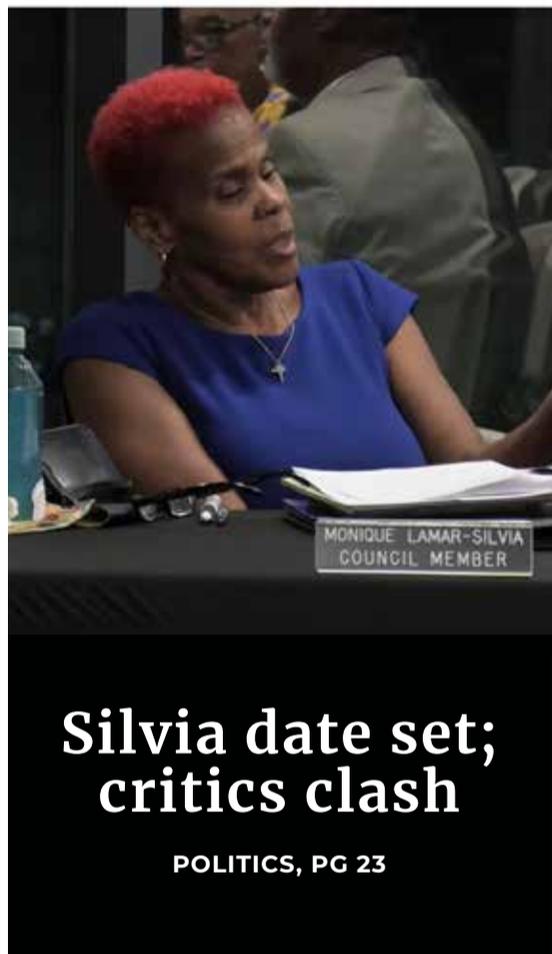




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## Fashion Square Auto Expo to debut in Saginaw Township

FARMERS DISTRICT 73 PRESENTS

**FARMERS INSURANCE**

# FASHION SQUARE

## AUTO EXPO

SCAN ME

SATURDAY  
**SEPTEMBER 27TH**  
ROLL IN AT 8:30 A.M.  
GATES OPEN AT 10 A.M.

**FASHION SQUARE MALL**

<p><b>CAR REGISTRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FIRST 50 REGISTERED CARS GET FREE SWAG BAGS</li> <li>\$15 PRE REG ONLINE</li> <li>\$20 AT GATE</li> </ul>	<p><b>FOOD TRUCKS &amp; VENDORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FREE SPECTATOR ENTRY</li> <li>FREE EVENT PARKING</li> <li>FOOD TRUCKS &amp; VENDORS ON SITE</li> </ul>	<p><b>CASH PRIZES FOR TOP CARS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BEST IN SHOW - \$250 + TROPHY</li> <li>BEST TRUCK - \$100 + TROPHY</li> <li>BEST CLASSIC CAR (PRE-1964) - \$100 + TROPHY</li> <li>BEST MUSCLE CAR (1964-1975) - \$100 + TROPHY</li> <li>BEST LATE MODEL CAR (1976-2025) - \$100 + TROPHY</li> </ul>
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SPECTATOR FREE ENTRY

FASHION SQUARE AUTO EXPO FLYER



**SVSU students reach global finals at human rights moot court in Geneva**

YOUTH BANNER, COVER



**LLEAD adds Bay City statewide**

LATINO BANNER, PG 2



**Debate continues over \$4M in ARPA interest funds**

COMMUNITY, PG 20

**BY SHAUNTELL SMITH**

SAGINAW — Classic cars, food trucks and family fun will come together later this fall at the first-ever Fashion Square Auto Expo, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27, at Fashion Square Mall.

The event is organized by Farmers Insurance District 73 and will feature vehicles of all styles, local vendors, and cash prizes for top entries. Admission for spectators is free.

“I’ve always had a passion for classic cars,” said Tom Keenan, district man-

ager of Farmers Insurance District 73. “I wanted to bring something to Saginaw Township and the Fashion Square block that would be both community-centered and a fun day out for families.”

Gates will open at 10 a.m., with vendor setup beginning at 8:30 a.m. Car registration is \$15 in advance online or \$20 at the gate. The first 50 vehicles to register will receive complimentary swag bags. Categories for cash prizes include Best in Show, Best Truck, Best Classic Car, Best Muscle Car and Best Late Model Car.

Alongside the auto

showcase, food trucks and local vendors will be on site. Businesses can participate as vendors, with booth packages ranging from \$100 for standard spaces to \$250 for VIP spots that include prime tent placement, online promotion and category exclusivity.

The Fashion Square Auto Expo will be held at Fashion Square Mall, 4865 Fashion Square Mall in Saginaw Township.

Vendor registration and additional information are available at [www.fashion-squareautoexpo.com](http://www.fashion-squareautoexpo.com) or by contacting Keenan at [tkeen-an2@farmersagent.com](mailto:tkeen-an2@farmersagent.com).

## Bay Area Chamber to spotlight new education leaders at luncheon

BAY CITY — The Bay Area Chamber of Commerce will host its annual State of Education luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City-Riverfront, bringing together business and community leaders to discuss the future of education in Bay County.

This year's program will highlight three newly appointed superintendents: Grant Hegenauer of Bay City Public Schools, Davion Lewis of Essexville-Hampton Public Schools, and Shelly DuCharme of the Bay-Arenac ISD. The event will give attendees an opportunity to hear their perspectives on student success, workforce readiness and the role of business partnerships in shaping educational outcomes.

"The State of Education continues to be one of the Chamber's most impactful events," said Magen Samyn, president and CEO of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's a chance for employers, educators, and advocates to come together and hear firsthand how our local schools are preparing students for the future and how our business community can support that mission."

The luncheon will take place from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City-Riverfront, located at One Wenonah Park Place in downtown Bay City. Tickets are priced at \$45 per person for Chamber members and \$60 for non-members. Chamber members also have the option of reserving a table of eight for \$350.

Sponsorships are available at \$500, which include four tickets to the luncheon, recognition in promotional materials and acknowledgment during the program. For more information or to sponsor the event, those interested can contact Lily West at [lily@baycityarea.com](mailto:lily@baycityarea.com) or call (989) 893-4567 ext. 229.



**THIS DAY IN  
MICHIGAN  
HISTORY**

**AUGUST 16, 1965**



**O**n August 16, 1965, George Grady was named Chief of police in Dowagiac. He was the first African American to head a municipal police department in Michigan and only the second in the entire United States.

**MICHIGAN BANNER**

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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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CITY OF SAGINAW  
FAMILY PLAY DATES IN THE PARK  
PRESENTS:

# BACK TO SCHOOL FREE PLAY DAY

**22ND AUGUST, 2025**

- ★ SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIVEAWAY
- ★ FUN GAMES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
- ★ FREE SPORTS AND PLAY GEAR
- ★ ENJOY A HOT DOG DINNER WHILE IT LASTS!

**LEAD HOST**

## DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

At Veteran's Memorial Park From 5:30 PM To 8 PM  
802 S. 20<sup>th</sup> St. Saginaw, MI 48601

**RESOURCES**

Saginaw Children's Zoo, Houghton Jones Neighborhood Association, Family and Children Together (FACT) and Saginaw Library Book Mobile

Free event - register at [www.saginaw-mi.com/parks](http://www.saginaw-mi.com/parks)

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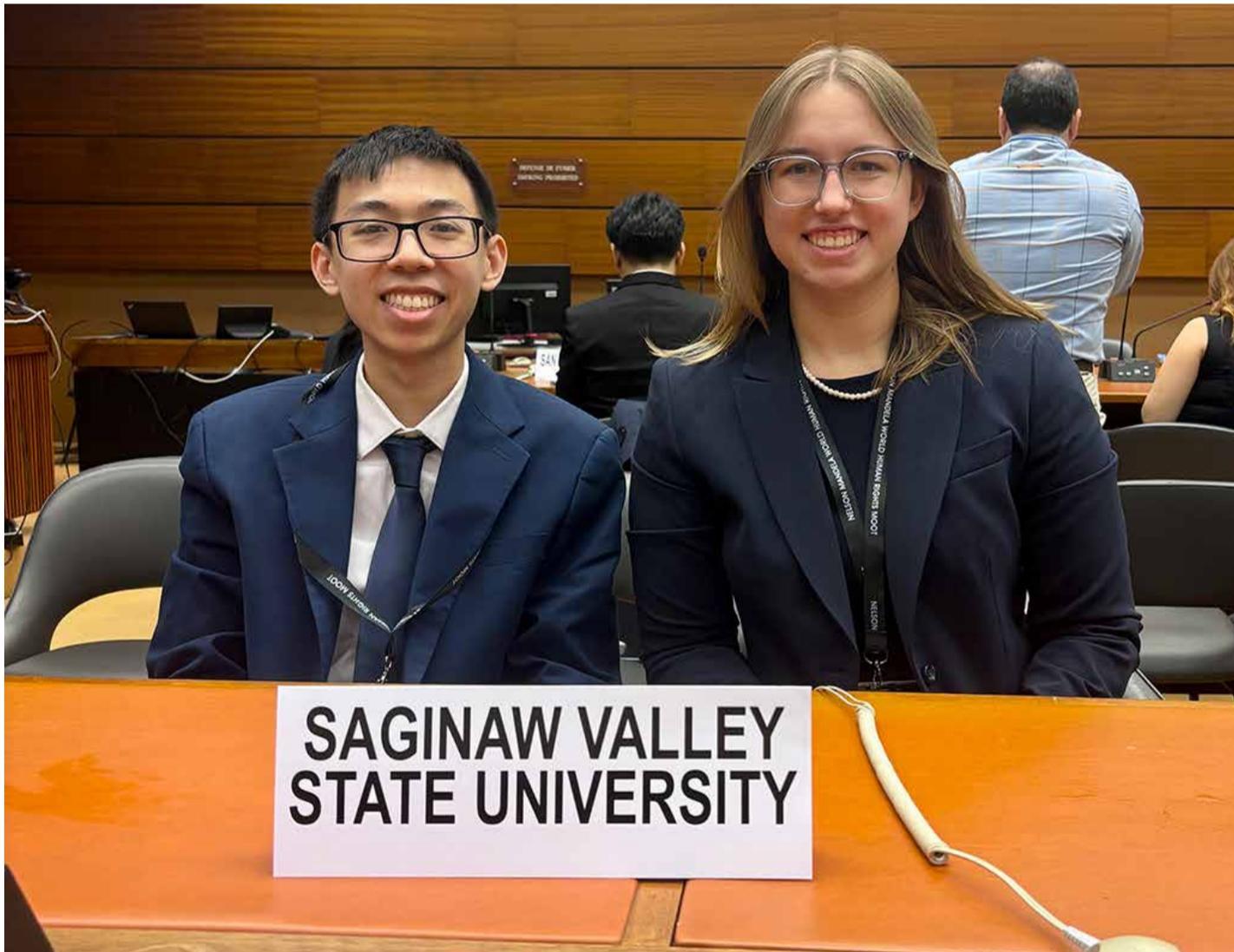
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# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 16



## SVSU students reach global finals at human rights moot court in Geneva



JASON HOANG (LEFT) AND PAYTON STEMMERICH SIT AT A TABLE AT THE NELSON MANDELA WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

UNIVERSITY CENTER — Two Saginaw Valley State University students earned international recognition after advancing to the global finals of the 17th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Payton Stemmerich, a Spanish major from Clinton Township, and Jason Hoang, a politi-

cal science major from Saginaw, were the only U.S. team to reach the final rounds this year. The July 14-18 competition brought together 24 of the world's top university moot court teams, including groups from Canada, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The SVSU pair began preparing in January, first drafting written briefs on a hypothetical human rights case. Their submission ranked second in their region and among the top 50 teams

worldwide, qualifying them for virtual oral arguments in May. After placing 15th, they secured a spot in Geneva, where they competed before international human rights experts and judges.

Stemmerich and Hoang finished in the upper half of the global finalists with an average score of 82 out of 100 in the preliminary rounds. They are the first SVSU students to advance to the in-person finals in Geneva.

"This is an awesome accomplishment for Payton and Jason,"

said Kevin G. Lorentz II, assistant professor of political science and one of the team's coaches. "They put in an incredible amount of time and effort, and this success is based on their own initiative, acumen and tenacity. It is another example of how Cardinals stand out nationally and now globally."

Amy Hendrickson, associate professor of law, also coaches SVSU's moot court program, which was established in 2010 and is currently ranked fourth in the nation.

Stemmerich called the experience "astounding."

"It was an honor just to qualify for the preliminary rounds considering we were competing against law school students, but advancing to the finals was astounding," she said. "We truly could not have done it without our coaches, who have built an amazing program that has allowed me to work on my legal advocacy skills since day one at SVSU."

Hoang said the competition was both challenging and rewarding.

"I am honored to be part of a competition that highlights the importance of human rights while working on my legal skills," he said. "I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent our university with such strong support from our coaches and community."

The annual competition is organized by the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria in partnership with the United Nations Human Rights Council Branch and other global organizations.

# Back-to-school: How to start strong and stress less this year



FILE PHOTO

**BY MB STAFF**

The alarm clocks are back. The backpacks are packed. And just like that, summer is over. Whether you're heading into your first year of high school or walking in as a seasoned senior, back-

to-school season is here — and it doesn't have to be overwhelming.

Think of the year ahead as a reset button. New classes, new teachers and maybe even new friends. It's a chance to figure out who you want to be and how you want the year to go. Here are a few ways to kick things off strong:

## 1. Get organized early

Don't wait until the first test sneaks up on you. Use a planner, a calendar app or even sticky notes on your wall. Keeping track of assignments and activities will save you from late-night cram sessions.

## 2. Balance school with life

Yes, grades matter. But so does your mental health. Make time for the things that keep you happy — whether that's playing a sport, hanging out with friends, gaming, drawing, or just listening to music. School is part of your life, not all of it.

## 3. Try something new

Joining a club, trying out for a team or volunteering can lead to unexpected friendships and skills you didn't know you had. Even if it feels a little scary, stepping out of your comfort zone could be the best decision you make this year.

## 4. Don't compare yourself

Everyone moves at their own pace. Some people are in advanced classes, some juggle sports, others focus on art or work after school. Your path is yours — and that's what makes it valuable.

## 5. Remember: mistakes happen

You'll miss a question, bomb a quiz or forget your homework at some point. That's normal. What matters is learning from it and moving forward. One bad grade doesn't define your year.

This school year is about more than tests and textbooks. It's about figuring out your goals, your passions and the kind of person you want to be. Take it step by step, stay true to yourself, and don't forget to enjoy the little things — like that first-day outfit or the extra fries at lunch.

Back-to-school isn't just the end of summer. It's the start of everything you get to do next.

# Youth entrepreneurs to showcase businesses at Frankenmuth expo



BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

FRANKENMUTH — Young entrepreneurs from across the Great Lakes Bay Region will take center stage at the upcoming Youth Entrepreneurship Expo, hosted by Kids Rule Now! Inc.

The event returns to Frankenmuth River Place Shops on Saturday, Sept. 13, offering students ages 6 to 17 the opportunity to display their business ideas, sell products, and connect with customers.

Organizers say the expo provides a platform for youth to gain hands-on experience running their own ventures, from marketing to customer service. Participants will also be able to network with peers who share an interest in entrepreneurship.

Past expos have featured everything from handmade crafts and baked goods to technology-based ideas and fashion brands. Organizers expect this year's event to draw even more participants and attendees.

The Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge and Frankenmuth River Place Shops are serving as sponsors for the expo. Registration for youth vendors is \$15, which helps cover administrative costs.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Expo is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free for the public.

For more information or to register, visit [www.kidsrulenow.org](http://www.kidsrulenow.org).



ATTENDEES AT THE SUMMER YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPO (PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIDS RULE NOW! INC.)



# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

## Hispanic Center of Western Michigan names new VP of programs

BY MB STAFF



ZORAIDA M. VÉLEZ

GRAND RAPIDS — The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan has appointed Zoraida M. Vélez as its new vice president of programs.

Vélez brings more than two decades of experience in community empowerment, leadership development and education. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she said her background has shaped a deep cultural awareness that has guided her work in human rights and mental health advocacy.

Her career began in public relations while she was in college, a role that introduced her to communication and outreach. After relocating to Grand Rapids, she worked as a freelance writer for Hispanic publications, followed by a position as a housing counselor with the Grand Rapids Urban League. She later served five years in workforce development at the Tassell MTEC, focusing on training and career readiness.

Vélez also spent nearly seven years as a high school teacher in Grand Rapids Public Schools, where she created culturally responsive curricula and mentored LGBTQ and African American student clubs. She went on to lead training and program development for nearly a decade at the DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative, working with Latino and Haitian communities across the United States.

Most recently, she was training, development and documentation manager at Priority Health, overseeing learning strategies. She has also worked as a consultant with Awakening Consulting, offering leadership development and change management services.

The Hispanic Center said Vélez's expertise and vision will help expand its efforts to serve West Michigan's Hispanic community.

## Latino Caucus: Time to speak out

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Fear.

That's a main reaction to a survey Angel Gomez is conducting as he aims to organize a Latino Caucus within the county Democratic Party.

More than half of respondents offered negative responses when asked if they would volunteer to work toward a political cause. Normally this would be branded as "apathy," but Gomez says his encounters with family and friends reflect fears of President Trump's ICE raids.

So if you're a citizen, what's to worry? You don't want to be hassled, maybe harmed, by an agent whose analysis begins with your brownness.

And if you lack the papers, still, you may have quietly worked hard to support yourself and a family (while paying your federal income taxes). Trump claims his focus is on criminals who have fled justice in their native lands, so the question is, why are everyday people being apprehended?

Gomez reviewed the survey results with an audience of about two dozen during an organizing session on Aug. 5. Leaders who took part included Vanessa Guerra, coun-



ANGEL GOMEZ

ty clerk and former state rep; Bobby DeLeon with the Mexican American Council; Ricardo Medina, ex-Bridgeport school superintendent; and Rosa Morales, local journalist retired from Delta College.

He said he personally has heard reports that ICE was present at the Cinco de Mayo Parade on May 3, and again on July 25 during Friday Night Live's Latina Fiesta.

Gomez is a married father of three and a clinical therapist for McDowell Healing Arts Center. After Trump's MAGA victory last November, he said he considered the risk of speaking out against what remains "a land of inequality" before he found a niche as organizer of a first-time Latino Caucus for the Dems.

One participant on Aug. 5 suggested a workshop to instruct people

on what to do if they witness ICE in action. Ideas for start-up work still are being gathered.

Other findings in the ongoing survey include:

- Only 20 percent believe their votes matter.
- Some 62 percent feel elected leaders "barely understand" Latino issues.
- Many top concerns, including employment and education, are shared with all ethnic groups.

Gomez has started the process by making contacts with Washington legislators, including Senators Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin and Rep. Kristen McDonald-Rivet.

For info, contact Gomez at [angelg32589@gmail.com](mailto:angelg32589@gmail.com) or by phone, (989) 860-1969.



THE LATINO BANNER IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS

# LLEAD adds Bay City statewide

## Saginaw and Flint already on board



ALBERTO FLORES, PRESIDENT OF LLEAD MICHIGAN

BY MIKE THOMPSON

BAY CITY — Alberto Flores and Mary Helen Velasquez recall growing up in a town where Mexican Americans bonded as a small but vibrant community.

There was the Guadalupe Center (Church), Tri-City SER (Service, Employment, Redevelopment), the Spanish Speaking Representative Council, and The G.I. Forum for the Latino veterans.

That was late in the 20th century. We're already a quarter of the way into the 21st, but it's never too late to organize and to re-organize. Since late last year, Flores and Velasquez have been working to establish a Bay City Chapter of the 11-year-old LLEAD Michigan. Latino Leaders for Equity, Advocacy and Development features a statewide motto, "Bringing a voice to Latinos in Michigan."

Flores is the president of LLEAD Michigan and is in a position to make things happen. He grew up in Bay County and recalls field work with his family.

gan Department of Civil Rights. His family lives now near Alma for the shorter commute to Lansing, but he still invests plenty of time in his hometown.

Bay City joins an ever-expanding network of local LLEAD chapters that include Saginaw, Flint, Lansing, Holland, Grand Rapids, South East Michigan and Adrian.

Mary Velasquez is one of the co-organizers for LLEAD Bay City. She says starting points will include selection of officers, and then choosing concerns the group wishes to address.

"It's a different time," she says, explaining that institutions like the churches still influence the community, but not to the same extent as in her generation. Therefore, efforts to recruit members for LLEAD must become more wide-ranging.

Advocacy may take various forms beyond the standard speak-to-power. Velasquez recalls a pre-millennium G.I. Forum boxing team that built pride among Mexican-Ameri-

cans in Bay City. Could this type of program be restored, she asks?

Another example could be the creation of a project entitled "Preserving Nuestra Historia" which is meant to digitize pictures, documents and also do oral Interviews, which may also be what Bay City LLEAD is seeking.

"LLEAD is more than just meeting to resolve issues confronting the Latino community," Flores explains. "It's a celebration of community, resilience, and collective action to build a more inclusive future."

He refers to this as "Latino Destino," stating, "If we as Latinos don't configure our own destiny, it will be created for us."

For info, contact the LLEAD Bay City Chapter Steering Committee: Armando Velasquez (savasleonmusic@yahoo.com) Celedonio Garcia (celedonio\_garcia@yahoo.com) or Debbie Mendoza (debramendoza1@yahoo.com).



# DREAM MAKERS GALA

Celebrating the legacy of

# ANGELA REYES



September 26th, 2025 | 6 PM - 11 PM

Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation

# Interpreter training course offered online through Latinx Technology & Community Center



**Latinx**  
Technology & Community Center

## COMMUNITY INTERPRETER TRAINING COURSE

**START DATE**  
**SEPTEMBER 30 - NOVEMBER 19**  
**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM | ONLINE COURSE**

The Community Interpreter Training Course prepares individuals to interpret effectively in community settings, covering language skills, cultural understanding, and ethical practices for roles in healthcare, and social services. The course will be offered in two sessions: one in the spring and another in the fall.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION OR CALL OUR MAIN OFFICE LATINX TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY CENTER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

[latinxf Flint.org](https://www.latinxf Flint.org)

810.715.5050  
info@latinxf Flint.org  
2101 Lewis St. | Flint, MI, 48506

COMMUNITY INTERPRETER TRAINING COURSE FLYER

### BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The Latinx Technology & Community Center is launching its Community Interpreter Training Course this fall to prepare individuals to serve effectively in diverse community settings.

The program will run Sept. 30 through Nov. 19 as an online course, with classes held Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The training is designed to equip participants with language skills, cultural understanding and ethical practices needed for interpreting roles in health-

care, social services and other community-based fields. Nearly 10,000 square feet of classroom space, technology-enhanced labs and collaborative areas will support the instruction.

According to organizers, the course will be offered twice each year, once in the spring and again in the fall.

Interested participants can pre-register by scanning the QR code on the event flyer or by contacting the Latinx Technology & Community Center directly at 810-715-5050 or [info@latinxf Flint.org](mailto:info@latinxf Flint.org). The center is located at 2101 Lewis St. in Flint.

More information is available at [latinxf Flint.org](https://www.latinxf Flint.org).

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Saturday, September 20~ Noon-10pm  
Sunday, September 21~ 10-1 Unity Service, 2-7 Bands

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**Official DJ T.G.T. TCTMusic.com**

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**Special Appearance By:** **Katholac Jones** **JAYGO HAAM** **YOU?** **MIGUEL & CHICO**

Contact Marii Vela if you want 15 minute set time to showcase your talent!  
**ONLY 1 15 MINUTE SLOTS FOR SUNDAY LEFT**

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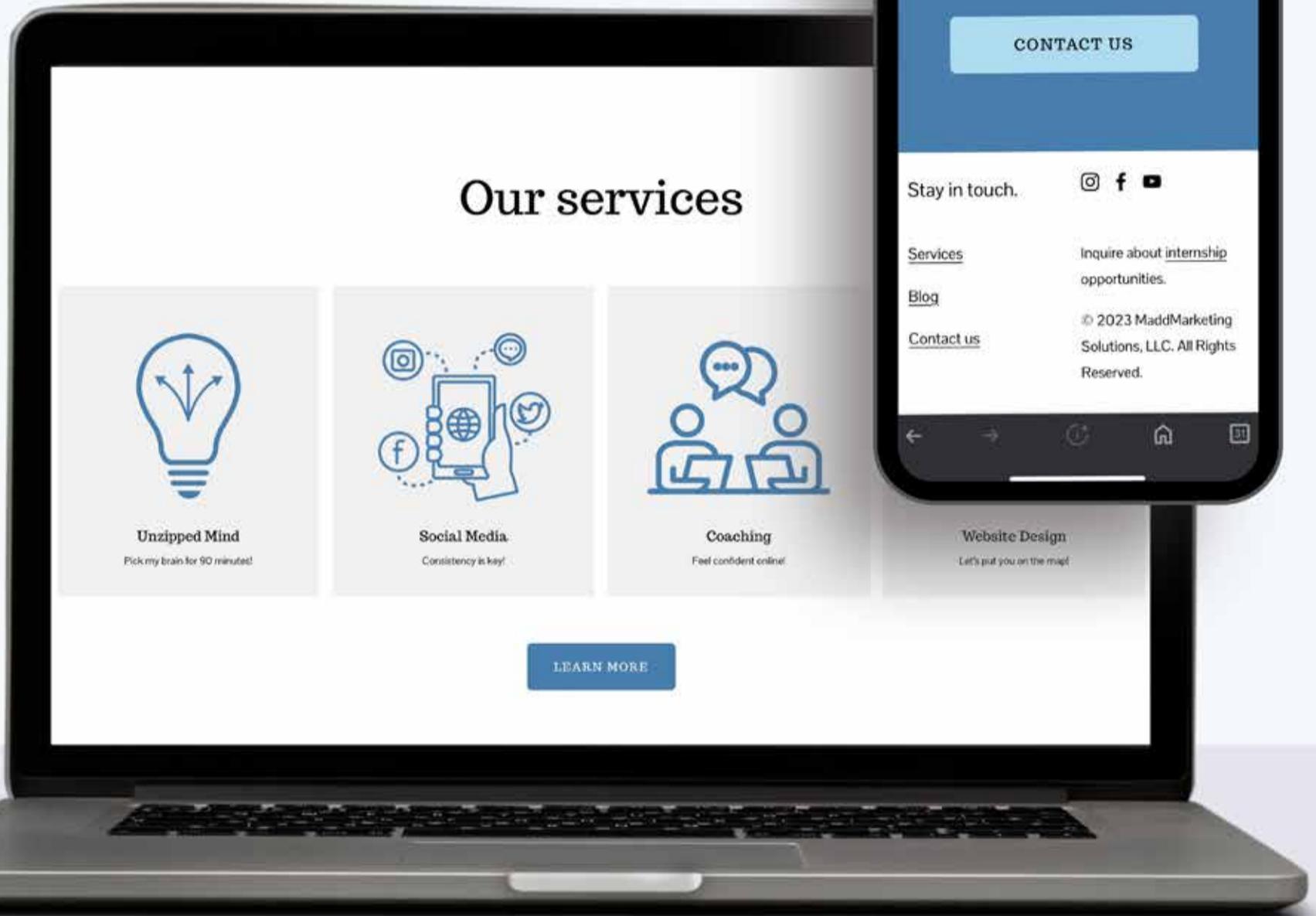
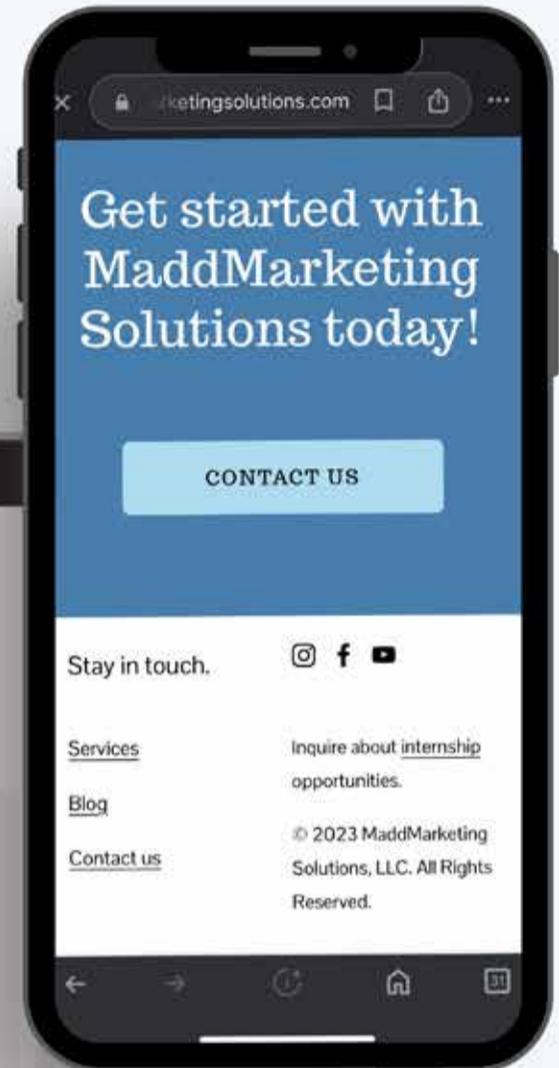


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## COMMUNITY

## Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Great Lakes Bay Region awarded \$104,550 grant



YOUTH FROM THE BOYS &amp; GIRLS CLUBS OF THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION TAKE PART IN A STEM EVENT HOSTED BY DOW.

BY MB STAFF

BAY CITY — The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region has received a \$104,550 grant from the Taco Bell Foundation to expand career readiness and civic engagement programs for local youth.

The funding is part of a record \$28 million in community grants awarded this year by the foundation to nearly 500 nonprofits nationwide. It marks the third consecutive year the local organization has been selected as a recipient.

The grant will support the club's Responsible Citizenship program, which blends career exploration with civic education to help young people gain the skills needed to succeed in the workforce and their communities.

"The Taco Bell Foundation Grant supports our life and workforce readiness programming," said Samantha Oliver, the club's director of programming. "For example, teen members were able to visit one of our local media groups and learn about radio and media and possible career paths in the field. We are

excited to expand those opportunities in the future with the Taco Bell Foundation funding, allowing even more members to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to become productive, caring, and responsible citizens."

Lisa Lane Cardin, executive director of the Taco Bell Foundation, said the foundation is committed to creating opportunities for young people.

"We believe that empowering young people is one of the most meaningful ways we can invest in the future," Cardin said. "This record investment is a testament

to the power of community-driven change and the limitless potential that exists when we remove barriers and open doors."

Locally, the grant will also support efforts to expand academic programming and encourage service learning and civic engagement, with the goal of preparing the next generation of community leaders.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region operates with a mission to help young people reach their full potential as "productive, caring and responsible citizens."



# SAGINAW CHORAL SOCIETY



## 2025-2026 SEASON - CELEBRATING 90 YEARS!

**October 23, 2025**

*Celts & Kilts | Castle Museum*

A musical trip across the pond! Hear our chamber choir perform joyful Gaelic tunes and traditional music from the Emerald Isle and the Scottish Highlands.

**November 14 & 15, 2025**

*Grefe Gaus Grefe - One More Dance! | Pit & Balcony Theatre*

A decade after their five fundraisers for the Choral Society, Grefe Gaus Grefe is back on their favorite stage with an incredible lineup of musicians and tunes from all five shows. Everything from The Beatles to the Doobies!

**December 6, 2025**

*Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy present  
A Celtic Family Christmas... Party | Temple Theatre*

Join Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy, their growing family, and their world-class band as they guide you through an exhilarating exploration of the Christmas season. Saginaw Choral Society is thrilled to share the stage with this incredible musical family and our own fabulous Saginaw Youth Choir for our heartwarming 90th Anniversary Celtic Family Christmas – PARTY!!!

**February 13 & 14, 2026**

*One Hit Wonders - Musical Misfits | Court Street Theatre*

A Jukebox journey through the best one-offs of the '60s & '70s! It's time to relive the pop gems that burned bright and burned out fast. These hits may have had their one moment, but we're giving them a whole night to shine!

**March 12, 2026**

*Considering Matthew Shepard | St. John's Episcopal Church*

Composed by Craig Hella Johnson, this deeply emotional musical journey of empathy, courage, and transformation reflects on the life, death, and enduring legacy of Matthew Shepard - the young man whose tragic murder in 1998 became a national turning point in the conversation on hate crimes.

**April 25, 2026**

*Encore! - 90 Years! | Temple Theatre*

Choosing from 90 years of repertoire, SCS will present a cavalcade of cherished musical moments alongside special invited guest artists who have shared our stage over the years. A 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season-ending celebration!

For ticket information call: 989.753.1812 or visit: [saginawchoralsociety.com](http://saginawchoralsociety.com)





# INFORMATIONAL MEETING



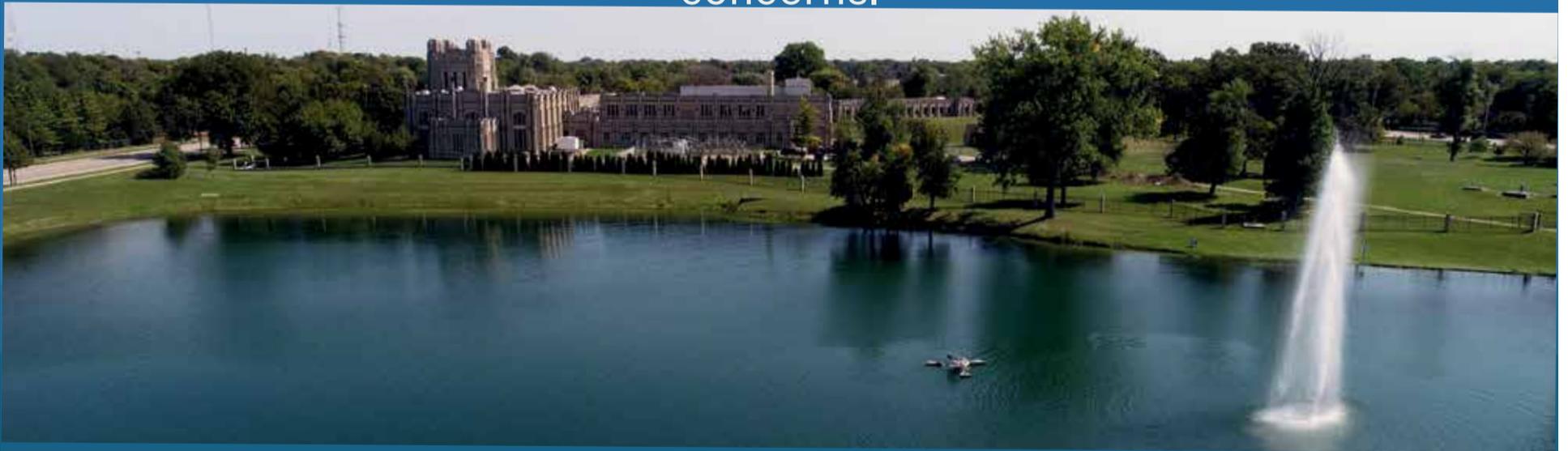
**Friday, August 22, 2025**

**10:30 am**

**Anderson Enrichment Center  
120 Ezra Rust Dr.  
Saginaw, MI 48601**



The City is currently working with Fishbeck Engineering to complete a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Study which will determine the long-term future of the WTP. The existing plant is nearly 100 years old, and much of the equipment and piping has reached the end of its useful life. The study will recommend a direction for the future of the plant, which could either include major equipment replacement and rehabilitation of the current plant, or building a new plant at a new location. If a new plant were built on a new site, the existing plant building would be reimagined with a new purpose that would benefit the community. This meeting is to educate and inform the public on what has been completed on the study to date, get public input, and hear questions or concerns.



For more information, please contact



989-759-1596



waterwastewateradmin@saginaw-mi.com

## COMMUNITY

## Dow Credit Union, Habitat groups secure \$195K for critical home repairs in Midland and Saginaw counties

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Nearly \$195,000 in grant funding has been awarded to support essential home repairs for 15 households in Midland and Saginaw counties through a collaboration between Dow Credit Union, Midland County Habitat for Humanity and Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity.

The grants come from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis' Revive Home Repair Program, which provides up to \$15,000 per household for low- to moderate-income families. Funds help address urgent housing needs such as roof replacements, furnace upgrades, insu-

lation, gutters, windows, and accessibility improvements.

Dow Credit Union has partnered with the program for more than five years, expanding in 2025 to include both Midland and Saginaw counties. Habitat officials said the additional support has allowed them to serve more families with repairs that directly impact safety, health and long-term stability.

The Revive program, formerly known as the Neighborhood Impact Program, is designed to extend the life of existing homes and preserve equity for families who may not qualify for traditional financing. Projects range from structural repairs to upgrades that improve energy effi-

ciency and accessibility.

Funding for the initiative is part of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, which requires institutions such as the FHLBI to support the credit needs of the communities where they operate. Through local partners like Dow Credit Union, qualifying homeowners are identified and connected with available assistance.

Officials said investments in repairs not only improve individual households but also strengthen neighborhoods and preserve affordable housing in the region.

More information about Midland County Habitat for Humanity is available at [midlandhabitat.org](http://midlandhabitat.org) and about Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity at [sshfh.org](http://sshfh.org).



## Saginaw wins state grant for historic fairgrounds gate repairs

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The City of Saginaw will receive state funding to repair and preserve one of its longtime community landmarks — the Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate.

The \$250,000 in grants, awarded by the State Historic Preservation Office through the federal Historic Preservation Fund's Certified Local Government program, will be shared among six Michigan communities. Saginaw's share will go toward masonry repair and rehabilitation of the fairgrounds' main gate, which was built in 1929 and served as the primary entry point for more than 70 years. The gate, which reflects Craftsman-style architecture, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Certified Local Gov-



SAGINAW COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MAIN GATE LOCATED AT 2701 EAST GENESEE AVE.

ernment program continues to be one of the strongest tools for supporting historic preservation projects at the local level," said State Historic Preservation Officer Ryan M. Schumaker. "We are pleased to support this year's awardees as they build on ongo-

ing initiatives to document, preserve and tell the story of important historic places in their communities."

Other grant recipients this year include Battle Creek, East Lansing, Kalamazoo, Mason and Detroit. Projects range from de-

sign guidelines and resource guides to window rehabilitation and condition assessments for historic buildings.

Administered by the State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the National Park Service, the CLG program supports projects that protect and promote local historic resources. Grants may be used for preservation surveys, educational programs, National Register nominations and rehabilitation work.

Saginaw officials said the repairs will contribute to ongoing efforts to reinvest in the fairgrounds property, ensuring its historic gate remains a visible symbol of community heritage.

For more information on the Certified Local Government program, visit [michigan.gov/CLGgrants](http://michigan.gov/CLGgrants).

## COMMUNITY

## Pot store issue remains up in the air

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — The next move among activists opposed to marijuana dispensaries is for the City Council to form a committee, leader Joyce Seals reported to the countywide Health Equity Council on Aug. 12.

Bottom line, she is disappointed because she had thought by now that the council would freeze the number of pot shops at the current dozen. Supporters viewed this as a compromise because their prior push had been for a total ban. Even after the 2021 council approved permission based on zoning restrictions, the County Prevention Coalition had pursued total revocation until the past year.

Leaders of the coalition -- led by Seals, also current school board trustee and former mayor -- last winter repeated their previous softer anti-dispensary stand and asked the council simply to freeze the number at the current dozen.

The council's response has been a collective five months of silence, at least in the public meetings.

On Aug. 12, Seals informed the Health Equity Council, which she chairs, that:

- She spoke with Mayor Brenda Moore and City Manager Tim Morales, who both recommended a pause to form a research committee, with Moore informing her that a freeze may not be needed because a pair of unnamed pot shops are on the verge of shutting down.
- Sources have told her council members would vote in favor, but none wants to be the one to make the motion.
- No committee meeting is



PREMIER CANNABIS, 910 E. GENESEE AVE., SAGINAW, MI. (FILE PHOTO)

yet scheduled.

A pathway to become more palatable, Seals said, will be for a renewed appeal to not totally single out cannabis. The group also will continue and strengthen oversight of alcohol and tobacco sales to underage customers, in a city that is home to a reported 80 party stores and 50 bars, as the Prevention Coalition seeks to reduce substance abuse in general, especially among underage with still-developing brains. Their prior identity was the Family Youth Initiative.

In the long term, says Saginaw's mayor from two decades past, a limit would be the hopeful first step toward zero dispensaries -- just like the rest of the county, except for one in Buena Vista Township.

Cannabis customers pay a 10 percent state excise tax and City Hall's share is about \$60,000 per year per dispensary toward the \$45 million general fund budget. Neither side has publicly raised revenue as an issue, with the focus among foes falling more on morality. Supporters point to freedom of choice and a need to

reduce mass imprisonment, especially among minorities.

On Feb. 3, 2024, the prior council voted 4-3 against a one-year ban, phrased differently. Mayor Brenda Moore and Bill Ostash were opposed, while Michael Balls and Monique Lamar-Sylvia were in favor and Priscilla Garcia was absent.

The council's four newcomers are Heidi Wiggins, Jacinta Seals, Carly Hammond and Eric Braddock.

### Background info

Michigan voters passed 2018 legalization with 56 percent in favor. Of more than 500 local communities, about 400 are not allowing sales. Saginaw joins the other 100 -- including nearly all the older cities, even conservative Grand Rapids -- that have given the go-ahead.

In her school board role, Seals reported "shocking" levels of use in middle school and down into elementary, backed by stories of children finding and consuming gummy products left by negligent elders. An attempt to shut down Saginaw's dozen existing dispensaries would cre-

ate expensive havoc in legalities, the former mayor acknowledged, but a moratorium could give the community a chance to re-think the future.

Is the East Side being red-lined. Only four of the 12 current shops are on the river's sunup side, Sozo at Bay and Weiss, and Lume at State and Court, are especially located near the city border to draw residents from suburbs that do not allow marijuana sales.

To make a purchase is similar to visiting a neighborhood party store for beer and/or booze. The difference is that a customer remains in a waiting area, similar to a doctor's office, until their turn to enter one-by-one.

City planners crafted a 1,000-foot minimum distance from schools that are open and operating, but the limit is only 100 feet from churches. Zoning officials said there are too many churches for a stricter rule in that regard. None of the locations to date is next to a church or near a school, although Premier on the East Side is adjacent to the soup kitchen.

The one "sin tax" that is more severe than the 10 percent for marijuana is \$2 for a pack of regular cigarettes and 32 percent for other forms of nicotine. State annual revenue collections per year, rounded off, are:

- \$1.3 billion for lottery
- \$1.2 billion for gasoline
- \$830 million for tobacco
- \$130 for beer, liquor, wine
- \$111 million for marijuana

This does not mean pot has become nearly as common as booze. The closeness in the dollar figures is because the tax for a Bud remains far lower than for a bud, so to speak. But the usage gap is narrowing.

COMMUNITY

## 84th Annual CHILDREN'S PICNIC





**Thursday,  
August 21**





**11 AM UNTIL 2 PM**







**MUSIC  
GAMES  
FOOD  
DRINKS  
PRIZES**

**FIRST WARD COMMUNITY CENTER  
1410 N. 12<sup>TH</sup> ST., SAGINAW, MI 48601**

For more information call: 989-753-0411

## YOUTH BRAID DAY







**AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2025**  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

HOUGHTON JONES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
1708 JOHNSON STREET, SAGINAW, MI




### Get the Look You Deserve!

This monthly event supports youth and families by providing affordable hair care while encouraging proper hair maintenance.



**WHAT WE DO**

- 2-4 CORNROWS
- 2-4 BRAIDS
- ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A MINI HAIR CARE BAG!

YOUTH MUST ARRIVE WITH HAIR WASHED AND BLOW-DRIED BEFORE SERVICE.

Free with registration!  
Spaces are limited

REGISTER WITH QR CODE OR GIVE US A CALL  
**989-752-1660**  
INFO@HOUGHTONJONES.ORG

# TACOS FOR A CAUSE

**WHEN**  
July 22nd  
August 26th

**Noon - 4pm**

**WHERE**  
**St. Joseph Catholic Parish**  
910 N 6th Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48601

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT RCO SHELTER**  
[WWW.RCOSHELTER.ORG](http://WWW.RCOSHELTER.ORG)  
989.753.1886 / 989.714.0982

**JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS FUNDRAISER BENEFITING RESTORATION COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**MENU**  
Turkey or Beef Tacos  
Beans, Rice, Soda, & Dessert

**\$20 / plate**

Can't attend? Donate online at [rcoshelter.org](http://rcoshelter.org)

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# WANTED

BY PROJECT UNIFY

Include Participants Name in Memo Line for Donation

BAIL SET AT \$1,000.00ea

Arshen Prater Baldwin Teacher  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Lauren Reed Teacher  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Rodney Merrill Entrepreneur  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Derric Martin Truancy Officer  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Lee Authur Jr. Coach  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT
Hurley J. Coleman III Developer & Manager  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Hope Hardy Project Unify Baby  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Robert SIZZL Simms Boxer  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Eugene Seals Jr. President & CEO  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	
Dionte Jones Security Officer  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Patrice Boulware Founder of Project Unify  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Thomas McKinney Brother of Lawrence H. McKinney  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	Officer J. Bady Police Officer  COMMUNITY ACTIVIST MUGSHOT	



SCAN TO DONATE  
THANK YOU

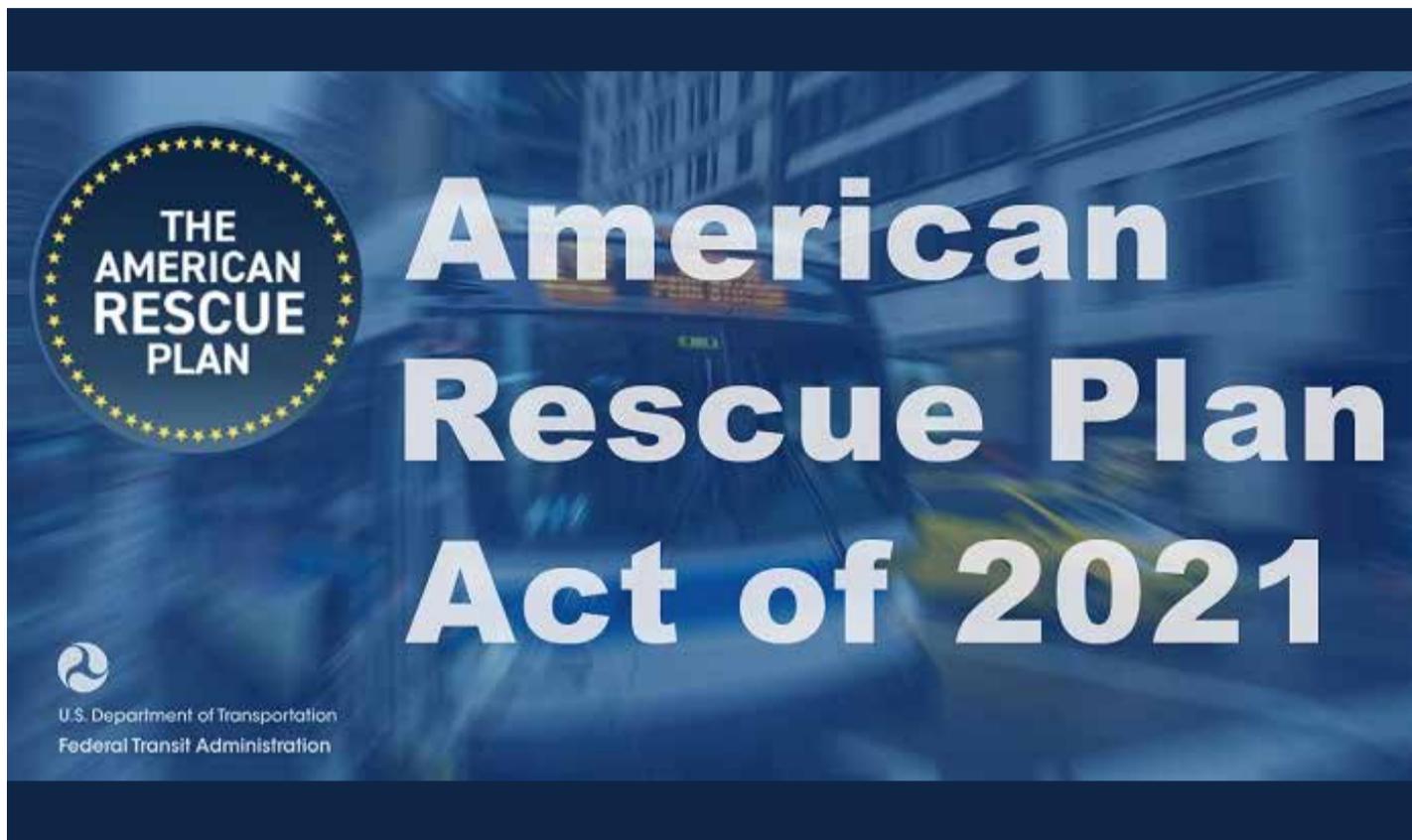
Subjects held for bail for The Project Unify Benefit Lock-Up Fundraiser

Saturday, August 23, 2025 12:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Veteran-McKinney Park 920 S. 20th St. Saginaw, MI 48601

## COMMUNITY

# Debate continues over \$4M in ARPA interest funds



BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — When grant funds are approved, some monies are spent more rapidly than others, but they all are in bank accounts that pay interest dividends.

Usually, like with annual federal block grants in the \$2.5 million range, this doesn't amount to much.

But when President Biden won approval, from political poles of both parties, to fight COVID-19 with \$1.9 trillion, ARPA became like a giant block grant and Saginaw's share was \$52 million. Suddenly there was some significant interest revenue, which City Manager Tim Morales estimated at \$4 million late last year.

Under federal rules for the American Rescue Plan Act, Morales explained that options include keeping the cash in the hard-pressed general fund or spending the money on more ARPA-based projects.

Only Councilwoman Mo-

nique Lamar-Silvia has advocated the more-ARPA route, while the other members have not raised the question at the table.

And so that is why Morales told an ARPA public forum audience on Aug. 13 that all of the funds have been allocated.

However, without a council up-or-down vote, the \$4 million matter is not settled.

For a main example, at a June meeting in the Houghton-Jones area, state Rep. Amos O'Neal told neighbors he was proposing to Morales that ARPA interest money could be spent in a jobs program to clean and maintain vacant lots. Many residents volunteered to try to help, with group cleanups and individuals mowing next door, and they saw a potential for a big boost. As of their Aug. 14 meet, they had received no followup info.

For her part, Lamar-Silvia has advocated ARPA interest funds for grassroots mental health services as a balancing point for the \$5 million granted to the downtown Medical Diamond, which

was promoted with a mental health emphasis prior to the CMU College of Medicine entering the picture. (The council did eventually allocate \$700,000 to Guided Grace Family and Youth Services.)

## ARPA testimonials

Morales spoke at the close of a trio of public ARPA status reports, conducted in conjunction with regular updates from the 2021 info startup at [saginaw-mi.com](http://saginaw-mi.com).

Each of the sessions drew about 30 citizens and response was overwhelmingly supportive, except for one brief unfounded allegation against one of the agencies.

Session One wrapped up infrastructure improvements -- mainly for Hoyt Park, Ojibway Island, and most visible at City Hall itself, a project attained for a shade over \$8 million. Darnell Earley, manager two decades ago, had taken a strong position that a new City Hall would

cost less than a rehab. The comparison nowadays would be the opposite.

Sessions Two and Three were for the block grant-type programs and agencies that combined for roughly half of the \$52 million. As the process moved on in 2022 and 2023, slightly into 2024, increasing emphasis was given to capital building needs vs. program staffing and salaries.

One of the grantees, Evelyn McGovern of Women of Colors with \$310,000 for a headquarters across from Kempton Elementary, said the ARPA grant "made our dreams come true."

Another, Bobby DeLeon of the Mexican American Council, said the rehab of the former Catholic bishop's residence across from Hoyt Park, estimated in the \$400,000 range, is among the "most important" signs of progress for Latinos.

Rehab or new costs are skyrocketing. Both WOC and the MAC Center needed supplements to their original grants.

Meanwhile, the Food Club co-op near now-MyHealth Hospital and the Hunger Solutions Center expansion on East Genesee's downtown edge both reaped \$1 million but will have to return to other sources for more. The Food Club estimate is \$5.5 million, up from \$4 million, and the Hunger Center (East Side Soup Kitchen and Hidden Harvest) is at \$10.1 million, up from \$6 million.

Both big projects are following an intended spirit of ARPA, which is to use the funds as seed money for other grants. An example is Saginaw Transit, STARS, which used its \$100,000 for bus stop shelters to leverage another \$200,000 from the state.

If you find it difficult to find the review of all the dollar amounts at [saginaw-mi.com](http://saginaw-mi.com), [click here](#).

*We're Back*

# SEDC'S SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

*This Year's Theme*

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Small Business Expo

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**THURSDAY / 28 AUGUST 2025**

**SVRC MARKETPLACE**

FROM 4 PM - 8 PM



**Food Trucks and Retail Vendors**

Register now through August 8th for \$50

COMMUNITY

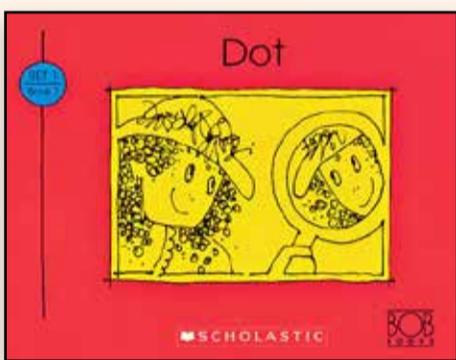
# For new readers, KISS means Keep It Simple Smarty

(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)

With children's books, if the grade level is too low or too high, an experienced reader will make adjustments.

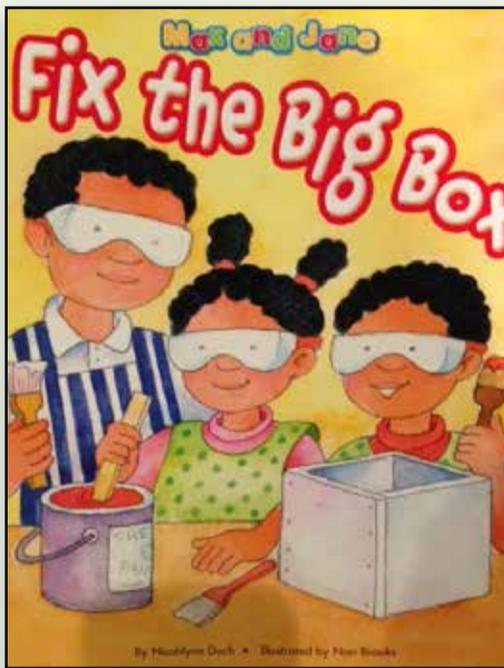
This is not true for a beginner, which is why we see books geared to them. The brand name "Bob Books" starts with index-card sized, 16-page stories that contain all words with only one syllable. That's as basic as you can get.

Stop. Look. Listen. (Oops, "listen " has two syllables,) Read with your child, from the start.



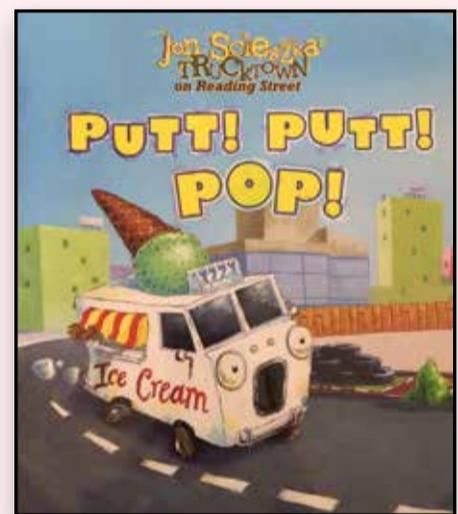
**Dot**  
Bobs Books

We don't want to give away the plot, but Dot has a hat. Dot has a cat. The cat has a hat. So does the dog, but his is a rag hat so all are sad. Seems they can't be happy because that would be two syllables.



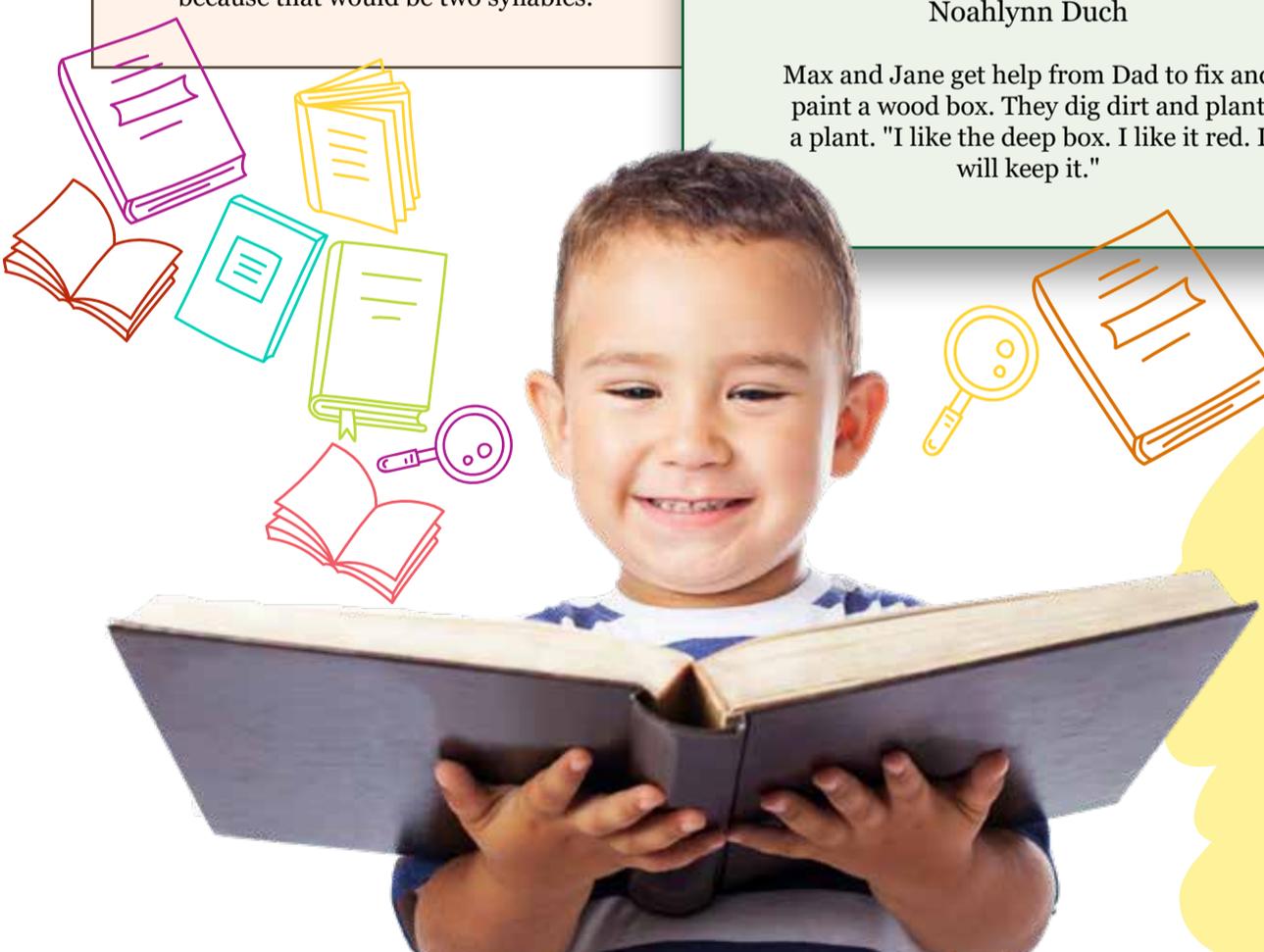
**Fix the Big Box**  
Noahlynn Duch

Max and Jane get help from Dad to fix and paint a wood box. They dig dirt and plant a plant. "I like the deep box. I like it red. I will keep it."



**Putt! Putt! Pop!**  
Jan Sciecaka

Izzi the Ice Cream Truck has a hard time getting up the hill, but a tow truck comes to help, and all the kids get their cones.



Many times, these startup books come in sets. There may be as few as eight pages, the better to help the little ones gain a nice count of the number of books read.

If you wish to volunteer as a tutor, contact your local school or the READ Association in the county where you reside.

## POLITICS &amp; PUBLIC POLICY

## Silvia date set; critics clash

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — It took some time, but there was no surprise in the City Council's Aug. 11 vote to prepare a resolution that would lead to Monique Lamar-Silvia's removal under the City Charter, based on her June felony conviction of forging last-minute petition signatures for another 2024 candidate, Eric Eggleston, who was short of the 50 required.

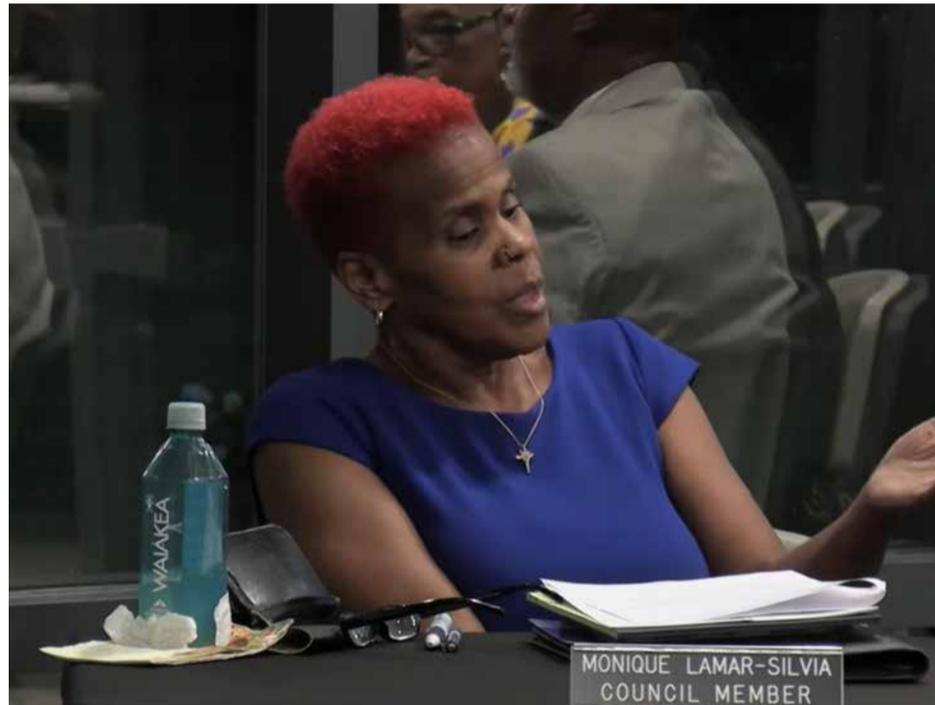
Even Silvia did not oppose the vote to finally bring the controversy to the table. The next meeting is 6:30 p.m. Aug. 25, but her Circuit Court sentencing is not until Aug. 27, and so action may wait until Sept. 8.

The breaking news was a breakdown among the group of eight former council members who co-signed a statement that urges their forebears to enforce Section 92 of the local constitution, which precludes anyone found guilty of a felony from holding office on the governing body.

Reggie Williams II had signed up to speak, but he wrote on Facebook that he withdrew when he discovered that the statement had been provided to The Saginaw News prior to the meeting.

He wrote, in closing, "Again, I will not be speaking in public comments tonight because of how this letter situation has been mishandled. I did not plan to take part in metaphoric public lynching (the use of that word is intentional). This is why I choose to move on my own in most cases because my intentions were not aligned with others, the way this went down. I have also made these sentiments known to the author of the letter."

Annie Boensch is co-organizer with Floyd Kloc, the former mayor and city attorney



SAGINAW COUNCILWOMAN MONIQUE LAMAR-SILVIA

who has spoken out previously on the matter. Other signatures are from another former mayor, Dennis Browning, along with Williams, Michael Hanley, Jamie Forbes, Amanda Kitterman-Miller and Daniel Fitzpatrick.

Of the eight, only Williams is Black. He declined to elaborate on his choice of "lynching" as a description.

Boensch, who was mayor pro-tem near the close of a 12-year tenure that ended with last fall's election, said she apologized to Williams if he didn't view the statement as "a public document" once it was released to City Council, which the other signees understood, and that her action was not a "leak" because the statement was scheduled for the same evening's public meeting.

Of the eight, only Williams is Black. He declined to elaborate on his choice of "lynching" as a description.

Following are key documents, in their entirety:

## Section 92

"In addition to other provisions of this charter, a vacancy shall be deemed to exist in any office when an elected or appointed officer dies, resigns, is removed from office, is convicted of a felony or judicially declared to be mentally incompetent. Also, a vacancy shall be deemed to exist on City Council when a councilperson moves from the city."

## The Letter

"Re: Charter-Mandated Removal of Councilwoman Monique Lamar-Silvia

Dear Members of the Saginaw City Council:

As former members of the Saginaw City Council who have previously served this community, we write today to respectfully request that you carry out the clear provisions of the Saginaw City Charter and be prepared to enforce the removal of Councilwoman Monique Lamar-Silvia from the table following her felony sentencing and the resulting

vacation of the seat.

According to a jury verdict rendered on June 27, 2025, Councilwoman Lamar-Silvia was convicted of multiple felonies related to election law forgery and conspiracy.

Under the City Charter, vacancy of a council seat occurs when a sitting member is convicted of a felony.

Despite the verdict, Councilwoman Lamar-Silvia has continued to participate in official council business, including voting at meetings held after the convictions.

That continued service directly conflicts with the Charter's mandate.

We understand that legal opinions have differed concerning whether removal is automatic or requires action by the Council. However, there is no dispute that the Charter specifies that a felony conviction triggers a vacancy—regardless of other pending proceedings.

Given this, we respectfully urge the Council to:

Immediately adopt a resolution stating the intention to declare a vacancy in the seat held by Monique Lamar-Silvia upon her sentencing, citing her felony convictions and follow any guidance given by the City's Attorney.

Follow the procedural steps outlined in the Charter for filling the resulting vacancy.

Conduct these steps promptly, to maintain public trust in the integrity of our municipal governance.

By respecting and enforcing the clear language of the Charter, you demonstrate fidelity to the law, uphold the public interest, and reinforce confidence in our

**Continued on pg 24,  
Saginaw Councilwoman**

## POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

### Continued from pg 23, Saginaw Councilwoman

local institutions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued service to the citizens of Saginaw.

Respectfully,

Floyd Kloc, Dennis Brown-ing, Annie Boensch, Reginald Williams II, Jamie Forbes, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Amanda Kitterman-Miller, Michael Hanley"

#### Williams on FB



I am writing this because I am included in a letter that was supposed to be sent strictly to the current Saginaw City Council. Instead, it was sent to a local news outlet and leaked on Facebook. I was supposed to speak in public comments tonight to address council. As a city resident and former council member I am tired of the circus. So, to clarify my stance as an individual my opinions are:

As it relates to Council Woman Lamar-Sylvia

In my opinion, considering the charges she has been convict-

ed of I believe she should have voluntarily resigned her seat. Being convicted of fraud charges and still voting on City business is a conflict of interest, in my opinion. That's it, that's all I have to say about her and that situation. There is nothing personal in my opinion and I have the same opinion about any politician convicted of felonies that conflict with the seat or office they hold.

As it relates to City Council

I am more disappointed in my City Council as a whole! Throughout this entire ordeal, all I've heard is behind the back rumblings and seen too much fence riding. No one has stepped up and shown any type of leadership, integrity, or good moral character as it relates to this situation. I don't personally know much about the newest council members but the ones that I served with, I expected more. None of you had the balls to push the issue of protecting not just the integrity of City government but also the image of our city overall! We are a laughingstock, and you are lending to that perception and narrative by sitting idly by and saying nothing. This is one of the main issues you have

the power and influence to USE your voice on, and you sit mute! Oh, now tonight after all this time, after the dam has broken, you may say something.

Again, I will not be speaking in public comments tonight because of how this letter situation has been mishandled. I did not plan to take part in metaphoric public lynching (the use of that word is intentional). This is why I choose to move on my own in most cases because my intentions were not aligned with others, the way this went down. I have also made these sentiments known to the author of the letter.

#### Boensch Response



My understanding was that we all know that the letter becomes a public document as soon as it is received by the Council. The intention was to have the letter read during public comment, but that didn't work out. I didn't have any expectation that the letter would be kept private. I'm really sorry that Reggie didn't have the same understanding.

The letter was emailed to the entire council through the council group email; at the same time it was also emailed to the manager's office and the city clerk with the request that it be provided to the entire council.

By refusing to resign, Councilwoman Lamar-Sylvia had put everyone she works with in a really difficult and unfair position. I can only imagine how difficult it is for her colleagues to be forced to address this. I hoped the letter would encourage them to make the tough decisions because it's the right thing to do.

#### Lamar-Sylvia, 8/12 meet:

"What does 'soon' mean? I'm still going to say something to my community. That has not changed. So, my 'soon' and your 'soon' may be different. At this point, my legal team wants to hold off on that, and that's what I'm going to do. I'm definitely going to address my community, and no, you don't have all the answers right now. I'm going to address my community. That goes without saying."

## Saginaw City Council starts early Aug. 25

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — On Aug. 25, the City Council will engage in a blast from the past.

They will conduct a special subject Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting at 5:30 p.m. in advance of their regular 6:30 p.m. business meeting. The subject will be future finances, including a prior vote to pursue referendum approval to remove 1979 property tax caps on the rate (7.5 mills) and the revenue



SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL

(\$3.8 million).

Rules for COW meetings are that they are public, but the

council cannot take official action, although of course members may unofficially agree to do

something at the official meeting. A quorum is not required. Main purposes are to gather info and to brainstorm

Public speakers were not included in the traditional format that formerly prevailed. Neither were "remarks from council," neither at the COWs nor the regular business meetings.

One difference will be the location. As City Hall remains under repair, meetings continue at the Andersen Center, still televised.

## HEALTH

# MyMichigan Midland expands emergency department with new waiting area



SIX NEW "VERTICAL" SPACES UNDER CONSTRUCTION NOW THROUGH THE END OF AUGUST WILL ENABLE FASTER CARE AND TURNAROUND FOR LOWER ACUITY PATIENTS WHO DO NOT REQUIRE A BED. (PHOTO COURTESY OF MYMICHIGAN HEALTH)

made us excited for phase two to be complete so that we can continue to improve wait times and gain six additional spaces to care for patients," Knopp said. "In the meantime, we remain open 24/7, and we appreciate your patience with the construction."

The expansion is funded in part by contributions from MyMichigan Medical Center Midland Volunteers and other community donors.

"This is a great example of how our volunteers enhance the quality of care for patients and families," said Diana Brookens, manager of volunteer services. "When patients, visitors and staff shop in our gift shop, buy pop-

corn in our facilities or support our volunteer-led activities in other ways, they are completing the circle that gives back to the hospital and the community."

Phase three of the project, with timing still to be determined, will further expand the Emergency Department to meet future demand. Throughout construction, the department will continue to operate 24/7. Visitors are encouraged to follow wayfinding signs as parking and drop-off areas may shift temporarily.

More information is available at [mymichigan.org/emergency-Midland](http://mymichigan.org/emergency-Midland).

## BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Patients, visitors and staff at MyMichigan Medical Center Midland are seeing the results of a multi-year expansion of the hospital's Emergency Department, which continues to move forward in phases.

A newly opened waiting room now accommodates up to 50 people, five times the previous capacity. The redesign also includes modifications to registration and triage areas, with improved privacy and enhanced security.

"We're excited to have completed phase one of our waiting and triage areas," said Deanna Knopp, R.N., B.S.N., system director of emergency services for MyMichigan Health. "Patients and staff are already reporting that they feel safer and more comfortable due to the new design."

The updated space also im-

proves infection control and patient flow, while offering staff better visibility. Knopp noted that one visitor who had experienced both the old waiting area in January and the new one in August expressed appreciation for the improvements, saying the space no longer felt crowded.

The expansion reflects growing demand at Midland's Emergency Department, which has seen an increase in patients due to the medical center's designation as a Level 2 Trauma Center, an accredited Primary Stroke Center and a STEMI receiving center.

Earlier project phases added staff and beds, boosting total capacity by 17 percent. Six additional treatment spaces for lower acuity patients are currently under construction and expected to be complete by the end of August, raising capacity by another 18 percent.

"Completion of phase one has



REGISTRATION AND TRIAGE AREAS ARE BEING MODIFIED FOR BETTER VISIBILITY AND SAFETY. (PHOTO COURTESY OF MYMICHIGAN HEALTH)

**M** | MyMichigan Health  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

HEALTH

# Michigan reports first West Nile virus case of the year in Livingston County

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — A Livingston County resident has been diagnosed with West Nile virus, marking Michigan's first human case of the mosquito-borne illness this year, state health officials announced.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is urging residents to take precautions against mosquito bites, which also spread Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV).

"It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito to cause a severe illness. Use insect repellent and [wear] long-sleeved shirts

and long pants when outdoors during times when mosquitoes are active," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, the state's chief medical executive. "These precautions are especially important during peak mosquito-biting hours, which are from dusk to dawn."

Mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus have been detected this season in Bay, Kalamazoo, Kent, Macomb, Midland, Saginaw, Tuscola and Wayne counties. Mosquitoes carrying JCV have been identified in Bay, Kalamazoo, Macomb, Ottawa, Saginaw and Washtenaw counties. Health officials say the risk for mosquito-borne illness increases across Michigan in late summer, peaking in August and September.

Most people infected with West Nile virus do not develop symptoms. However, illness can appear within two to 14 days of being bitten by an infected mosquito. Symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, confusion and muscle weakness. In severe cases, the virus can lead to meningitis or encephalitis, which are potentially life-threatening.

MDHHS recommends several steps to reduce exposure to mosquitoes, including using EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol or 2-undecanone. Residents are also advised to wear protective clothing, use bed nets when sleeping out-

doors, and make sure doors and windows are fitted with intact screens.

Officials stress the importance of eliminating standing water around homes, which can serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes. This includes emptying bird baths, wading pools, tires and other containers at least once a week.

More information on mosquito-borne diseases is available at Michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases or CDC.gov/West-Nile-Virus.



FILE PHOTO



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# SCCMHA looks for public help in Community Needs Assessment

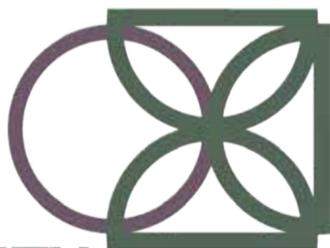


Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority needs your help!

As part of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) project, we are required to submit information gathered from a written assessment of community mental health needs, aimed at emerging or changing factors that are consistent with the goals of the public mental health system.

Being a CCBHC, this means we must provide care coordination, with needs ranging from access to high-quality physical and behavioral health, employment, housing, corrections, education, or social services, all in the mission to help facilitate wellness and recovery.

The assessment must involve input from both the public and private providers, as well as school systems, justice systems and other key stakeholders and community partners.



SAGINAW COUNTY  
COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY

As needs change, it is important to continuously identify those areas where we can assist more in the community we serve.

To better understand those, we are asking you to assist us in identifying what those needs are.

Throughout August, please complete the survey by either following the link or scanning the QR code below. Your input will help us learn how SCCMHA can provide more assistance and reach out to impact those areas in better ways going forward.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCCMHAparters>



Let's work together to build Saginaw County and find ways to help those in need!

Be sure to share this survey with other people in your community so we can get more input from everyone!

\*All survey responses are anonymous



## EDUCATION

# Seven candidates to be interviewed for Michigan superintendent post



FILE PHOTO

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

LANSING — The State Board of Education has narrowed the search for Michigan's next superintendent of public instruction to seven semifinalists, who will be interviewed next week.

The candidates were chosen Aug. 12 from a pool of 33 applicants representing Michigan, eight other states and Washington, D.C.

Those selected for interviews are:

- Thomas Ahart, former superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools in Iowa and current coach to superintendents and educators.
- Lisa Coons, former Virginia state

superintendent of public instruction.

- Glenn Maleyko, superintendent of Dearborn Public Schools.
- Paul Salah, superintendent of Huron Valley Schools.
- John R. Severson, executive director of the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators and former superintendent of the Muskegon Area ISD.
- Christopher J. Timmis, superintendent of Dexter Community Schools.
- Judy Walton, superintendent and curriculum director for Harrison Community Schools.

The board plans to hold public interviews with the semifinalists Aug. 18–19. Details will be released once scheduling is finalized.

Board President Pamela Pugh said the state's next superintendent will play a critical role in advancing Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan and in working with educators and families to improve student achievement.

"While we have made great progress, we understand there is much more work to do for the good of our children," Pugh said.

The search follows the retirement announcement of Superintendent Michael F. Rice, who will step down Oct. 3. The board hopes to have a successor in place

by Oct. 4.

The board hired Illinois-based firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to conduct the national search. The process included 42 focus groups, interviews and forums with more than 200 stakeholders, along with an online survey completed by nearly 1,600 people.

After next week's interviews, the board is expected to select finalists the week of Aug. 25 and name a preferred candidate by Aug. 26. A formal appointment is scheduled for the Sept. 9 State Board of Education meeting following contract negotiations and a background check.

More information is available on the Michigan Department of Education's superintendent search webpage.



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## EDUCATION

## Back to school tips



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

As the 2025–26 school year gets underway, it is time for parents, grandparents, and guardians to support children going back to school. With countless resources available online, a voice in this space is Beth Deacon. I like her practical approach on this important topic.

I am highlighting three of Beth's top back-to-school tips that can make a difference in setting the tone for the year ahead.

## 1. Visit the School

Many schools offer tours, orientations, or open house events at the beginning of the school year. Take advantage of these opportunities to explore the campus, see classrooms, and meet teachers and school leaders. A simple visit can reveal a great deal about the school's priorities, safety protocols, and educational culture. It also shows your child that you are invested in their environment and education.

## 2. Involve Your Child in Back-to-School Preparations

Transitioning from summer to school routines can be challenging. Whether resetting sleep schedules or other routines, it is important to talk with your child about the changes.

If sleep schedules need to be adjusted, explain why—emphasize the importance of rest for learning and growth. When it comes to back-to-school shopping, involve your child in the



FILE PHOTO

process. Let them help pick out supplies or clothes. This gives them a sense of ownership and confidence, while also fostering trust and communication.

## 3. Establish Routines Early

One of the most powerful tools for student success is routine.

Set a consistent time for reading, homework, and bedtime. Routines help children develop time management skills and feel a sense of stability. When kids know what to expect each day, it reduces anxiety and builds confidence in their ability to manage school responsibilities.

With a little preparation,

open communication, and intentional involvement, parents can help their children start the school year with clarity and confidence.

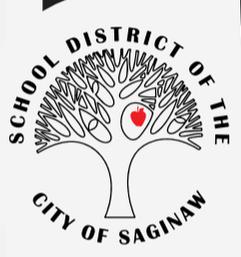
Here is to a successful 2025–26 school year!

Resources:  
beth.deacon.author@blog.wixnotifications.com



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## EDUCATION

## SVSU professor named to national moot court board

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — A Saginaw Valley State University professor has been appointed to the board of the American Moot Court Association, the nation's largest intercollegiate moot court organization for undergraduates.

Kevin G. Lorentz II, assistant professor of political science, will serve on the AMCA Board of Governors, joining 14 other members from academic and legal fields across the country.

The nonprofit association organizes and manages national competitions in which students argue constitutional law cases in oral and written formats. The events are designed to help students develop skills in legal reasoning, case analysis and oral

advocacy.

The board oversees the organization's operations, including drafting case problems for competitions and setting policies and procedures.

Lorentz, who joined SVSU's faculty in 2021, specializes in American constitutional law, judicial politics and civic engagement. His scholarship has been published in several journals and edited volumes.

At SVSU, he directs the moot court program and coordinates Cardinals Vote, the university's civic engagement initiative. He also advises the College Republicans and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, and serves as president of the Michigan Political Science Association.



KEVIN LORENTZ II (COURTESY OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY)

## Saginaw Township schools place \$169M bond proposal on November ballot

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

SAGINAW — Voters in Saginaw Township will decide this fall whether to approve a \$169.2 million bond proposal aimed at upgrading aging school facilities across the district.

The Saginaw Township Community Schools Board of Education voted to place the proposal on the Nov. 4, 2025 ballot after receiving approval from the Michigan Treasury. If passed, the measure would finance improvements at all eight district buildings.

The plan would require a tax increase of 2.85 mills. For a homeowner with a house valued at \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, the cost would be about \$142.50 annually, or

\$11.88 a month. Some households may qualify for relief under the Michigan Homestead Credit.

Superintendent Jamie Kraatz said the proposal responds directly to concerns voiced by families, educators and community members about outdated buildings.

"Most of our school buildings are more than 60 years old, including Hemmeter Elementary at 85 years old," Kraatz said. "In two of our elementary schools, the classrooms don't have walls or doors, which, beyond presenting a variety of safety issues, impacts our students' ability to concentrate on learning."

- If approved, bond funds would cover a wide range of projects, including:
- Enhanced safety and

security measures across all schools.

- Renovated classrooms and learning environments to support modern instruction.
- Major facility repairs, such as HVAC upgrades, bathroom renovations and improved entrances.

Updates to athletic facilities to address student health and safety.

District officials emphasized that the work goes beyond what can be funded through the existing sinking fund and is intended to address long-deferred needs.

Detailed information about the proposal, including planned improvements at each school, is available at [www.stcs.org](http://www.stcs.org). Community forums and informational sessions are planned ahead of the vote.



# MI Tri-Share CHILD CARE



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Erica M. Taylor, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
of Early Childhood

989-399-7423

[etaylor@sisd.cc](mailto:etaylor@sisd.cc)



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- Agree to cover 33% of participating employees' child care costs.
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- Submit employer and employee payments via ACH.
- Communicate if an approved employee is no longer employed.
- Allow for flexibility as family situations and needs vary.

### MI Tri-Share Program Eligibility 2025

Household Size	Minimum	Maximum Income	Household Size	Minimum	Maximum Income
2 People	\$42,300	\$ 84,600	6 People	\$86,300	\$172,600
3 People	\$53,300	\$106,600	7 People	\$97,300	\$194,600
4 People	\$64,300	\$128,600	8 People	\$108,300	\$216,600
5 People	\$75,300	\$150,600	9 People	\$119,300	\$238,600

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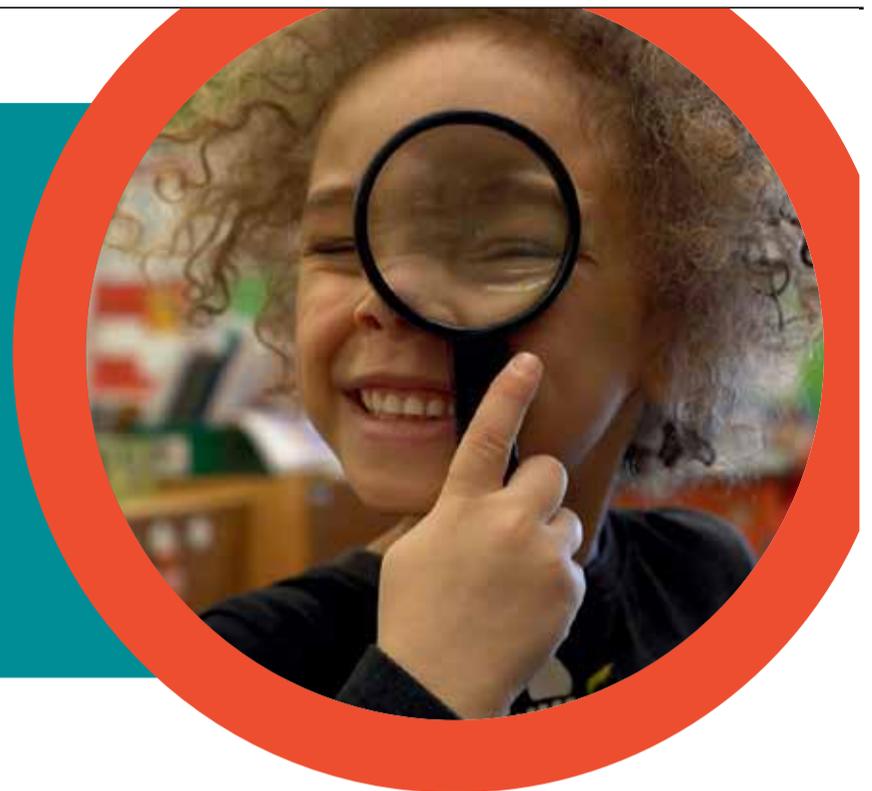
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*\*Administration for Children and Families: Children's Learning and Development Benefits from High-Quality Early Care and Education: A Summary of Evidence*



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**About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

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

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

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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. California Congressman**

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***-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS***

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## BUSINESS + FINANCE

# Michigan's Howard Miller Clock Co. to close after nearly a century in business

BY SHAUNTELL SMITH

ZEELAND — Howard Miller Clock Co., the Zeeland manufacturer known for its handcrafted grandfather clocks, wall clocks and furniture, announced it will close after 99 years in business, citing tariffs, rising costs and economic pressures that have battered the industry.

CEO Howard J. “Buzz” Miller, grandson of founder Howard C. Miller, confirmed the company will phase out production during 2025. Inventory sales will continue into 2026, giving customers one last opportunity to purchase from a company that has long defined Zeeland’s industrial identity.

“We are incredibly disappointed to have reached this point in our journey,” Miller said.

## Economic Pressures and Tariffs

The company employs about 200 people across Michigan and North Carolina, including at its Zeeland headquarters. According to Miller, efforts to find a buyer for the business have so far been unsuccessful, in part because of the financial strains facing furniture makers nationwide.

“Furniture sales are closely linked to the health of the housing market, which is struggling,” Miller said. “Our hopes for a market recovery early in the year were quickly dashed as tariffs rattled the supply chain, sparked recession fears and pushed mortgage rates higher. The furniture industry continues to shed jobs and announce plant closings.”

Miller emphasized that tariffs imposed under the Trump administration significantly increased the cost of essential com-



HOWARD MILLER CLOCK CO. TRADITIONAL GRANDFATHER CLOCK

ponents not available in the U.S., leaving the company with few viable options to continue long-term production.

## A Zeeland Legacy

Founded in 1926 as the Herman Miller Clock Company — a division of Herman Miller Furni-

ture Co. — the business was spun off in 1937 under Howard C. Miller’s leadership. From its early days, the company specialized in chiming wall and mantle clocks before expanding into modern and mid-century designs.

In the late 1940s, Howard Miller partnered with famed designer George Nelson and George

Nelson Associates, producing a line of wall and table clocks that became icons of mid-century design. The “Ball,” “Spike” and “Spindle” clocks, among others, remain sought after by collectors today.

The company also manufactured Nelson’s “Bubble Lamps” and other innovative designs until selling the lighting line in the early 1980s. In 1983, Howard Miller expanded further by acquiring Hekman Furniture Co., strengthening its presence in both home furnishings and design.

“Clockmaking has a massive impact on Zeeland’s economic development, on its culture, on its industry,” Zeeland Historical Society Director Katelyn VerMeris told WOOD-TV. “Clocks were one of the major exports from Zeeland for most of the 20th century.”

## End of an Era

The announcement marks the conclusion of nearly a century of clockmaking tradition in Zeeland, where Howard Miller’s headquarters still stand across the street from Herman Miller — now MillerKnoll after a 2021 merger — though the two companies have operated independently for decades.

Beyond its economic role, Howard Miller became a cultural symbol of Zeeland, known internationally for craftsmanship and design while shaping the town’s identity as a hub of American clockmaking.

While the company prepares to wind down, its legacy in design, innovation and craftsmanship will remain visible in homes, offices and museums across the country.

## BUSINESS + FINANCE

# Great Lakes Bay Regional CVB names new president, CEO



ANN K. BRUZEWSKI

**BY MB STAFF**

SAGINAW — The Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau has appointed Ann K. Bruzewski as its new president and chief executive officer, effective Aug. 1.

Bruzewski succeeds Dr. Annette M. Rummel, who led the organization for years before stepping down earlier this summer. She will oversee operations of the regional bureau, which represents the Bay, Midland and Saginaw county convention and visitors bureaus, as well as the Go

Great Foundation.

Her appointment comes as the bureau advances its “Destination Blueprint,” a long-term plan aimed at enhancing visitor experience, boosting economic growth and broadening tourism opportunities across the region.

“Ann brings a wealth of leadership experience and a solid track record of success in the travel and tourism industry,” said Elizabeth Lumbert, chair of the bureau’s board of directors. “We are confident that Ann’s innovative approach and passion for tourism will lead our region into a prosperous future.”

Bruzewski has more than 20 years of experience in hospitality and destination management. She has held leadership roles with Northwood University and MidMichigan Health and is recognized for her work in sustainable tourism development.

“I am honored to lead the Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau,” Bruzewski said. “I look forward to growing our destination by working with our talented team and our partners to showcase our region’s unique offerings and create unforgettable experiences for our visitors.”

The bureau said Bruzewski will guide efforts to expand overnight visits, extend traveler stays, disperse visitors across the destination and build stronger community engagement.

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau promotes the economic vitality of the area through tourism, working with partners to highlight attractions and hospitality across Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties.

For more information, contact the bureau at (989) 752-7164 or [info@gogreat.com](mailto:info@gogreat.com).

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## BUSINESS + FINANCE

# Survey: Rising costs remain top challenge for Michigan small businesses

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Michigan's small business owners say rising costs continue to weigh heavily on their ability to expand and hire, according to the latest summer survey from the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM).

Ninety-one percent of respondents reported that costs are increasing more than usual compared with previous years. That figure is only slightly lower than the 93 percent recorded in last year's survey.

When asked to identify their biggest challenge, most respondents cited the economy. Labor quality ranked second, though 68 percent of members said they



FILE PHOTO

have raised employee compensation over the past year. Health insurance costs also emerged as a major concern, with 55 percent

of businesses reporting an increase of 10 percent or more.

Half of those surveyed said their gross revenues stayed the

same over the past 12 months, suggesting that businesses are spending more on wages and benefits while revenue remains flat.

The survey also found that 70 percent of respondents oppose a proposed graduated income tax in Michigan. SBAM noted that many small businesses in the state are structured as pass-through entities that file taxes as individuals, making them particularly sensitive to changes in the tax code.

SBAM has launched an informational webpage on the ballot proposal as it moves forward, warning that small business owners could bear a disproportionate share of the tax burden if the measure is adopted.

# Survey: Rising costs remain top challenge for Michigan small businesses

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Artificial intelligence is rapidly gaining traction in Michigan, as businesses large and small adopt AI-driven tools to cut costs, forecast demand, and automate routine tasks—boosting their bottom lines in a competitive economy.

Michigan's manufacturing sector, led by firms like Toro Company, is using AI to maintain precise "just-in-time" inventory levels amid tariff disruptions. Supply chain tools from global vendors such as SAP, Oracle and Blue Yonder help interpret data in real time, fine-tuning procurement and reducing the need for excess stock.

Retailers are also tapping AI for smarter inventory and sales tracking. Platforms like Zoho In-

ventory and C3 AI Inventory Optimization—tailored for small and growing businesses—automate stock replenishment and forecast demand more accurately, helping firms avoid costly overstock or missed sales opportunities.

Onebeat, an Israel-based startup now expanding to the U.S., secured \$15 million in funding to bring AI-powered inventory management to retailers. Its algorithms separate sales trends from random data noise, enabling more informed restocking decisions.

In Detroit, a pilot program is using drones paired with AI to assess municipal buildings for energy inefficiencies, pinpointing insulation gaps and water intrusion without manual inspections—saving time and reducing retrofit costs.

A statewide initiative is also

underway. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity unveiled the "AI and the Workforce Plan," which aims to generate up to \$70 billion in economic impact and 130,000 new jobs over the next decade by equipping businesses with AI tools and training.

Here are a few practical ways Michigan businesses are already leveraging AI:

- **Inventory forecasting:** Tools like Zoho Inventory and Onebeat's AI model help predict demand and prevent both overstock and stockouts.
- **Supply chain optimization:** Manufacturers rely on AI analytics to make procurement decisions in fast-changing markets.

- **Energy audits with drones:** A Detroit project uses AI-driven drones to identify building inefficiencies faster and more safely.
- **Workforce training initiatives:** The state plan supports businesses by offering training and guidance to help adopt AI without leaving any Michigan worker behind.

These advancements are helping businesses from Flint to Grand Rapids streamline operations, reduce waste, and prepare for shifting markets—outcomes that may soon determine who stays competitive and who falls behind in Michigan's future economy.

**BUSINESS + FINANCE**



**Ebony Payns**  
Mental Health  
Therapist, LMSW



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## SPORTS

## Pro pickleball player Andrea Koop to headline Saginaw clinic and exhibition



ANDREA KOOP

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Urban Racquet Sports Foundation will host a pickleball clinic and exhibition match featuring professional player Andrea Koop on Friday, Sept. 26, at the Garber Courts in Saginaw.

Koop, a standout on both the Professional Pickleball Association and Major League Pickleball circuits, will lead two training sessions for local athletes. The event will also include an exhibition game and meet-and-greet with participants.

The day's schedule includes an intermediate-level group from 10 to 11:45 a.m., lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and an advanced-level group (rated 4.0 and above) from 12:15 to 2 p.m. The exhibition game and meet-and-greet are scheduled from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

Participation is limited to 20 players, organized in groups of two. Registration is \$150 per person and includes lunch and a commemorative event T-shirt. The deadline to register is Sept. 19. Players may reg-

ister individually and be paired with a partner if needed.

Proceeds will benefit the Urban Racquet Sports Foundation, a nonprofit founded in 2006 to expand access to tennis and pickleball and provide mentorship opportunities for youth in underserved communities.

More information and registration are available at [www.racquet-sports.org](http://www.racquet-sports.org) under "Programs and Events/Clinics." Interested players can also contact event organizer Mary Henne at 989-964-1295.

## Spirit sign forward Nikita Klepov to OHL agreement



NIKITA KLEPOV

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — The Saginaw Spirit have signed forward Nikita Klepov to an Ontario Hockey League Standard Player Agreement, the team announced Thursday.

Klepov, a left-shot forward, was selected by Saginaw in the first round, 35th overall, in this year's Canadian Hockey League Import Draft.

Most recently, the 17-year-old played for the Sioux City Musketeers in the United States Hockey League, recording 12 goals and 19 assists for 31 points in 59 regular-season games. He added a goal and an assist in five postseason contests.

Earlier this month, Klepov was named to Team USA's roster for the Hlinka Gretzky Cup, an international under-18 tournament held Aug. 11–16 in Brno, Czechia, and Trenčín, Slovakia. He will represent the United States alongside incoming Spirit rookie defenseman Levi Harper.

Klepov's career began in Russia, where he played with SKA-Yunost Yekaterinburg's U15 and U16 teams in 2022-23. That season, he won a Districts Cup U15 silver medal and competed in the Russian U15 Championship.

In 2023-24, he moved to North America to skate with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Knights 16U AAA team. He led the Atlantic Youth Hockey League's 15U division in scoring with 31 goals, 41 assists and 72 points in 22 games.

Klepov is listed at 5-foot-11 and 161 pounds and is considered a top prospect eligible for the 2026 NHL Draft.

## SPORTS

# NCAA issues penalties against Michigan football in sign-stealing case



JIM HARBAUGH

BY MB STAFF

ANN ARBOR — The NCAA announced sweeping penalties Friday against the University of Michigan football program, concluding its investigation into an illegal scouting and sign-stealing scheme that began in 2023.

The infractions panel ruled that Michigan gained a “substantial competitive advantage,” obstructed the investigation and failed to create a culture of compliance. Sanctions include four years of probation, multiple financial penalties, recruiting restrictions and suspensions for head coach Sherrone Moore.

Moore was penalized three games — two this season, which the university self-imposed, and one in 2026. He also received a two-year show-cause order,

which requires oversight and reporting if he changes schools during the penalty period. Former head coach Jim Harbaugh, now with the NFL’s Los Angeles Chargers, was given a 10-year show-cause beginning in 2028, following the completion of an earlier four-year penalty.

Former staffer Connor Stalions, identified as central to the in-person scouting scheme, was handed an eight-year show-cause order and a one-year suspension. The NCAA cited him for directing the deletion of emails, photos, texts and videos linked to the operation. Denard Robinson, the program’s former director of player personnel, received a three-year show-cause order.

The sanctions also reduce Michigan’s football recruiting activities, including a 25% cut in official visits for the 2025–26 sea-

son and a 14-week prohibition on recruiting communications. The school will forfeit postseason competition revenue from the 2025 and 2026 seasons, pay a \$50,000 fine, and lose 10% of its football program’s budget — more than \$7 million based on 2024 numbers — along with scholarship-related penalties.

Michigan will not be banned from postseason play and will not vacate wins, including its undefeated 2023 national championship season. NCAA officials said such penalties would unfairly punish current athletes.

The investigation began Oct. 17, 2023, when the NCAA received a tip about impermissible in-person scouting. A day later, Michigan suspended Stalions, who later resigned. The Wolverines went on to complete an unbeaten season and capture the

national title, Harbaugh’s last before leaving for the Chargers.

In its decision, the NCAA said Stalions and others obstructed the investigation by destroying materials and giving misleading information. Harbaugh did not cooperate with interviews or provide requested records.

Michigan issued a statement saying the university intends to appeal, arguing the infractions panel misinterpreted NCAA bylaws and drew conclusions contrary to the evidence. Athletic director Warde Manuel said he supports the decision to appeal but would not comment further.

The penalties come as Michigan remains under a separate three-year probation order, issued in April 2024 after a prior investigation into recruiting violations.

SPORTS

# MHSAA survey shows steady participation fee levels at Michigan high schools

BY MB STAFF

EAST LANSING — The latest Michigan High School Athletic Association survey found that fewer schools are requiring student-athletes to pay participation fees compared with pre-pandemic levels, continuing a trend that began in 2020.

For the 2024-25 school year, 40 percent of MHSAA member high schools reported charging students to play sports, according to the annual participation fee survey. That figure has held steady between 40 and 41 percent over the past four years, significantly below the peak of 57

percent in 2013-14 and 48 percent in 2019-20, just before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey drew responses from 720 schools — 95 percent of MHSAA membership. Since 2003, the association has tracked participation fees, defined as any charge of \$20 or more per student-athlete regardless of what schools call it.

Larger schools continued to be the most likely to charge. This year, 53 percent of Class A schools reported requiring fees, followed by 40 percent of Class B, 34 percent of Class C, and 32 percent of Class D schools.

Schools used a variety of models for fee structures. Among

those charging, 43 percent assessed a standardized fee for each team a student-athlete joined, while 34 percent charged a one-time annual fee. Another 17 percent based fees on the number of sports played, often with the first team costing more and additional teams costing less.

The survey also reported median costs. The maximum

amount charged per student was \$150 for the school year, while the median maximum per family was \$370. For schools that used a one-time fee covering all sports, the median charge was \$125. For those charging per sport, the median was \$100 per team.

The MHSAA publishes the annual survey results on its Pay-to-Play Survey page.



**UPCOMING HOMESTAND**  
vs WEST MICHIGAN WHITECAPS

<b>TUE. AUG. 26   7:05PM</b> HOMETOWN HEROES meijer	<b>WED. AUG. 27   7:05PM</b> PAWS AND CLAWS PRESENTED BY	<b>THU. AUG. 28   7:05PM</b> GERMAN HERITAGE NIGHT PRESENTED BY »Thirsty« THURSDAY PRESENTED BY JOHN P. CSULLIVAN
<b>FRI. AUG. 29   7:05PM</b> PEANUTS A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOODIE FRIDAY	<b>SAT. AUG. 30   7:05PM</b> THE GAMER'S GAME PRESENTED BY FIELD OF DREAMS FIREWORKS LOONTACULAR HAT GIVEAWAY! FIRST 1,000 FANS	<b>SUN. AUG. 31   1:05PM</b> FAN APPRECIATION DAY GIVEAWAYS GALORE! KIDS EAT FREE SERRA

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## SPORTS

## Vehicle City Soccer Classic set for return at Atwood Stadium



FOUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS TO PLAY AT KETTERING UNIVERSITY'S ATWOOD STADIUM

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The Vehicle City Sports Committee will host the third annual Vehicle City Soccer Classic on Saturday, Aug. 16, at Kettering University's Atwood Stadium, showcasing local high school teams before a Flint City Bucks exhibition match.

The afternoon begins with Elk Rapids facing Powers Catholic at 2:30 p.m., followed by Clarkston against Grand Blanc at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$5, and stadium parking is also \$5.

"We are once again excited to partner with the Flint City Bucks and showcase amazing talent at the Vehicle City Soccer Classic," said Judge Duncan Beagle. "It is great to see our high school players compete, leading up to a professional game. What an amazing opportunity for these young players."

After the high school matchups, the Flint City Bucks, Flint's USL League Two team, will take on Livonia City FC in an exhibition game at 7:30 p.m. The game is part of Atwood Stadium Kids

Night, sponsored by Mott Community College. Children 12 and under will be admitted free with an adult ticket purchase. Adult tickets are \$12 and available at [flintcitybucks.com](http://flintcitybucks.com) or at the stadium gates. Tickets purchased for the high school games are valid for the Bucks match as well.

"We have two great high school matchups leading into the Flint City Bucks match. The third annual Vehicle City Classic will be another great soccer event at historic Atwood Stadium," said Tom Saxton, Vehicle City Sports

Committee member.

"This is a high-level and well-organized high school soccer tournament that we are excited to support," said Costa Papista, president of the Flint City Bucks. "Local soccer talent abounds in Genesee County, and Powers Catholic and Grand Blanc are two shining examples. We look forward to watching and cheering on the local teams prior to our friendly finale in the evening."

For more information, contact Judge Beagle at [legalbeagle-jr@aol.com](mailto:legalbeagle-jr@aol.com).

# FAITH IN FOCUS



MINISTRY WITHOUT WALLS - 3783 MANNION RD, SAGINAW, MI 48603

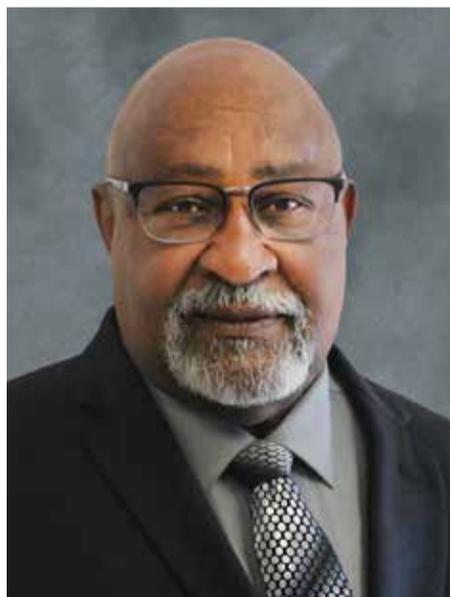
## Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

BY PASTOR JOHN DUNN

Ministry Without Walls has recently returned to its location at 3783 Mannion Road with a renewed vision, shaped by recent global events and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Seeking divine guidance, the organization has embraced a broader mission: to make the church an integral part of the community.

The new direction for Ministry Without Walls is centered around the theme of "Breaking Down Walls." This initiative aims to bridge gaps between spiritual life and community service, uniting church members, volunteers, and local professionals in a shared mission.

The organization's vision includes several key objectives:



PASTOR JOHN DUNN

- Creating a space where the spirit, soul, and body can achieve wholeness.
- Providing resources to those in need.
- Fostering collaboration

between the church, volunteers, and community professionals.

- Ensuring a welcoming environment where love prevails and judgment is absent.
- Maintaining privacy and prioritizing safety.
- Emphasizing the importance of the whole person.

Ministry Without Walls will continue to offer various teachings and seminars on topics such as outreach, spiritual growth, mental health, healthy living, finding purpose, financial management, entrepreneurship, and more. These programs are designed to address diverse needs and support personal development.

Recognizing that the mission field is close to home, not far

away, the organization is committed to a collaborative approach, knowing that achieving this vision will require the collective effort of many. Ministry Without Walls is dedicating its resources, talents, and connections to dismantle barriers and connect with the community more deeply.

Those interested in learning more or getting involved are encouraged to visit the church on Sundays at 11:00 AM. This offers an opportunity to meet Pastor John Dunn, ask questions, and experience the ministry's mission firsthand.

For more information, visit Ministry Without Walls at 3783 Mannion Road, Saginaw, MI 48603.

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CHRIS & KENYATTA PRYOR

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**2025 CONFERENCE**  
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**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20 / 7 PM**  
PROPHETESS BARBARA CALLOWAY

**THURSDAY, AUG. 21 / 7 PM**  
PASTOR G. CRAIGE LEWIS

**FRIDAY, AUG. 22 / 7 PM**  
WORSHIP NIGHT FEATURING

- ▶ LATOYA TURRENTINE-BROWN
- ▶ PASTOR ALFRED L. HARRIS, JR.
- ▶ DENNETT THRELKELD-COHN
- ▶ DEERICO LOYD

**SUNDAY, AUG. 24 / 11 AM**  
EVANGELIST RUTH C. PRYOR



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BARBARA CALLOWAY MINISTRIES  
McKinney, TX



PASTOR  
G. CRAIGE LEWIS  
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FAITH IN FOCUS

## SERMONETTE SERIES

## Speak the Word

*"Death and Life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."**Proverbs 18:21*BY MINISTER CAROLYN  
CARTER TOWNSEL

Our words are not empty sounds - they are seeds. Every word we release plants something: It carries the power to create or to destroy, to heal or to wound, to build up or to tear down. Proverbs 18:21 reminds us that death and life are in the power of the tongue, meaning what we say shapes the atmosphere around us and the direction of our lives. It also tells us that we will "eat the fruit" of our words, meaning we will eventually live in the reality we've been speaking. If we've been sowing words of faith, hope, and truth, we will reap encouragement, peace, and breakthrough. But if we've been sowing words of fear, anger, and doubt, the harvest will reflect that too.

This is why it's so important to speak God's Word over our situations, we align our mouths with His promises instead of our problems. Instead of repeating fear, we declare faith. Instead of rehearsing pain, we proclaim healing. The Word of God is alive and when we release it with belief, we invite heaven's authority into our earthly circumstances.

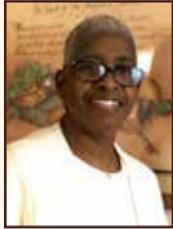
Think about Jesus in the wilderness. He didn't argue with the enemy or try to reason with him. He spoke the Word. That's our example. When the enemy tries to discourage you, speak the Word. When life feels heavy, speak the Word. When you're unsure of the next step, speak the Word. Your situation may not change instantly, but your atmosphere will, and your heart will be strengthened to keep believing.

Beloved today, choose life with your words. Speak hope. Speak truth. Speak blessings. And above all, speak the Word of God, because His Word never returns empty - it always produces what He sends it to do. The more you speak God's Word, the more you'll see His power at work in your life.

Blessings To All,  
Carolyn



# CHURCH DIRECTORY



### Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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



### Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn  
3783 Mannion Road  
Saginaw, MI 48603



### New Life Baptist Ministries

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



### Faith Ministries Church

Rev. Dr. Anthony Revis  
Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis  
3420 E Ashman St.  
Midland, MI 48642  
989-837-7777  
faithministrieschurch.org



### World Outreach Campus

Bishop Hurley J. Coleman Jr.  
2405 Bay Road  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-752-2955  
worldoutreachcampus.com



### New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

3610 Russel St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-0801



### Glory House Ministries

Pastor Jim House  
3660 Hermansau Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
(989) 752-4769



### New Beginnings Ministries

Pastor Augustine Delgado  
701 Hess Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
newlife3881@gmail.com



### Saint Paul Baptist Church

Rev. Dr., Vincent D. McMillon  
120 North 15 St.  
Saginaw, MI. 48601  
stpaul2@yahoo.com



### Holy Communion Gospel Center

Pastor Charlene Washington  
1245 E. Genesee  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-752-3993



### New Birth Missionary Baptist

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



### Victorious Belivers Ministries Church

Pastor Chris V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
989-755-7692



### Jacob's Ladder

Pastor Dennis Barlow  
1926 Fairfield Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-6601



### New Covenant Christian Center

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



### Anointed Temple ministries

Bishop Tim D. Holden, Sr.  
612 Millard St.  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
901 Melbourne  
Detroit, MI 48211



### Bridgeport Community Church

Pastor Rob Ashmall  
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## FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

## Before you invest your time

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*When we are positively impacted by the work of a local or national organization, we want to get involved. Good follows good. And that's all good, so long as you take a moment before you commit your most precious gift of all: your time. When you're ready to volunteer with a nonprofit organization or institution make sure that the organization you want to engage with is a match for your personal and family values and that you understand what you are signing up for. You may feel you know all about the nonprofit, but do you really?*

Asking questions and gaining insights before you commit your time will benefit yourself and the nonprofit. This is especially true if you are considering service as a member of the board, of a committee, or as a fundraising volunteer. Nonprofits are no different from families, businesses, and public agencies. Some are stellar examples of timely and open communication, organization, focus, caring, foresight, and impact. Others are more "dysfunctional" with ingroups and outgroups, withholding of information, lack of organization, and emotional manipulation. See if you can volunteer at a one-time



FILE PHOTO

activity or talk with a current volunteer to see what you can learn of the culture. You want to gain a feeling for their style of working. This is the human element, and where volunteers can feel disappointed when their impression of the organization doesn't match up with their actual experience. This can leave you feeling frustrated and leave the nonprofit disappointed and without the volunteer they had hoped would join them.

There are "practical" things you want to learn about as well. First, do you believe in the cause? If you don't, you need to find another way to give of your time and talents. Do you know the mission, vision, goals of the organization? Do these align with your values? Do you understand their fundraising priorities, both short term and long term? What about the impact they make, their accomplishments and track record? Do you understand their

competitors, collaborators, and the ecosystem they are working within? What about their strengths and challenges? Getting an understanding of these practical things will help you understand the nonprofit and perhaps help you understand why they do things the way they do. When you volunteer you typically work with others and at someone else's direction. That means you're not the boss. You may have ideas of how things could be done differently, but you want to start your engagement by helping the organization advance their goals

– unless you are asked for your opinion.

Here are a few bottom-line things to consider. Is the organization able to deliver on what they promise? What is the status of their financials? How do stakeholders and community members view their work? Have you met staff and board members? Are they legit? Volunteering with a nonprofit organization can be life changing – for you and for others. Do your homework and then jump in! God protect America and the world we live in.



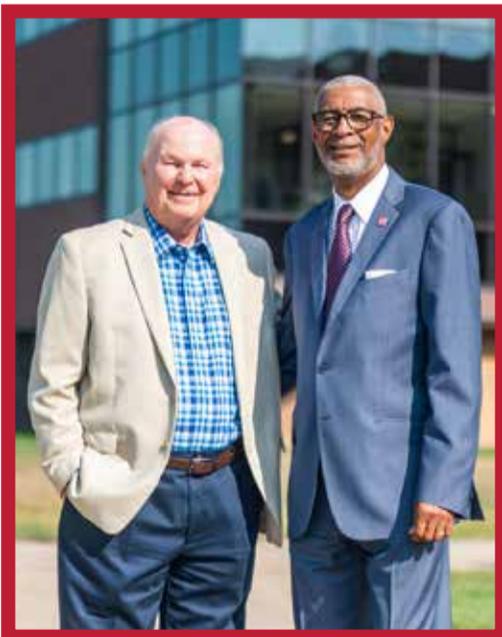
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Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit [www.saadandshaw.com](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.



# PICS OF THE WEEK

On Thursday, Aug. 14, Saginaw Valley State University held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the transformation of Maurice E. Brown Hall. Built in 1986, the hall has long served as a central space for students in the College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences. The renovation adds nearly 10,000 square feet, including modern classrooms, technology-equipped labs and collaborative learning areas. University leaders said the project reflects SVSU's ongoing commitment to student success.



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*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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