who-knows-who. They observe trends in giving, such as when there is a "spike" in giving, and when you are in a "dry spell." They know what data you are tracking, what you are not tracking, and how this impacts the information available for decision making. They know types of reports you can run and the different ways you can sort and review data as you

prepare for fundraising.

Your data management people can provide your fundraising team with giving information for specific donors over a three- or five-year period, or longer. They can run reports showing who has given at the highest levels over multiple years. These can show giving year-by-year, or cumulative giving. They can let you know who gave last year but not this year; who attended your last gala; and who has been a sponsor for events in the past and could be approached for a gift or grant even if you can't have your in-person event.

In many cases the donor management team is also responsible for stewardship. That means they are the ones who craft and send out thank-you letters and emails; they may be the people who take RSVPs for events; and they might be talking with your donors by phone when they call into your organization.

You can ask your data team to take on special projects to help your



fundraisers prepare for an ask. For example, they can use publicly available information about which other nonprofits your donors are affiliated with or give to. This can be part of the process of creating a donor profile for use in fundraising by a staff member or volunteer. Such a profile contains information about prior giving, interests, relationships, role in the community, event attendance, and involvement with your organization. It also includes a suggested ask amount.

Bottom line: don't let preconceptions get in the way of determining who should be part of your solicitation team. Your data people know more than you think they do. And, if you make them a full member of your team, sharing your plans and projections, they can add insights and data you need to succeed.



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

+ CHURCH DIRECTORY

B



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Bread of Life Harvest Center
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Saginaw, MI 48603
989-790-7933

C

Christ Disciples Baptist Church
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Pastor Genevieve Benson
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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

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
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
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+ SPORTS



DAVID JAHNKE

David Jahnke, Saginaw Valley Lutheran athlete receives MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award

East Lansing, MI – The Michigan High School Athletic Association has selected 10 student-athletes from Class C and D member schools to receive scholarships through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award program.

Farm Bureau Insurance, in its 32nd year of sponsoring the award, will give \$1,000 college scholarships to 32 individuals who represent their member schools in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a postseason tournament. The first 30 scholarships are awarded proportionately

by school classification and the number of student-athletes involved in those classes; also, there are two at-large honorees who can come from any classification.

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be carrying at least a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) grade-point average and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport in which the Michigan High School Athletic Association sponsors a postseason tournament. Other requirements for the applicants were to show active participation in other school and community activities and produce an

essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Each of the scholarship recipients will be honored during an online ceremony later this winter. Commemorative medallions will be given to the finalists in recognition of their accomplishments.

The Class C Scholar-Athlete Award honorees are: Meagan Lasky, Bronson; Sophia Rayes, Oscoda; Elizabeth M. Williams, Ishpeming Westwood; Nicholas Errer, Bad Axe; Finn Feldeisen, Ann Arbor Greenhills; and David Jahnke, Saginaw Valley Lutheran.

The Class D Scholar-Athlete Award recipients are: Olivia Lowe, Leland; Sophia Stowe, Northport; Jäeger Griswold, Ellsworth; and Wyatt Serrine, Leland.

David Jahnke of Saginaw Valley Lutheran played three seasons of varsity football, wrestling on varsity for fourth season and will run his second season of varsity track & field in the spring. He earned all-league recognition and won a county championship in wrestling, and served as team captain. He also earned academic all-state in football. Participating in second year of student council and elected class treasurer. Jahnke participated in the second year of the National Honor Society and four years in Saginaw Valley Lutheran’s Key Club, STEM club, Spanish club and Global Awareness Club. He earned the Key Club Service Medallion and was elected to organize group projects, also serving as STEM school Chief Science Officer. Jahnke will attend Michigan State University and study biomedical engineering.

He attributes his continued participation in sports to the people around him.

“Without the true sportsmanship amongst my teammates and the opponents we faced, I would not have continued participating in those sports. In doing so I would have walked away from a sport I learned to love, and that has caused me to grow as a person by building my character. ... If I had been shown unkindness instead of goodwill, mockery instead of encouragement, selfishness instead of generosity, I would have missed all the valuable lessons taught to me by athletics.”

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VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 4



TEENQUEST

TeenQuest offers final chance to earn invite to 2021 Summer Youth Initiative Job Fair

Flint, MI – Tim Szary is a systems engineer at Raytheon Technologies. Jelani Taylor is a business analyst at McKinsey Seattle. And Quanhya Wade is now in her first year as a nursing student at Mott Community College. Despite their different career paths, these Genesee County natives all have one thing in common: They are all TeenQuest graduates who gained important work experience through the Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) employment program.

Genesee County teens who are interested in following in the footsteps of these students and young professionals are encouraged to register for TeenQuest's final session of the 2020-21 school year. Held virtually, the session will kick off with orientation on Feb. 18. The program,

which teaches the skills needed to get and keep a job, will run from Feb. 22 through March 25.

This is the final TeenQuest session that will be offered before the SYI Job Fair, during which teens are invited to interview with local employers for summer job openings. The job fair, which will be held this spring, is open only to graduates of TeenQuest.

"This is an ideal program for area high school students who want to develop high-demand skills, including communication, goal setting and conflict resolution," said James Avery, director of Education & Training at the Flint & Genesee Chamber, which administers both TeenQuest and SYI. "What's more, it guarantees them the opportunity to interview with area

employers for actual job openings. Last year, nearly 260 students secured summer employment as a result of these programs."

Wade, an alumna of Flushing High School, completed TeenQuest in her freshman year and participated in SYI each summer through 2020. By the time she started college, Wade already had the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Asbury Methodist Church and Berston Field House listed on her resume. Not only did the experience help build her confidence, it also helped her grow her professional network.

"I met so many people through SYI

**CONTINUES ON PG 57,
TEENQUEST**



TEENQUEST

Continued from pg 56, TeenQuest

that have given me resources to further my career into nursing,” said Wade, who currently works at Berston and McDonald’s on top of her regular schoolwork. “One of my previous supervisors offered to review a job application for me, and another put me in touch with someone who set me up with a job shadowing opportunity at Hurley Medical Center. I wouldn’t be where I am

today without TeenQuest and SYI.”

As part of TeenQuest’s current virtual format, students must attend a 90-minute orientation on the first day of program. Additionally, they must participate in three, one-hour online sessions weekly and complete assigned projects—including writing a resume and filling out a job application—outside virtual class time. To

graduate from TeenQuest, students must also successfully complete mock interviews provided through the program.

TeenQuest is open to all Genesee County teens, ages 14-19 in grades 9-12. For more information, or to enroll, visit www.flintandgenesee.org/teenquest or call (810) 600-1413.



PIC OF THE WEEK BUCKLEY BLACK HISTORY

Jerome Buckley, Co-founder and Publisher of the Michigan Banner is pictured with his sons and nephews.

"Our Black History was Built on Love and Support"

- JEROME BUCKLEY





We empower.

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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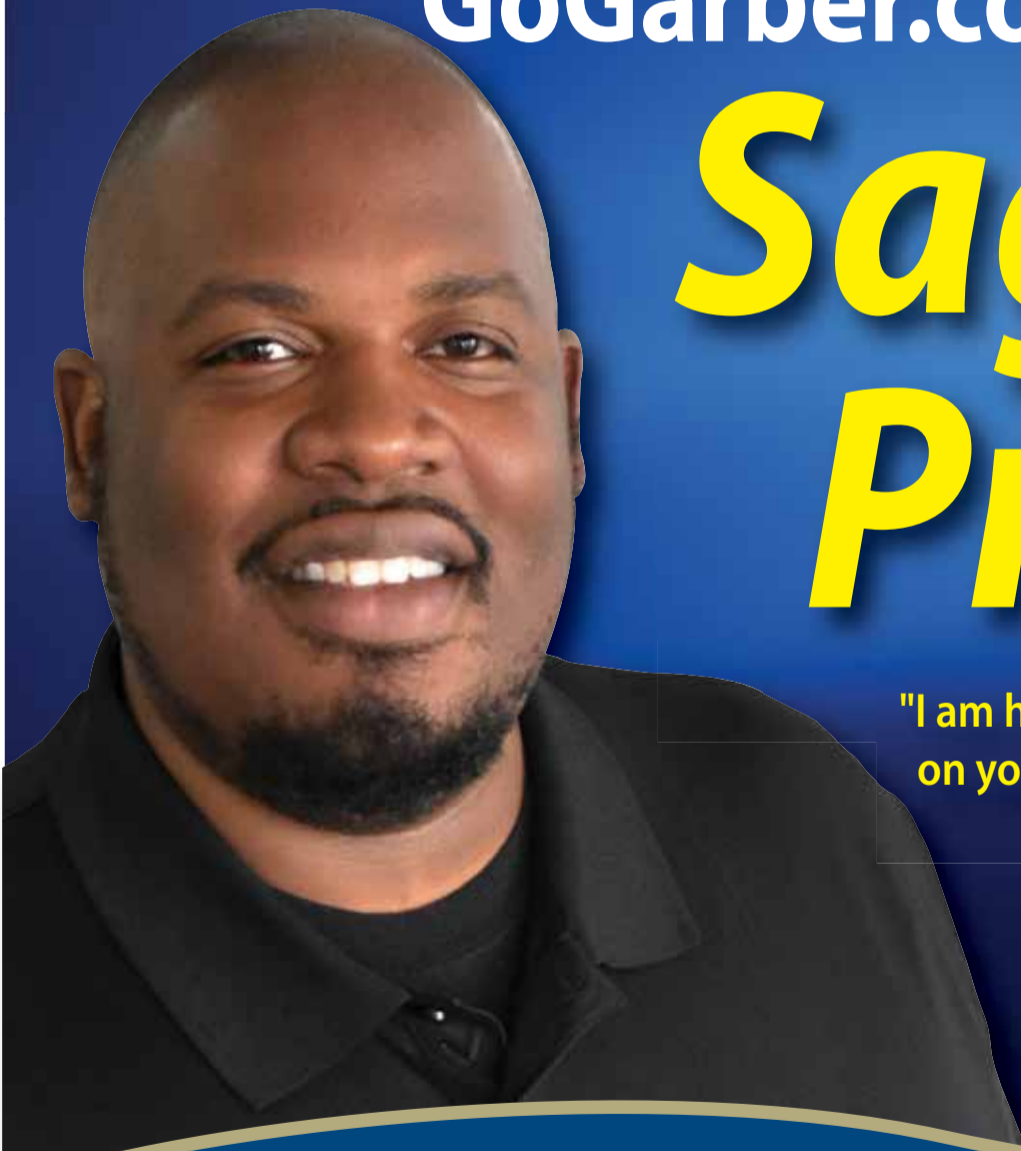
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