



The Michigan Banner

Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
2025 Midland Juneteenth Block Party

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Educator teaches life lessons

EDUCATION, PG 36

TempleArts taps Fox Theatre veteran Tony Serra as executive director



TONY SERRA (COURTESY OF TEMPLEARTS)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — TempleArts has hired Tony Serra, a Saginaw native with more than 20 years of arts-venue experience, to serve as its next executive director be-

ginning Aug. 1.

Serra, 43, will oversee the historic Temple Theatre and the Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens, guiding strategic programming and day-to-day operations for the two cornerstone institutions. He succeeds Mike Kolleth, who

became board chair after former chair Larry Preston retired in May.

“Tony has demonstrated a wealth of leadership man-

Continues on pg 2, Serra



Flint volunteer earns state's top honor on Older Michiganians Day

COMMUNITY, 21



Team One Credit Union charts downtown Saginaw expansion with three-story headquarters

BUSINESS, PG 47

FEATURED STORY

Saginaw Juneteenth Celebration Inc. to host two free events at Morley Plaza

COMMUNITY, PG 26



From Cover, Serra

aging the iconic Fox Theatre and a deep passion for arts and culture in the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond,” Kolleth said in a statement. “We are delighted to welcome him back home.”

Serra most recently directed facilities and events for Little Caesars Enterprises at the company’s downtown Detroit headquarters. From 2018 to 2023 he was director of operations at Detroit’s Fox Theatre, where he supervised large-scale productions, front-of-house logistics and backstage support at the 5,000-seat National Historic Landmark.

Calling the appointment “a full-circle moment,” Serra noted that his early career began at the Temple Theatre. “It’s the honor of a lifetime to return home and help write the next chapter for these incredible institutions,” he said. “I look forward to building on their rich legacies while expanding their role in shaping the region’s creative and economic future.”

Along with venue management, Serra’s résumé includes work at Midland Center for the Arts, where he integrated exhibits into public spaces, and heritage-based programming at Little Caesars’ world headquarters. He holds a bachelor’s degree in music theatre performance from Western Michigan University and is a graduate of Nouvel Catholic Central High School.

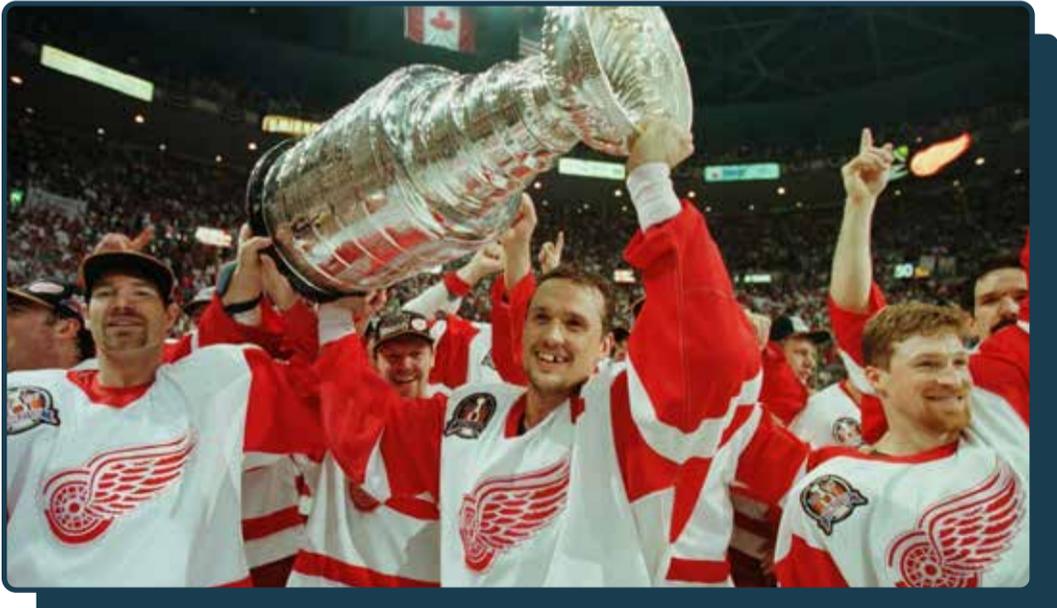
TempleArts formed in 2021 through the merger of the Temple Theatre — a 1,750-seat “Showplace of Northeastern Michigan” that opened in 1927 — and the Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens, which houses more than 2,000 works and features an Italianate garden first designed by Charles A. Platt.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

JUNE 16, 1998

On June 16, 1998, the Detroit Red Wings captured their second straight Stanley Cup, completing a four-game sweep of the Washington Capitals with a 4-1 victory at MCI Center—the NHL’s first repeat champion since the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991-92.



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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MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 12



TeenQuest offers free week-long job-skills boot camp for Genesee County teens



STUDENTS IN THE TEENQUEST PROGRAM

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — Genesee County teenagers looking for a résumé boost before school starts have a no-cost option next month: TeenQuest’s week-long summer intensive, running July 21-25 at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Flint, 3701 N. Averill Ave.

The program meets daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to students ages 14-19 who will

enter grades 9-12 this fall. Organizers say participants will sharpen job-hunting basics—everything from crafting a stand-out résumé to practicing mock interviews—while also tackling goal-setting, business etiquette, conflict resolution and financial literacy. Lunch and snacks are provided.

TeenQuest, operated by Flint & Genesee Education & Talent, has trained thousands of high-

school students since its launch nearly two decades ago. Graduates often cite the program as a gateway to the Summer Youth Initiative and other paid internships across the county.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. Students can sign up at educateflintandgenesee.org/teenquest or call 810-600-1413 for details.



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***Boys & Girls**

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***Free Event**

**Saturdays
3-5 P.M.**



*****New Location:**

**801 State St. Saginaw, Mi 48602 (Resurrection Church)
Former Ames UMC Church//Across from Stone School**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Pastor Duane Thomas (517) 883-3819

Summer jobs 2.0: Michigan teens find new gigs—and new rules—in seasonal economy

BY MB STAFF

From scooping ice cream in South Haven to selling hot dogs at Comerica Park, Michigan's summer economy is once again hunting for teen talent. But the paychecks — and the fine print on work hours — look different this year as new state wage and child-labor rules take hold.

More money for most shifts

Michigan's minimum wage climbed twice in 2025. Since Jan. 1, the statewide base has been \$10.56 an hour, rising again on Feb. 21 to \$12.48 after a court-ordered schedule adjustment. Teens under 18 earn 85 percent of that figure, or \$10.61 an hour — up from \$8.98 at the start of the year.

The hour limits you need to know

State law still caps 14- and 15-year-olds at 40 hours a week in the summer, with shifts confined to 7 a.m.–9 p.m. Teens 16–17 may work up to 48 hours when school is out but can't punch more than 10 hours in a single day or six days in a row. Employers must keep work and school commitments under a combined 48-hour ceiling once classes resume in September.

Hot jobs on the Lake and at the park

- **Great Lakes lifeguards and park workers** — The Department of Natural Resources hired more than 1,300 seasonal staff last year and still lists openings for campsite clerks, trail crews and beachfront guards at



PLANET FITNESS

- **Ballpark concessions** — Delaware North, the food contractor at Detroit Tigers games, is advertising seasonal concessions-stand gigs that start at age 16 and include employee meals and game-night bonuses.
- **Resort-town retail** — Job boards in beach communities from Grand Haven to Petoskey show hundreds of teen-friendly posts ranging from smoothie stands to kayak rentals.

Why employers are sweetening the deal

Tourism officials say they're competing with remote work, summer classes and travel leagues for teens' time. "Higher

starting wages and flexible schedules have become the norm," said Craig Hall, manager of a Muskegon surf shop that now offers split shifts so student employees can keep morning sports practice.

How to land a position

- **Get a work permit.** Michigan requires minors to file a pink (under 16) or yellow (16–17) form signed by a parent and employer.
- **Highlight soft skills.** TeenQuest, a pre-employment boot camp in Flint, coaches students on punctuality, customer-service cues and résumé basics to stand out in crowded applicant pools.
- **Ask about perks.** Some beach towns include free housing

stipends; Comerica Park staffers get discounted tickets on off-nights.

Looking ahead

Minimum wage is set to climb to \$13.73 on Jan. 1, 2026, and to \$15 in 2027, with the teen rate moving in lockstep at 85 percent. Proposed 2026 legislation would also shorten the nightly cut-off for 14- and 15-year-olds to 8 p.m., though the bill has yet to clear committee.

For now, officials say the best summer gig is the one that balances experience and fun. "Whether you're saving for prom or padding your college app, seasonal work can pay off long after the pay stub," said Andrea Thompson, a career-readiness adviser at Grand Rapids Public Schools.

SISTERS SUPPORTING SISTERS PRESENTS:

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EMPOWERING FLINT'S YOUTH TO LEAD, LEARN, AND THRIVE

FLINT YOUTH STRIVE IS A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN MENTORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR TEENS AGES 12-17. WE FOCUS ON CONFIDENCE, REAL-LIFE SKILLS, GOAL SETTING, AND SERVICE PROJECTS — HELPING YOUTH RISE ABOVE CHALLENGES AND REWRITE THEIR FUTURE.



YOUTH AGES 12-17
ORIENTATION JUNE 25TH
6PM

REGISTER NOW

[SISTERSWORLDWIDE.ORG/PROGRAMS](https://sistersworldwide.org/programs)

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FLINT, MI 48504

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE A
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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Seen on the Scene: Latino Legislative Advocacy Day

Community members from across Michigan converged on the Capitol for Latino Legislative Advocacy Day on June 10, learning how the state's legislative process works and meeting with lawmakers to share perspectives from the Latino community.



PHOTO CREDIT: FACEBOOK.COM/WEAREMIPODER

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





CONSUMERS FAMILY

Energy Savings Night with The MAC

This outreach will promote the Consumers Energy "HOME ENERGY ANALYSIS & HELPING NEIGHBORS" program information and assistance.

*Onsite home energy analysis
Helping Neighbor Appointments*



Se habla español!

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 19, 2025
6P-8P**

What do you need:

- 1- Name
(Doesn't Have To Be Account Holder)
- 2- Phone Number
- 3- E-Mail
- 4- Address



HOT DOGS & CHIPS!



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WILL BE ONSITE
WITH FREE
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SAGINAW, MI**

Flint center opens enrollment for summer Spanish-language classes

Latinx
Technology & Community Center

SPANISH CLASSES

SPANISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE (SSL)

STARTING **JUNE 23**

REGISTRATION ENDS: **JUNE 19**
COURSES END DATE: **JULY 31**

TUITION FEE: **\$90** (TUITION FEE WAIVER AVAILABLE)

COURSE LEVELS

BEGINNER | **INTERMEDIATE** | **ADVANCED**

** Proficiency Assessment for placement*

REGISTER NOW **CALL 810.715.5050**
2101 Lewis St. | Flint, MI 48506

latinxflint.org

LATINX TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNITY CENTER SPANISH-LANGUAGE CLASS FLYER

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Residents looking to sharpen their Spanish skills have until June 19 to sign up for a six-week course offered by the Latinx Technology & Com-

munity Center.

The program, billed as Spanish as a Second Language, begins June 23 and runs through July 31 at the center’s campus, 2101 Lewis St. Three sections—beginner, intermediate and advanced—will meet on week-

nights; placement is determined by a proficiency assessment conducted at registration.

Tuition is \$90, although fee waivers are available for qualifying students, according to the center. Class size is limited. Prospective learners can register by

calling 810-715-5050 or visiting latinxflint.org.





HISPANIC/LATINO COMMISSION OF MICHIGAN

“NUESTRO FUTURO SCHOLARSHIP” APPLICATION

NOW OPEN!

SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$1,000 FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ You must currently reside in Michigan
- ✓ You must be enrolled in a Michigan High School, College/University, or Technical Program
- ✓ All required documents and application materials must be turned in to be considered.

DEADLINE: JULY 4TH AT 12 PM

SCAN ME



Apply Now

<https://bit.ly/HLCOMScholarship2025>



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GLBHC PATIENTS



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Great Lakes Bay
Health Centers

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Our pharmacy locations: Davenport, Janes Street, Old Town or Bay City South.
Call (989) 921-5377 for more information or visit greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org.

IT MATTERS WHERE YOU BUY YOUR CAR



5925 State St, Saginaw, MI 48603



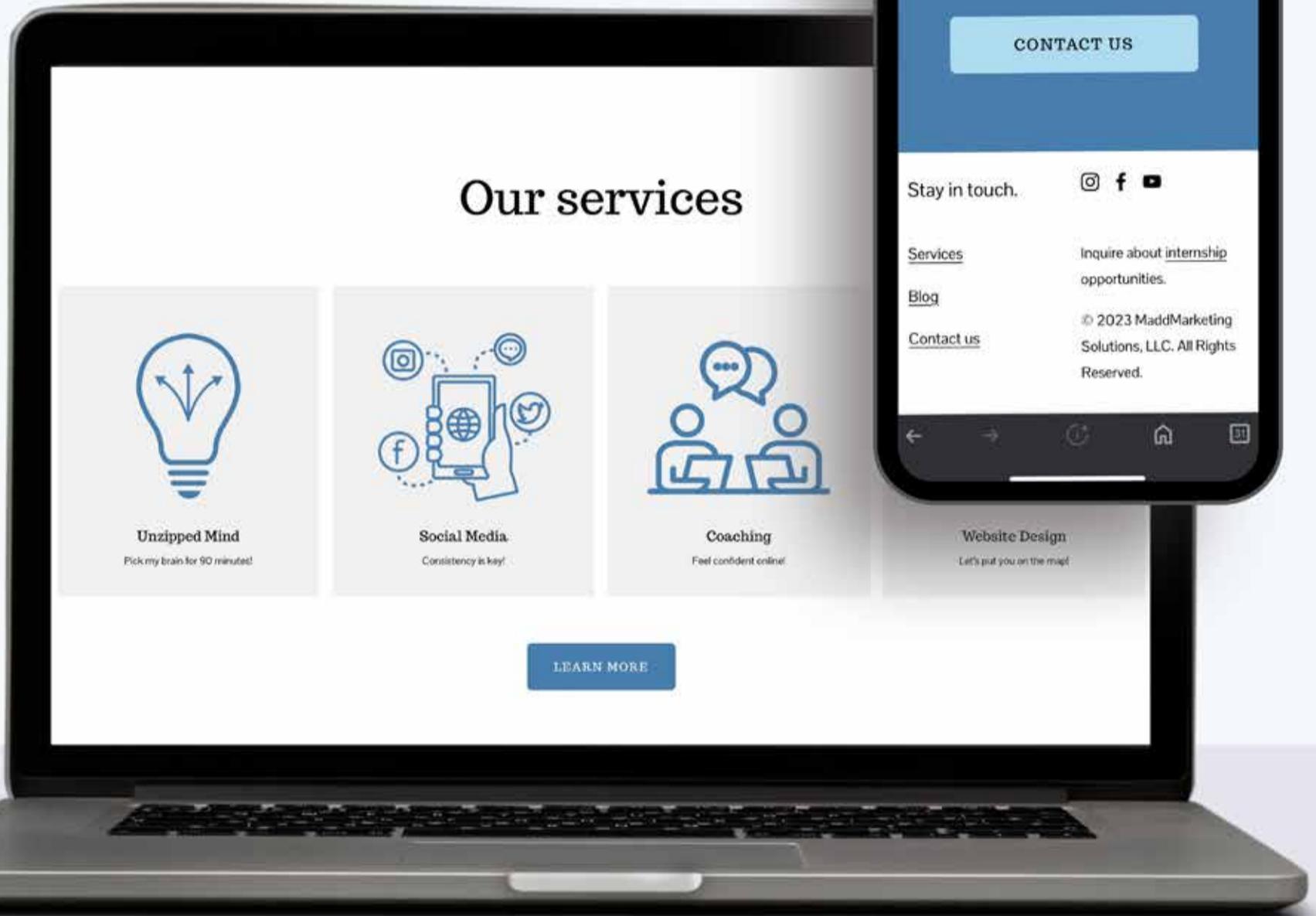
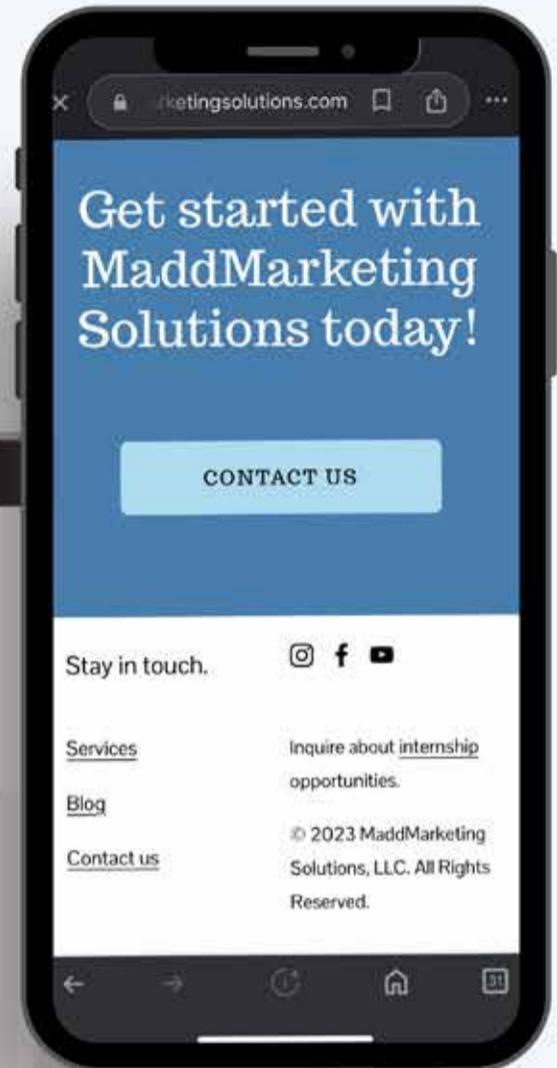
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COMMUNITY

A renegade who stayed sets a housing example



611 N 5TH AVE, SAGINAW, MI 48607

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Don't tell Shirley Chatman Brooks that the city no longer is a place where people may wish to make a home.

Her testimony in reverse, with deeds instead of with words, is the custom-built manufactured home for which she paid more than \$100,000 shortly after the millennium's turn.

Did she stay in the city with a location on the more-affluent outer West Side? Or did she head for the suburbs?

No and no. Her single-story spread stands half-hidden atop the Fifth-Sixth railroad underpass, a few strides south of the tracks, the only non-subsidized new home built north of I-675 in this century -- or in the clos-

ing decades of the 20th, for that matter.

Acquaintances, friends and even some family members thought she had lost her mind when she made the decision in 2002, after her longtime First Ward home on Dwight Street near North Sixth was destroyed in an electrical fire, and she acquired a group of three adjacent vacant lots nearby on the pre-underpass portion of Fifth Street, where she has the entire block to herself.

Brooks was 52 at the time, divorced with no children, employed in food service at Covenant Health Care. With what she describes as a highly conservative and spendthrift lifestyle, she had saved \$50,000, and she was offering the entire sum as a down-

payment. Even so, she says, local lenders still refused to finance the mortgage, forcing her to find an out-of-town source. She also offered funds to pay for demolishing the burned-out shell of her old house, rather than leaving it on the tax-reverted rolls like thousands of others have done through Saginaw's years of national urban decline.

"Did I want to leave an eyesore for my longtime neighbors to look at? No way," she explains.

"That was once my neighborhood. God forbid that my former home would become a drug house or catch fire again. I felt that I would have been accountable."

Her atop-the-underpass layout is 1,800 square feet, roughly 50 percent larger than a standard Habitat for Humanity structure.

Her favorite features are a lower-level "sunken" living room with a gas fireplace, and a bathroom connected to her master bedroom. She wanted plenty of room so that younger relatives one day could come stay during her elder years, which now is happening.

Shirley summarizes: "I prayed and the spirit of God spoke to me. He told me, 'This is all land that I have created, and there is not going to be any more, and you will have to make due with the land that is there now.' Others may think of this as a dying neighborhood, but if you want to see it grow and prosper, then it's up to you to do it."

She continues: "The way I look at it, this community is like a larger family inheritance. Shouldn't we treasure what is given to us as an inheritance? Instead, most of us move away. The neighborhood deteriorates because we contribute to it and allow it to happen."

Her final analysis? "We love to go into somebody else's neighborhood and say, 'Whoo, it's gorgeous.' Guess what? They took the time to make it appeal to you. We have to take that same approach and say, 'I want to make it beautiful.' "



Saginaw city government's Neighborhood Recognition Awards each summer honor homeowners and businesses who maintain "curb appeal" with their properties, lawns and gardens. To nominate someone, even yourself, visit saginaw-mi.com/175/scenic or call (989) 759-1421.

COMMUNITY

Summer youth activities guide sets calendar

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Floor hockey at First Ward Community Center.
Basketball camp at Mission in the City Park.
Youth baseball at Hoyt Park.

Your child isn't into sports? Then how about a nature camp in Thomas Township, or junior archaeology at the Castle Museum?
Your teen is looking for a summer job? "Learn and Earn" is the title through the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Association.

Then there's good-old summer school in the local districts. For something specific, try STEM classes at The Neighb.
The annual Hot Times youth activities book is loaded with 34 pages to keep the young people active in constructive ways.

Elected leaders from the city, the schools and the county meet once every three months, and they have authorized \$5,000 apiece for their staffers to produce the guide, which is available at any of their websites.

HOT Times 2025

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS IT?

The goal of this cooperative summer program, sponsored by the Saginaw Public Schools, Saginaw County, and the City of Saginaw, is to involve the community in providing various learning opportunities for school-age children. In putting together this summer program, entitled Hot Times Summer Youth Activities 2025, we hope to achieve the following objectives:

- To provide a wide variety of recreational, enrichment, and academic activities that are enjoyable, affordable, and accessible for school-age children.
- To help students develop a healthy appreciation for their leisure activities.
- To provide activities that prepare school-age children for success.
- To cooperate and collaborate with other agencies in creating and promoting positive activities, and by communicating these alternatives to students and their parents or guardians.
- To provide a safe and healthy environment for students during the summer months.

...the youth of today and to help them become leaders for the future.

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(989) 399-6500

THE CHILD

There's nothing to do!

That's not true...

There are PLENTY of things to do in the HOT TIMES of Summer!

CLICK TO VIEW THE HOT TIMES 2025

SUMMER 2025 FAMILY PLAY DATES IN THE PARK

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING SERIES OF DAYS AT THE PARK WITH YOUR FAMILY! DISCOVER NEW SKILLS AND ENJOY SOME FUN GAMES. DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TENNIS SHOES AND GET READY TO REDISCOVER YOUR CITY PARKS!



JUNE 06 / FRI
TRACK AND FIELD
4 PM - 7PM
Fundamentals of Running
Practice Drills on Essential Skills
Interactive Relays for the Whole Family



JUNE 12 / THUR
BASEBALL
4 PM - 7 PM
Fundamentals of throwing, catching, hitting, fielding and base running
Practice Drills on Essential Skills



JUNE 28 / SAT
SKATEBOARDING
10 AM - 1 PM
Fundamentals of Footing, Pushing and Stopping
Practice Balancing Techniques
Learn How to Fall Safely



AUGUST 08 / FRI
TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL
4 PM - 7 PM
Learn Tennis Court Layout and Scoring Rules
Fundamentals of Serving and Hitting
Interactive Games



AUGUST 22 / FRI
FREE PLAY
5:30 PM - 8 PM
Learn Games with No Equipment Needed Such as Red Rover, Tag, Hopscotch, Red Light Green Light, Ring Around the Rosie, Kick the Can, Etc.



REGISTER AT WWW.SAGINAW-MI.COM/PARKS

COMMUNITY

Countywide stats show four car crashes per day

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — During the past decade in the county as a whole, 12,965 vehicle crashes have led to 29 fatalities and 192 serious injuries.

This statistic and others were unveiled during a public hearing June 4 conducted by MDOT, the Michigan Department of Transportation.

A sparse audience attended a session at SVRC Marketplace in which the state officials outnumbered the general public.

The main focus was on Washington Avenue, part of the state's north-south M-13 freeway. City



DAMAGED CAR FROM WRECK (FILE PHOTO)

leaders are seeking a smoother traffic flow, especially through downtown,

Other facts offered at the hearing included:

- cause nearly two-thirds of the time.
 - Nearly one fourth occurred under the influence of alcohol and drugs.
 - Of the 12,965 crashes, 262 victims were either walking or bicycling.
- Overall, the M-13 study "will analyze existing multimodal, traffic and safety conditions, as well as explore alternative roadway designs. MDOT, in partnership with local agencies and municipalities, will use the study to build a unified approach for the future of the corridor."
- Half of all major crashes involve a combined ages 24-and-younger and 65-and-older, and distracted driving was a

P.R.I.D.E. launches Friday Night Live season with Stevie Wonder tribute

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Positive Results Downtown Saginaw—better known as P.R.I.D.E.—will celebrate its 50th anniversary by folding a golden-jubilee party into the opening night of the Friday Night Live summer concert series.

The free event is set for Friday, July 11, at Morley Plaza on South Washington Avenue. Gates open at 5 p.m., with local rock outfit Pesky Kid warming up the stage before Wonderlove: A Stevie Wonder Experience delivers the evening's headline set.

The anniversary bash will pair live music with food-truck

fare, an adult-beverage tent, children's play area, raffles and prize giveaways—echoing the street-festival format that has drawn thousands of people downtown each summer since Friday Night Live debuted in the late 1990s.

Now five decades old, P.R.I.D.E. began in 1975 as a volunteer-driven effort to revive Saginaw's central business district through cleanup campaigns, promotions and festivals. The group's calendar has since expanded to include flower-basket installations, holiday lighting and the seasonal concert series.

Sponsorship for the 50th-anniversary show comes from Garber Automotive Group and radio station 96.1 WHNN, with title support from Team One Credit Union, Covenant HealthCare, WNEM-TV 5 and the Michigan Arts & Culture Council.

Attendance is open to the public; lawn chairs are encouraged. More information is available at prideinsaginaw.org.



WONDERLOVE: A STEVIE WONDER EXPERIENCE

53RD ANNUAL
JUNETEENTH
TRADITIONAL FLINT
Celebrating 160 YEARS of BLACK LIBERATION

May 31 through June 22, 2025
FREE EVENTS IN FLINT & GENESEE COUNTY

Saturday, May 31, 2025

A Day At The Lake (Weekend One)

9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ Bethesda Temple Church
947 Leland St, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Saints and Spirits

6-8 p.m. @ Metropolitan Church
930 E. Myrtle Ave, Flint, MI

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Protect yourself! Advanced planning

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. @ Oak Business Center
2712 N. Saginaw St, Flint, MI

Friday, June 6, 2025

A Heritage and Legacy of the Flint Community

3-8 p.m. @ Brennan Center
1301 Pingree Ave, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 7, 2025

A Day At The Lake (Weekend Two)

8:30 a.m. @ Camp A.R.T.I.S @ Shay Lake
4574 Gifford Dr, Silverwood, MI

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Juneteenth Kickoff

1-5 p.m. @ Kearsley Park
1830 Kearsley Park Blvd, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Ubuntu & Freedom: a Juneteenth Celebration at the URC

2-6 p.m. @ The Urban Renaissance Center
2505 N Chevrolet Ave, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Historical War Stories

6-9 p.m. @ The New McCree Theater
4601 Clio Rd, Flint, MI

Monday, June 9, 2025

B.U.S.T./Healing Circle

6-8 p.m. @ Martin Luther King Peace Park
MLK & McClellan

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Reparations Summit

2-5 p.m. @ Kennedy Center / NEW Hasselbring Senior Center - 1678 W. Pierson Rd, Flint, MI

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Community-Based Public Health Caucus

3-8 p.m. Via Zoom Link (VIRTUAL):
https://bit.ly/Traditional_Juneteenth

Friday, June 13, 2025

Ujamaa Market

4-7 p.m. @ North Flint Food Market
5402 N. Clio Rd, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Harambee Breakfast

9:00 am-Noon @ Higher Quality of Life Ministries Vision Center - 5601 N. Saginaw St, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Dr. E Hill De Loney Scholarship Reception

4-7 p.m. @ Flint Development Center
4121 Martin Luther King Ave, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 15, 2025

Father's Day Backyard Barbecue

2-6 p.m. @ Memorial Park
1026 Church St, Flint, MI

Monday, June 16, 2025

Freedom School Youth Dinner

6-8:30 p.m. @ Sloan Museum of Discovery
1221 E. Kearsley St, Flint MI

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Legacy & Literacy

6-9 p.m. @ Kennedy Center / NEW Hasselbring Senior Center - 1678 W. Pierson Rd, Flint, MI

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Financial Literacy Justice

4-7 p.m. @ Flushing Professional Suites
G-3163 Flushing Rd, Flint, MI

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Juneteenth Celebration

FIRST HALF: Community Gathering & Parade
Noon-5 p.m. @ Max Brandon Park
3606 Dupont St, Flint, MI
(Parade Line Up 5 p.m. from Max Brandon Park)

SECOND HALF: Afrobeats Party

6-10 p.m. @ University of Michigan Community Park
Lawn on 5th & James P. Cole Blvd. behind the William S. White building, Flint, MI

Friday, June 20, 2025

Black Lives Matter Flint Special

6-9 p.m. @ McCree Theatre
4601 Clio Rd, Flint, MI

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Juneteenth at the Flint Cultural Center

11 a.m.-4 p.m. @ Flint Cultural Center campus, East Kearsley Street between Crapo and Walnut Streets, Flint, MI

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Juneteenth Family Reunion

4-8 p.m. @ Brennan Park
1301 Pingree Ave, Flint, MI



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mr. DeWaun E. Robinson, Chair
(313) 258-8967 | robinson.de.sr@gmail.com

IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER

Dr. E Hill De Loney



This program is sponsored by the Greater Flint Arts Council Parade of Festivals program made possible by a generous grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.



MORE INFO & FULL EVENT DESCRIPTIONS at SloanLongway.org/Juneteenth

COMMUNITY

Safe City symposium unites Saginaw voices against youth violence



SPEAKERS AND ATTENDEES GATHER DURING THE SAFE CITY COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM BREAKFAST ON JUNE 7, 2025. (COURTESY OF VICTORIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Faith leaders, police officers, survivors and teenagers packed Rita's Southern Soul Café on Saturday, June 7, 2025, for the first Safe City Community Symposium, a breakfast forum timed to coincide with National Gun Violence Awareness Month and focused on curbing youth shootings through dialogue, mentorship and prayer.

The 90-minute program, hosted by Victorious Community Development as part of its Youth Community Violence Preven-

tion and Intervention Initiative (YCVPI), blended solemn reflection with calls to action. Retired Saginaw County District Judge M.T. Thompson told the crowd that early intervention, not harsher punishment, will keep youth from entering the justice system.

"When teenagers have consistent mentors, safe places to gather and opportunities to serve their neighborhoods, they're far less likely to pick up a gun," Thompson said. "We cannot arrest our way out of this crisis; we have to reach kids before the first

court date."

Attendees also heard from Tamarara Tucker, leader of the Saginaw chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, who described navigating grief after losing loved ones to shootings. Youth speakers offered personal testimonies, and Officer Jordan Body of the Saginaw Police Department discussed recent crime trends and community-policing initiatives.

YCVPI's Program Director Eric Braddock called the turnout "a powerful reminder that Saginaw is ready to stand together." He said follow-up workshops on

mentorship and conflict mediation are planned for later this summer.

Event partners included the Saginaw Police Department, Saginaw Public Schools' Office of Family and Community Engagement, Parents of Murdered Children and several local congregations. Complimentary Southern-style breakfast plates were provided by café owner Rita Robinson during the gathering.

To learn more about Victorious Community Development and its violence-prevention initiatives, visit <https://govcd.org/>.

Flint volunteer earns state's top honor on Older Michiganians Day

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — Melinda Anderson, a lifelong community advocate from Flint, has been named Michigan's Older Adult of the Year, an annual award that celebrates outstanding volunteer service among residents age 60 and older.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services presented the honor during the Older Michiganians Day rally on the Capitol lawn in early May, where about 500 people gathered to champion issues affecting the state's seniors.

"The Older Adult of the Year Award is an annual state tradition to celebrate the important contributions that older adult volunteers make in Michigan each year," MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel said. "The award recognizes an individual whose community has been enhanced through their local engagement, volunteerism and acts of service."

Anderson's résumé spans literacy, civic engagement and neighborhood revitalization. In 2015, she founded the Community Outreach for Family and Youth Center New Beginnings Literacy Program, which has provided a decade of tutoring to children and adults. She chairs the Genesee County Literacy Coalition, working with local partners to close education gaps.

Her efforts go beyond the classroom: Anderson has helped install community gardens in food deserts, stocked Little Free Libraries and organized beautification projects across Flint. She also spearheaded service-learning initiatives ranging from Get Out the Vote drives to an oral-history project documenting stories from the city's Brennan



MELINDA ANDERSON OF FLINT, HONORED AS MICHIGAN'S 2025 OLDER ADULT OF THE YEAR, STANDS ON THE CAPITOL LAWN DURING OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY IN LANSING.

neighborhood.

"It was my honor to present this year's award to Melinda Anderson, whose lifetime of volunteer service has been so impactful to families in Flint and Genesee County," said Meghan Groen, MDHHS chief deputy director for Health Services. "Through

decades of service she has addressed critical community needs, including literacy access, civic engagement and neighborhood revitalization."

First awarded in 1974, the Older Adult of the Year distinction draws nominations from area agencies on aging, senior

centers, faith communities and other organizations statewide. Consumers Energy sponsors the award, which is announced each year during Older Michiganians Day, an advocacy event organized by the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan.

COMMUNITY

Community resource fair will bring 35 service agencies to Bliss Park

BY MB STAFF

Residents looking for housing help, job-training programs or youth activities can find them all in one place Tuesday when the city hosts a Community Resource Fair under the pavilion at Bliss Park.

The free, drop-in event runs from noon to 2 p.m. on June 17 and is organized by the City of Saginaw's Neighborhood and Inspections Division. More than 35 nonprofits and public agencies — from Saginaw County DHHS and STARS transit to Covenant HealthCare and Saginaw Community Mental Health — will staff tables with information on services ranging from transportation and senior resources to technology support and preschool enrollment.

"The Community Resource Fair is a one-day, one-stop event to learn more about the incredible services and assistance that is available," said Cassi Zimmerman, the city's director of planning and economic development. "We understand that so many Saginaw residents and families need some sort of support, and this is a fantastic opportunity for local organizations to directly engage with residents and showcase the valuable services they provide."

Participating groups span housing, health, education and public safety. Highlights include representatives from Michigan Works!, the Underground Railroad domestic-violence program, the Saginaw Fire Department, Michigan State Police community officers and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

"With over 35 organizations at the event, we have just about every area represented," Zimmerman added. "Our hope is that we can educate and empower our citizens with the tools and resources they need to help them succeed."

No registration is required. For details, email inspections@saginaw-mi.com or call 989-759-1540.

CITY OF SAGINAW

JOIN US FOR A
Community Resource Fair

Tuesday June 17, 2025
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
at Bliss Park

All the information you need in one spot!

- Housing
- Mental Health
- Family Services
- Transportation
- Technology Assistance
- Community Activities

CONTACT US

inspections@saginaw-mi.com
989-759-1540
1315 S. Washington Ave
Room 208
Saginaw, MI 48601

RESOURCES

- Public Libraries of Saginaw
- Police Special Victims Unit
- Grateful Love Foundation
- Community Development Block Grant
- United Way of Saginaw County
- FACT
- Saginaw Community Mental Health Authority
- Mid Michigan Community Action Agency
- Legal Services of Eastern Michigan
- STARS
- Saginaw County DHHS
- nTECHuity
- Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center
- Saginaw CAC
- Covenant Healthcare
- The Mustard Seed
- Underground Railroad
- Saginaw YMCA
- and More!

Ahead of schedule on water lines, not on Ojibway



OJIBWAY ISLAND IN SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Following the Flint water crisis, state lawmakers responded with a mandate that Michigan cities replace all old, galvanized pipes, Public Services Director Phil Karwat informed City Council members at their June 9 session. His 10-minute report begins at 53:05 on the YouTube meeting video and contains some technical jargon, in spite of his best efforts to explain details in layman's terms.

The city contains about 18,000 active water service lines and 10,000 were found in need of replacement, Karwat reported. The process is about one-third complete. Instead of using copper with its skyrocketing costs, city crews are installing new lines of composite material at a fraction of the cost.

Ever since the tragic circumstances, Saginaw officials have insisted that city water from a 1940s pipeline to Lake Huron near Tawas is safe to drink, in

spite of old pipes, because Flint's problem was the improper choice of chemicals at the treatment plant. Even so, numerous Saginawians now purchase bottled water at hundreds of times the cost of tap water. Even at Council meetings, members nowadays sip from plastic bottles.

Karwat pegged the new pipes' life expectancy at between 100 and 200 years.

Another year's wait at Ojibway

Earlier, at 47:50 on the video, Karwat briefly updated Ojibway Island's status. He said ARPA-funded work on the shoreline, along with upgrades to the oval walkway and to the performing stage, will keep the riverfront park closed until early August, when the summer calendar starts to conclude. An exception is the Fourth of July fireworks, which will stay on schedule. Gospel Fest on Aug. 2 is moving to downtown's Morley Plaza.

At a southwest neighborhood

meeting on June 11, residents learned that Ojibway's shoreline erosion has been at a rate of 2 feet per year, due in large part to rising river levels.

City Manager Tim Morales closed the island to vehicles four years ago, on the basis that misbehavior of some people, if only a comparative few, endangered all visitors. Councilman Eric Braddock, followed by Michael Balls, said they are seeking volunteers to provide security for at least some non-event days and for Sunday afternoons after church services.

Eddy, Bancroft, Bearinger

If subsidized housing is developed at the Bearinger Building, which is only slightly younger than the 1881 Potter Station and is known for being "fireproof," the Eddy and Bancroft will have a new neighbor. A report from Planning and Development Director Cassi Zimmerman begins at 1:38.50.

City Hall obtained the one-

time home of W-3-SOUL, and later dawn of a new day and also Morgan Carter's shoe shop, on foreclosure a decade ago. The sale price is a \$134,000 token from Lansing-based River Caddis Communities, which stayed in the background for now on future specifics, other than for an option to maintain commercial on the first floor. The River Caddis web site shows nine featured projects, and four of them are college campus student housing. The five-year horizon for the riverfront Medical Diamond includes a CMU College of Medicine.

On the commercial aspect, prior first-floor ventures at the Bancroft have failed, most recently an upscale tavern. The Bearinger Building, however, is in closer proximity to both The Dow Event Center and to the Temple Theater.

Fireproof? Well, the Central Fire Station is only four blocks away.

COMMUNITY

Don't dine (once) so that others may partake



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING OF THE PLANNED HUNGER SOLUTION CENTER EXPANSION. (PHOTO CREDIT: THE HUNGER SOLUTIONS CENTER)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — To abstain from eating may seem an odd way for supporting nonprofit outreach to feed those in need, but that's one of the approaches that leaders of the 21-year-old Hunger Solution Center will follow in their quest for an \$8.8 million expansion on East Genesee near Janes.

Donors could consider giving up an occasional night out, whether fine dining or fast food, and contribute to doubling the size of the combined headquarters for Hidden Harvest and the East Side Soup Kitchen, suggests Jim Dwyer, fund-raising chair. Or on a more modest scale, sacrifice a side dish or a dessert.

Even with big-dollar support up to \$1 million from top givers and grants, Dwyer says donations as small as pocket change are important because they demonstrate that the community is

aware, educated and involved.

A '555' startup idealistically seeks one thin dollar from each of the Great Lakes Bay Region's 555,000 residents, about one-third of whom face hardship and/or hunger to varying degrees, for an array of causes and reasons. To chip in with your share, go to #PassYourPlate.

Many Saginawians will recognize Dwyer from his 2022 SVSU retirement after a 42-year career in student recruitment and alumni relations, following his studies on his athletic scholarship as an early 1970s basketball standout for the Cardinals. He says he is working harder than ever as a volunteer, inspired by the challenge of grassroots anti-poverty action.

Overall, the campaign has attained three-quarters of the goal, with a little over \$2 million still to go.

The soup kitchen functioned out of various church basements

prior to the turn of the century, while Hidden Harvest's storage of surplus foods from restaurants, supermarkets and wholesalers was limited to the tiny old Sunoco gas station downtown at Janes and Franklin. The 2004 opening of the Hunger Solution Center was seen as a fresh lifeblood for both programs, but clientele and donations both have tripled since then. Expansion back into a closed Thompson Street and into property on the other side would give the duo space to keep pace.

Here's a list of major donors:

- \$1 million, City of Saginaw ARPA designation, state government grant.
- \$500,000 to \$999,000, Wickes, Dow and Gerstacker foundations; Jeffers Memorial Fund.
- \$250,000 to \$499,000, Strosacker, Wolohan and Garber foundations.

- \$100,000 to \$249,000, Kantzler, McNally, Nickless, Allen foundations; Hemlock Semiconductor.
- \$50,000 to \$99,000, Andersen, Russell/Maxine Smith foundations; Saginaw, Bay and Midland community foundations. (Hidden Harvest has expanded to serve the entire tri-counties.)
- Up to \$50,000, Ederer, Turner, Humphreys and Stark foundations; St. John Legacy Foundation.

Donations to Hunger Solutions Center may be offered via cash, checks, credit/debit cards, or Pay Pal. The address is 940 East Genesee, Saginaw MI 48607-1778. For more info, visit hungersolutioncenter.org.

JUNETEENTH

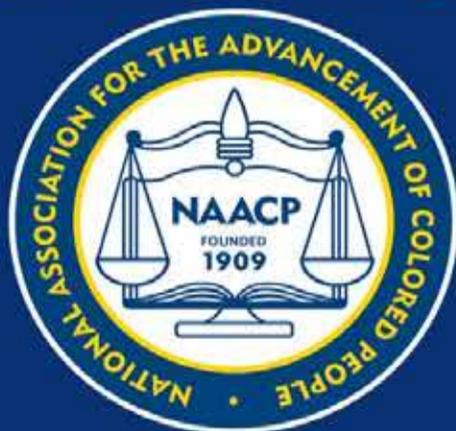
FREEDOM Celebration

Saturday
June 21, 2025
12 PM - 8 PM

FOOD, GAMES, POETRY, DANCE, MUSIC,
VENDORS

FASHION SHOW
PRIZE FOR BEST-DRESSED FATHER

WENONAH
PARK
111 CENTER AVE. BAY CITY, MI 48708



BAY CITY BRANCH

NATIONAL HOLIDAY
COMMEMORATING
THE ENDING OF SLAVERY IN
1865



Health & Wellness Fair

Wednesday

June 18th
11am - 3pm

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS
FOOD & GIVEAWAYS

Great Lakes Dream Center

700 Lafayette Ave
Bay City, MI, 48708



FOR INFORMATION

Call Jheri: 989-893-4701

Email: naacpbaycity@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

Saginaw Juneteenth Celebration Inc. to host two free events at Morley Plaza

SAGINAW JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

RECREATING BLACK WALL STREET
FREE VENDOR ADMISSION!

6.19.25

MORLEY PLAZA
1-5 PM
Setup Starts at 9:00 AM

UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLESSED! BLACK! & BRILLIANT

Prepare for a day of sharing, creating memories, and participating in various enjoyable activities. This is a City-Wide Family Picnic. Bring your Grill, Picnic basket, and lawn chairs.

"Salute to Black Wall Street!"
To support local Black owned Businesses and Entrepreneurs.

989.906.4259

- FREE VENDOR ADMISSION!
- Fun-Filled Attractions
- Straight Talk with Kareem Bowen Live
- Prizes, Food, Kiz's Activities, Music, Bouncy Houses, Family Fun!

Logos: FREE BUSINESS EXPO, KISS 107.1, HELP, AMBER!

SAGINAW JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION RECREATING BLACK WALL STREET

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Morley Plaza will host a pair of Juneteenth gatherings next week, beginning with a city-wide picnic that evokes the spirit of Tulsa's historic Black Wall Street on Thursday, June 19, and continuing with a Freedom Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 21.

The June 19 program, called "Recreating Black Wall Street," runs from 1 to 5 p.m. with vendor setup starting at 9 a.m. Organizers describe the afternoon as an open-air family picnic that spotlights Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. Guests are

encouraged to bring grills, lawn chairs and picnic baskets while they explore a free business expo, children's play zones with bouncy houses, prize drawings and live commentary from local broadcaster Kareem Bowen. Vendor admission is free, and additional details are available at 989-906-4259.

Two days later, the plaza will fill again for the Freedom Parade and Festival under the theme "Faith, Family & Finance." Pastor Chris V. Pryor of Victorious Believers Ministries will serve as grand marshal when the procession steps off Saturday morning. A festival on the plaza will follow,

featuring food, music and information booths.

Both events are presented by Saginaw Juneteenth Celebration Inc. and are free to attend. Juneteenth, observed nationally on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved Texans

learned of their emancipation—more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

More information is available at saginawjuneteenthcelebration.com.

SAGINAW JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

FREEDOM PARADE & FESTIVAL

MORLEY PLAZA

FAITH, FAMILY & FINANCE

06/21/25

GRAND MARSHAL
PASTOR CHRIS V. PRYOR,
VICTORIOUS BELIEVERS MINISTRIES

CALLING ALL VENDORS, CHOIRS, STEPPERS, CAR CLUBS, DANCE GROUPS, MARCHING BAND, NONPROFITS, CULTURAL GROUPS

www.saginawjuneteenthcelebration.com

SAGINAW JUNETEENTH PARADE AND FESTIVAL

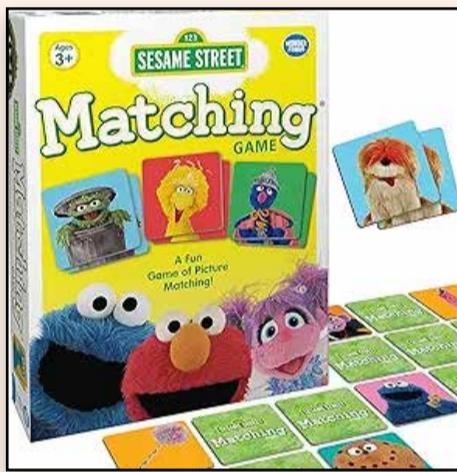


Some days, trade books for board games

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

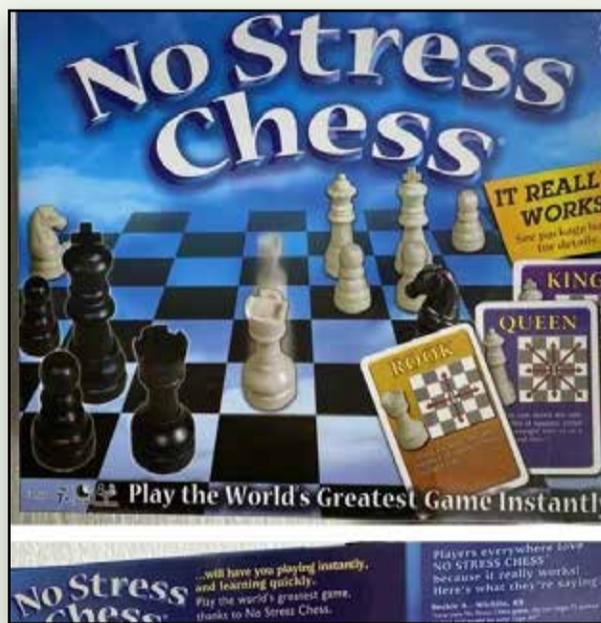
An image of a little one curled up with a book is more sentimental and compelling than an upstart kid knocking your play piece off the table in a game of "Sorry!" Still, to varying degrees, board games may prove educational.

Even the old standards like "Operation" or "Battleship" will stimulate the senses, and how long does it take for the metal ball to reach its final destination in a "Mouse Trap" setup? But you can do better. Use your judgement for selections that promote actual learning while still being fun. Here are three examples.



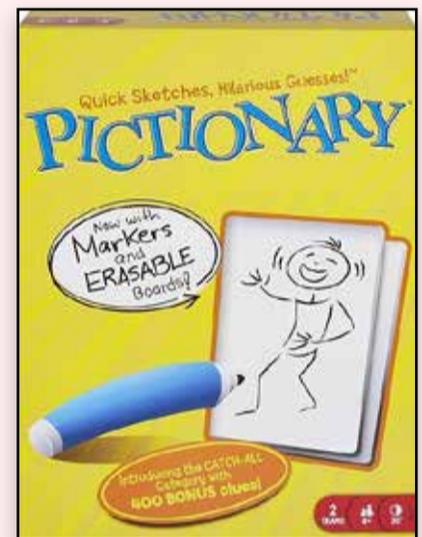
Sesame Street Matching Game

What could be more simple than spreading some cards on a table, face down, and taking turns with the goal of matching pairs. There are an array of variations that feature the Disney characters and race cars and so forth. For that matter, a deck of cards from last night's wisp game among the grownups would work. But let's go with Elmo and friends.



No Stress Chess

In your first (and maybe only) attempt at chess, did you stare dumbfounded at the board, overwhelmed by what to do? Or was your patience tested by someone you were trying to teach? This board game is like a training device that narrows the thinking with cards drawn. If you draw a rook, then you can only move a rook, and so forth. Then you begin to get it.



Pictionary

In the marketing department, whomever came up with changing the "D" to a "P" had a brilliant brainstorm in blending real art with the language arts. All the early elementary basics are combined, and the new dry-erase boards will save some trees down the road.



Some of the board games amount to little more than card games packed in extra cardboard (or worse, plastic), with prices jacked up to \$20 and beyond, whereas a pack of flash cards may be attained for a couple of dollar bills. Watch your wallet. Nowadays we also can withdraw games from the library, and so that's another budget card to keep in play.

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

COMMUNITY

'Swinging for the Promise' golf outing returns Aug. 14 to boost Saginaw scholarship fund



SAGINAW PROMISE WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL "SWINGING FOR THE PROMISE" GOLF OUTING ON AUG. 14, 2025. (COURTESY OF SAGINAW PROMISE)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw Country Club will again trade quiet fairways for fundraising chatter Thursday, Aug. 14, when the annual "Swinging for the Promise" scramble tees off at 10 a.m. The day's green fees do more than cover 18 holes — each entry helps Saginaw Promise steer more local graduates toward college and skilled-trade training.

Individual golfers pay \$175, while four-person teams register for \$700. The price includes morning range access, coffee, a

cart for the round, a grilled "lunch at the turn," a post-event barbecue buffet, drawings for door prizes and trophies for the low scores. Businesses can still purchase hole signs or larger sponsorship packages, and organizers are accepting registrations at saginawpromise.org or by phone at 989-607-3428.

Proceeds fill the last-dollar gap for Saginaw Promise scholars — funds that kick in after federal, state and private aid to cover any remaining tuition and mandatory fees for up to two years at Michigan colleges, universities or approved technical programs.

Eligible students live in the City of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville Township or the slice of Buena Vista Township that belongs to Saginaw Public Schools. Since the first awards in 2012, the nonprofit has distributed more than \$1.35 million to 745 students, including a record 179 recipients this year.

Promise staff and volunteers also run FAFSA workshops, campus tours and parent seminars aimed at making higher education less intimidating and more accessible. Leaders say strengthening Saginaw's talent pipeline helps neighborhoods stabilize,

attracts employers and lifts the wider Great Lakes Bay Region. The golf outing, along with an autumn gala and year-round appeals, supplies most of the dollars that keep the scholarship fund growing.

Golfer and sponsor spots remain open until Aug. 1 or until the field is full. Additional information on the tournament, the scholarship program and volunteer opportunities is available at saginawpromise.org or by calling the Promise office at 989-907-3428.

Saginaw Promise Golf Outing
Swinging for the Promise

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025
SAGINAW COUNTRY CLUB
(4465 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw MI 48638)

Grab Your Golf Clubs for a Great Time!!!



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - TEAM REGISTRATION FORM
Proceeds to Benefit Saginaw Promise Programming & Scholarships

EVENT SPONSOR **\$2,000**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed at event and recognized at dinner
- Welcome & address golfers prior to "shot gun start"
- Host a golf activity on course or display table near registration
- Listed on Saginaw Promise website
- Hole Sponsorship signage

DINNER SPONSOR **\$1,500**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed & recognized at dinner
- Welcome and address golfers at dinner
- Opportunity to host a display table at dinner
- Listed on Saginaw Promise Website

LUNCH AT TURN SPONSOR **\$1,000**

- Foursome with carts
- Sponsor name displayed on "Lunch at the Turn" signage and recognized at dinner
- Opportunity to host golf activity or display table
- Listed on Saginaw Promise website

CART SPONSOR **\$650**

- Sponsor name on golf carts and listed on the Saginaw Promise website

DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR **\$400**

- Name displayed at event and announced at dinner

HOLE SPONSORS **\$250**

- Sponsor name and or/company logo on hole and listed on the Saginaw Promise website
- Recognized at dinner

PRIZE DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED!

All prize donations will be recognized at the event and listed on the Saginaw Promise website.

Sponsors: Please email your company logo to DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org.
EPS or hi-res JPG preferred.

REGISTRATION 8:45 - 9:45 AM • SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM

Four Person Scramble - Includes: 18 Holes with Cart, Morning Coffee, Driving Range, Hot Dog & Chips at the Turn, Barbecue Buffet Dinner, 50/50 Drawing, Prize Drawings and Awards Presentation

GOLF PER PERSON - \$175

GOLF FOURSOME TEAM - \$700

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total Amount for **Golfing** \$ _____

Total Amount for **Sponsorship** \$ _____

I would like to make a **Donation** \$ _____

I would like to **Donate a Prize** Yes No

Total Amount **ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Team Name _____

Player #1 _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

Make Check Payable:

Saginaw Community Foundation, 1 Tuscola St. Suite 200, Saginaw, MI 48607 and write Saginaw Promise on the Memo Line

*Saginaw Community Foundation is the fiscal agent for Saginaw Promise

For Questions:

Please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 607-3428 or email DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org

To pay using your charge card, complete this section or telephone Deborah Sanchez (989-607-3428) to process payment.

Charge My: DISCOVER MasterCard VISA Exp: ____/____

Card #: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

Amount Paying: _____

Deadlines ▶ Sponsors: Respond by August 6, 2025 Golfers: Sign up before August 8, 2025

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Council members zero in on tiny budget expense



SAGINAW CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 9, 2025.

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — For the second meeting in a row on June 9, City Council members did not discuss the new \$45.1 million general fund spending plan for fiscal 2025-26, or hopes to bolster future budgets with a referendum for repeal of property tax caps.

However, they again devoted nearly 20 minutes to reviewing \$650 for Carly Hammond in May to attend a housing conference in Lansing. Still, they have not fully resolved the issues. The latest chapter begins at 1:19.15 on the YouTube video.

The emergence of \$650 as a major time-consuming item in a budget of multi-millions emerged when Hammond joined a 5-4 vote to allow the expense, along with Michael Balls, Monique Lamar Sylvia, Heidi Wiggins and Eric Braddock. Opposed were Mayor Brenda Moore and Pro-Tem Priscilla Garcia, along with Bill Ostash and Jacinta Seals.

Hammond said she received "reimbursement" rather than "compensation," but City Attorney Amy Lusk took the outlook of financial conflict of interest on Hammond's part and proposed a rule to require council members

to declare themselves in such cases and then abstain from discussion and voting. In the end, she received no support, not even from Moore, Garcia or Ostash, with Seals not in attendance on June 9.

The only agreement was that the council will revisit conference travel expenses for a third time at a date yet to be set. At present, they are budgeted to attend only MML, the Michigan Municipal League, for which Moore is past board president. Hammond's exception was to attend an event hosted by MSHDA, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Meanwhile, members without comment received and filed a study commission's report that pays them \$95 per biweekly meeting, up from \$75. The mayor will receive an added \$135 per month, an increase from \$125.

Bottom line, this keeps pace with others who serve on township boards and as school trustees. On the Saginaw Board of Education, for example, members receive stipends of \$300 per month. The comparative big money is on the County Board of Commissioners, where representatives of 11 districts each receive five-figure annual salaries, along with health insurance coverage.

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

New human rights panel seeks apps

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Henry Marsh might be pleased and proud.

On the other hand, he might ask what took so long.

Before he established his 1960s legend as the first Black person to serve on Saginaw's City Council and then as mayor, in 1958 attorney Marsh was the organizer and original chair of the city's Human Relations Commission. Among main activities, the HRC probed citizen complaints, monitored police conduct and circulated "We Are Saginaw" bumper stickers with images in red, black, brown, yellow and white among main activities. The panel folded soon after the millennium's turn due to lack of attendance.

The tide started to turn in 2021 when Annie Boensch, the City Council's longest-serving member at the time, won approval for forming a new Human Rights Commission. But it has taken four years to get things going and Boensch no longer is on the council, defeated as an incumbent last fall along with George Copeland.

What happened during 2022, 2023 and 2024? The most simple summary is that the Citizens Police Advisory Commission, CPAC, approved a year prior, was given priority to get started. There also have been attempts to fine-tune both groups in line with their specific duties, instead of recruiting in a widespread manner.

And so, better late than never, the new Human Rights Commission is seeking applications from Saginaw city residents. Terms are for three years without financial compensation.

While the acronym may remain "HRC," there will be five members instead of 15. which should help avoid the prior problem of attaining a quorum. To apply for membership on this



HENRY G. MARSH, SAGINAW'S FIRST BLACK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND FOUNDING CHAIR OF THE ORIGINAL HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE FROM CITY CLERK FRANK B. NIEDERSTADT ON APRIL 11, 1967.

board or any other, visit saginawmi.com and open the section for services, or phone the city clerk's office at (989) 759-1480.

Following are the intended functions of the new HRC, similar to the Henry Marsh HRC except police oversight becomes specific to the Citizens Police Advisory Commission:

(1) It shall foster mutual understanding and respect between all races, religions, genders/gender identities, sexual orientations, nationalities and other classes of people in the city protected by federal and state anti-discrimination laws. It shall strive towards discouraging and preventing discriminatory practices towards any such group.

(2) It may, for the purpose of

developing policy recommendations, review complaints of particular instances, or complaints as to general conditions, relative to any tension, practices of discrimination, or acts of prejudice against any person or group.

(3) It shall carry on research projects and obtain factual data to ascertain the status and treatment of racial, religious, ethnic, and other protected groups within the City; and it shall make reports and recommendations to the City Manager as to its findings of fact relative to existing conditions and as to the policies, programs, and legislation for relief and alleviation of such discriminatory practices and conditions. The City Manager shall review the reports and findings and take

steps to implement recommendations or, if a matter of policy or legislation, to submit the reports or findings to the City Council for its consideration. Recommendations produced by or for the Commission are not binding, factually or legally, on the City or any part thereof, including the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City Council.

(4) It shall cooperate with other public, governmental, or private agencies in developing courses of instruction for presentation in public and/or private schools, in public libraries, in public museums, or other suitable places, showing and illustrating the contributions of various religious, ethnic, and other protected groups to the culture, tradition, and progress of our city, state, and nation, and further showing the deplorable effects and menace of prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination.

(5) It shall formulate and carry out programs of community education and information with the object of discouraging and eliminating any such tension, prejudice, and discrimination.

(6) It may issue such publications and reports of research as in its judgment will tend to minimize or eliminate prejudice, intolerance, tensions or discrimination, or which will promote or tend to promote goodwill.

(7) It shall cooperate with and seek cooperation of federal, state, and city agencies and departments in carrying out projects within their respective authorities to eliminate intergroup tensions and to promote intergroup harmony. It shall recommend to the City Council policy considerations aimed at improving relations within and among the population, as well as improving the variability of various city departments and agencies to insure protection of any and all persons and groups from discrimination.

HEALTH

SVSU honors nurses for leadership and compassion at annual Moore awards



FROM LEFT, JENNIFER PRESSLER OF MCLAREN BAY REGION; DANIELLE PREMO OF RESIDENTIAL HOME HEALTH; RACHAEL REED OF COVENANT HEALTHCARE; ASHLEY SELLE-COLBY OF MYMICHIGAN HEALTH; PAIGE KWAPISZEWSKI OF MYMICHIGAN HEALTH; KATY SCHRIBER OF COVENANT HEALTHCARE; AND JILL TOPORSKI OF COVENANT HEALTHCARE. (COURTESY OF SVSU)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw Valley State University recognized seven mid-Michigan nurses Thursday during the 14th annual Carleen K. Moore Nursing Excellence Award Luncheon, celebrating caregivers whose work spans acute care, education and community health.

Established by Terry and Carleen K. Moore, the awards spotlight professional achievement and patient advocacy in a field Carleen Moore served for more than two decades. This year's honorees represent four health-care systems — MyMichigan Health, Covenant HealthCare,

McLaren Bay Region and Residential Home Health.

Acute care leadership

Paige Kwapiszewski of MyMichigan Midland earned praise for mentoring colleagues and leading unit-wide quality initiatives that have boosted patient outcomes. At McLaren Bay Region, stroke-certified nurse Jennifer Pressler was cited for guiding evidence-based policy and providing holistic support to families. Covenant HealthCare obstetric nurse Rachael Reed received honors for compassion, including organizing a hospital wedding so a patient could marry before delivering twin daughters.

Advancing nursing education

Katy Schriber, medical-surgical department educator at Covenant HealthCare, was recognized for developing hands-on learning opportunities and volunteering as camp nurse for at-risk youth. MyMichigan Health educator Ashley Selle-Colby earned accolades for innovative simulation programs, coordinating more than 100 interdisciplinary obstetrics drills each year.

Community impact

Danielle Premo, a home-care nurse with Residential Home Health, was commended for sup-

porting seniors with chronic illnesses and for her “team-first” approach. Covenant HealthCare’s Jill Toporski received the community impact award for steering emergency-care services through the COVID-19 pandemic while launching lifesaving stroke and trauma programs.

Speakers included SVSU nursing chair Jaime Huffman, Covenant HealthCare president and CEO Beth Charlton, MyMichigan Saginaw vice president of nursing Shane Hunt and SVSU professor Andrea Frederick.

For details on the Carleen K. Moore Nursing Excellence Awards, visit svsu.edu/nursing/nursingexcellenceaward.

HEALTH

Blue Cross trims workforce, freezes vacancies to rein in expenses

BY MB STAFF

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has laid off about 220 employees and scrapped 400 open positions in its latest round of belt-tightening, company officials confirmed Monday.

The nonprofit mutual insurer, which covers more than 4.5 million Michiganders, reported a \$1.7 billion loss in 2024 fueled by higher claims, prescription prices and increased patient utilization.

Earlier this year, roughly 500 non-union employees accepted voluntary buyouts, but executives said deeper cuts were needed to meet financial targets.

“Administrative costs account for nine cents of every pre-



BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICHIGAN

mium dollar,” the company said in a written statement. “As we ask customers to shoulder double-digit premium increases, we have an obligation to examine

our own spending and safeguard members’ money.”

Blue Cross raised rates on several plans by more than 11 percent in 2024. Monday’s an-

nouncement marks the latest step in an ongoing cost-reduction strategy aimed at stabilizing operations while preserving service quality, the insurer said.



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Men's Health Month spotlights Michigan's stubborn longevity gap

BY MB STAFF

Michigan health officials are urging men across the state to schedule screenings and talk openly about mental well-being this June, saying simple check-ins could help close a life-expectancy gap that leaves the average Michigan man nearly six years behind his female peers.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proclamation for Men's Health Month notes that "men continue to live an average of five years less than women, with Native American and African American men having the lowest life expectancy" (michigan.gov). New federal data put the state's male life expectancy at 72.9 years, compared with 78.6 years for women (axios.com).

The numbers behind the message

- Heart disease remains the leading killer of Michigan men, followed by cancer and unintentional injuries, according to 2023 mortality tables from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (vitalstats.michigan.gov).
- State analysts say men are significantly less likely than women to seek help for depression, stress or substance-use disorders; middle-aged men post the nation's highest suicide rate (michigan.gov).
- Preventive care lags, too: national surveys show roughly 40 percent of men skip their annual physicals.

"Educating the public and

health-care providers about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and early detection of male health problems can reduce mortality rates," the proclamation adds (michigan.gov).

Where to get checked

Free screening events are scattered throughout the sum-

mer. The Michigan Men's Health Foundation will again open Ford Field on Sept. 20 for its annual Men's Health Event, offering blood work, cancer screenings and flu shots at no cost (michiganmenshealthfoundation.org). Local hospitals and county health departments are also hosting "Wear Blue" blood-pressure clinics and virtual seminars on dia-

betes prevention.

Addressing disparities

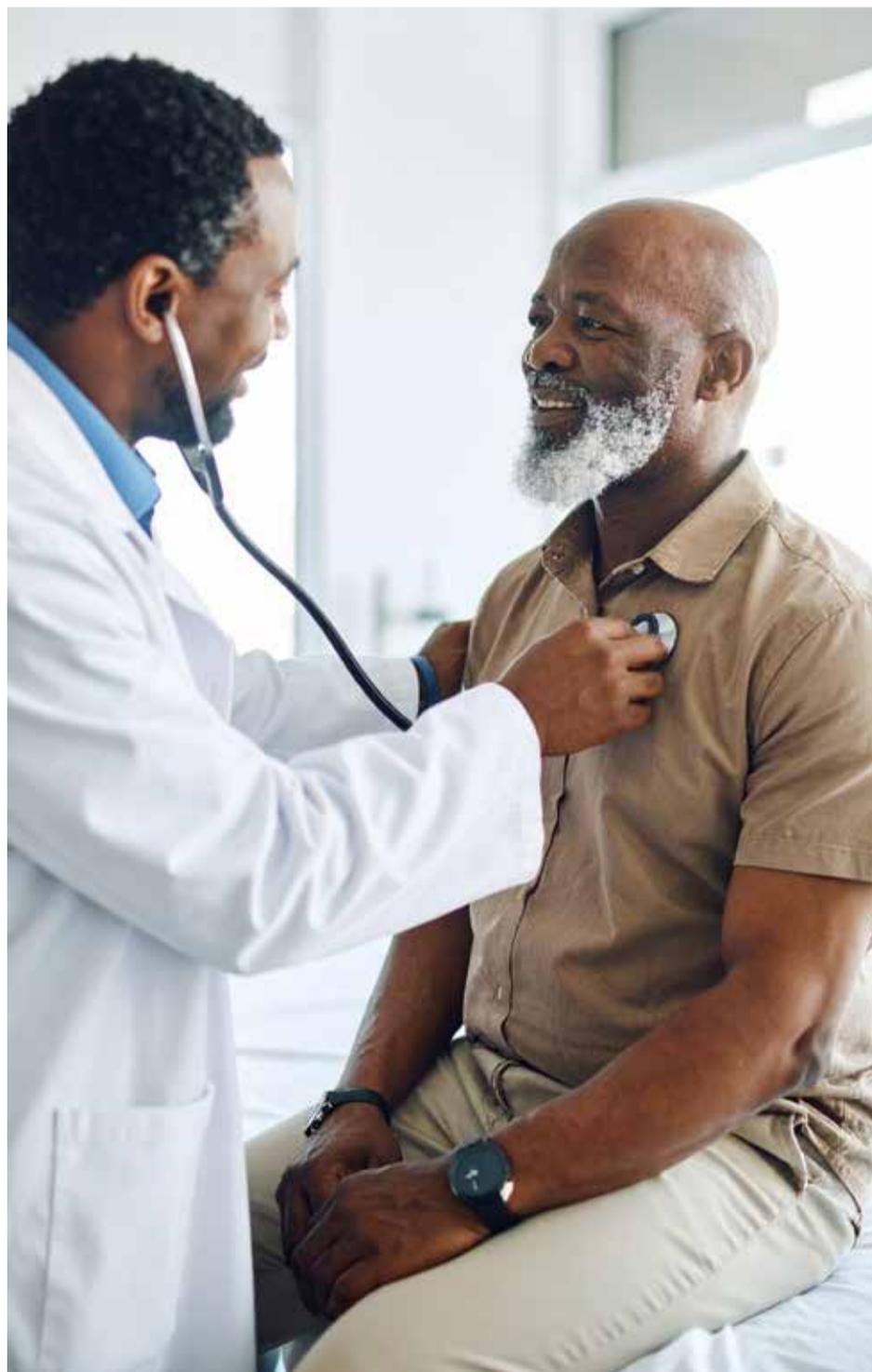
Public-health advocates say tackling social determinants — from food access to housing stability — is critical, particularly for men of color. MDHHS data show African American men still trail white men in life expectancy by roughly seven years (mdch.state.mi.us).

"Every person should be able to reach their full health potential, without facing barriers linked to race or ethnicity, gender identity, education, income, location or other social factors," the state proclamation reads (michigan.gov).

How readers can act today

- Schedule screenings: Ask a primary-care provider about cholesterol, blood-pressure, diabetes and cancer checks appropriate for your age.
- Move more: Aim for 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week — even a daily 20-minute walk cuts heart-disease risk.
- Talk it out: If stress or sadness lingers more than two weeks, consider a mental-health professional or call/text 988.
- Know family history: Share it with your doctor; genetics influence prostate- and colon-cancer risk.

More Men's Health Month resources, including local event calendars and a free digital health checklist, are available at men'shealthmonth.org and on the state's Men's Health Month page.



A PATIENT DURING A ROUTINE CHECKUP. (FILE PHOTO)

EDUCATION

Educator teaches life lessons



PRINCE ROBERTSON DELIVERS THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT BRIDGEPORT-SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL'S GRADUATION CEREMONY ON JUNE 4, 2025. (PHOTO CREDIT: BIGVISIONS/THOMAS J. SETTLE)

BY MIKE THOMPSON

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Prince Robertson visited home this month to deliver the commencement keynote address at Bridgeport High School, with the credential of dean of students at Illinois Wesleyan University.

One day he dreams of a permanent return in a leadership position at Delta College, where Willie Thompson and John Pugh mentored him toward the status he has attained in the field of higher education.

Robertson doesn't describe himself as a bad kid. He simply liked to hang out, sometimes drink and smoke weed, have fun and hoop. Basketball was his passion above all else, including academics, to the point where he had to make up a year at Saginaw

High, graduating a year late in 2000 instead of on schedule in 1999.

That's when he found both Delta and his future bride, the former Mallory Craion. His juco basketball coach was Flinnoia Hall, now principal at Bridgeport High, who invited him to the 2025 graduation ceremony. After Delta, his hardcourt career closed but his studies had only just begun, peaking with a master's in higher education administration from Southern Illinois University and then a Ph.D from the University of Illinois.

Robertson's mother, Dolores Grant, is an immigrant from Guyana and the former long-time cook from when The Neighb still was called Neighborhood House. She moved her family, with Prince age 13 at the time, from New York City's West Harlem

to Saginaw in pursuit of slower-paced surroundings for her children. The family of five resided on Simoneau Street then Daniels Heights, and Prince attended the newly built Central Middle during the early 1990s, where his major "course of study" was basketball on the then-trendy carpeted gymnasium floor.

His flunking a year at The High was one reason for forming "a chip on my shoulder" that drove his dedication to aim higher. Another was the 1999 shooting death of best friend and SHS classmate Daniel Smothers, which always will remain a scar no matter how much his life has changed.

At Delta, Thompson brought perspectives of sociology and shared love for basketball, while Pugh's background was a Deep South upbringing. Robertson not

only held them as role models; he wanted in his future to do what they did. His aim became to become an educator, especially of service to students with struggles.

"I knew I could perform the (academic) work, so it was simply a matter of applying myself," he recalls.

Hall recalls 25 years ago as though it was yesterday,

"Prince's life story is one that can be described as 'a rose that grows in concrete,'" he says. "I watched him as he struggled in high school, and later challenged him as his college basketball coach because I wanted him to know that failure was not an option and I wasn't accepting any excuses... just positive results. With all his challenges, I believe that I am one of few people who has not been surprised by all his accomplishments, and that he now assists others with being great!"

A key to Robertson's turnaround was year-long training and coursework through the Saginaw African American Leadership Institute. Jimmy Greene, coordinator, says, "Prince was in the first cohort class. He not only excelled in the leadership program, he went even further and pledged Kappa Alpha Psi to further enhance and utilize his skills."

A higher ed couple

With their oldest son Jeremiah in tow, Prince and Mallory continued their higher education to post-graduate levels until Prince landed his position at Illinois Wesleyan. Bloomington is a college town of 80,000 with Black, Latino and Asian popula-

**Continues on pg 37,
Robertson**

EDUCATION

Continues from pg 36, Robertson

tions that each are near the 10 percent range. Demographics are similar at the private small college of 1,600 students, but greater diversity remains a goal, and Robertson's full job title is "dean of students for community standards and advocacy."

Their younger children are Isaiah and Danielle, and the family home near the campus is a neighborhood (and Facebook) showcase, with the father maintaining a meticulously-edged lawn that would be the envy of any golf course. He mows the yard in artistic rows and studies which treatments to apply at proper times of the season.

"Some in spring, some in

fall," he explains. In addition to a metaphor for his service to students, the yardwork provides his time for the quiet and peaceful contemplation that his mother pursued with the move to Saginaw three decades ago.

New York City remains his birthplace, evidenced by his faithful Knicks' NBA fandom, but Saginaw is the place where he dreams of making a return. He would be a vice-president at Delta, because his main area of interest remains serving the types of students in shoes similar to his own, and Mallory (a Nouvel Catholic Central grad) would establish her own private social work practice.

Robertson told the Bridgeport grads: "Some of you didn't know if you would make it. And that feeling I know all too well. See, I remember being in your REAL seat. I remember what it felt like to be distracted, lost, and at times, hopeless. From the 9th grade, all the way to the 12th, that ain't no easy walk in the park! Not always having the best of whatever, like shoes and clothes, I know the anxiety that may have brought about. Not always seeing eye to eye with that teacher. Having to deal with folks' overall ignorance and things outside of your control."

He continued: "I'm here standing before you all today,

not because I got it right the first time, but because I refused to give up. And tonight, I want to leave you with three points that I leaned on then and now."

His trio of maxims is

- Never repeat history; reinvent it.
- Do it for yourself.
- Find your calling,

Robertson concluded, "Don't get stuck. That job in retail or fast food? That's only temporary. Stack your money. Build your skills. Plot your next move. Design your life."



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER PRINCE ROBERTSON PICTURED WITH BRIDGEPORT-SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FLINNOIA HALL III DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY ON JUNE 4, 2025. (PHOTO CREDIT: BIGVISIONS/THOMAS J. SETTLE)



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EDUCATION

Visiting campuses in the summer



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

Summer is a great time to visit college campuses. With flexible schedules, summer weather, and fewer crowds, the summer months offer unique opportunities to explore and learn more about potential colleges. There are many strategies for visiting campuses effectively, and today I will highlight three that are worth considering.

1. Explore the website first

Start with the college or uni-

versity website. These are often packed with helpful information, including how to schedule a campus visit. Many now include a virtual campus tour—a highlight reel that shows the layout of the school, key facilities, and student perspectives. These tours are typically short, crisp, and often led by students themselves. A virtual visit costs nothing and serves as an efficient first step in exploring a college.

2. Take a walking tour

When the weather is favorable, as it often is in the summer, a walking tour can be both enjoyable and insightful. These walks may be organized by the admissions office or done on your own. Either way, getting your “feet on the ground” helps provide a feel for the physical layout and atmosphere of the campus. Along the way, informal conversations

with students or staff can offer insights into the campus environment and culture.

3. Join a group visit

Many colleges offer scheduled group tours during the summer. These events are excellent opportunities to meet other prospective students and families. Group visits usually include sessions on academic programs, scholarship opportunities, and student life. Often, one hears firsthand stories of success from current students or recent graduates, which can help you envision your own journey.

Bonus: Check Out Summer Programs

In addition to tours, many colleges host summer programs for high school students. These can range from academic enrich-

ment to athletic and artistic experiences. Though many of these programs fill quickly, it's worth checking the school's website for open spots—you might find an opportunity still available.

Summer can be the perfect season to explore what your future might look like on campus. Whether online, on foot, or in a group—every visit is a step closer to finding the right fit.



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Hemlock schools win national PR award for millage-renewal campaign



HEMLOCK HIGH SCHOOL, 733 N HEMLOCK RD, HEMLOCK, MI 48626

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Hemlock Public School District has earned the National School Public Relations Association's 2025 Golden Achievement Award for a communications blitz that reversed a failed tax vote and secured \$1.8 million a year for district operations.

Superintendent Don Killingbeck and communications specialist Joy McMillan led the revamped outreach after voters rejected renewal of the dis-

trict's non-homestead operating millage in February 2024. Their strategy relied on student-centered images, plain-language finance explainers and one-to-one conversations that highlighted how the levy supports staffing, athletics and extracurriculars. The measure passed on Aug. 6, 2024.

"This recognition reflects the dedication and adaptability of our entire team," Killingbeck said. "Clarity is the key. By focusing on transparent communication and community involvement, we were able to convey the

importance of the millage renewal for our students' education."

Board President Matt Wesener praised the district's emphasis on two-way dialogue: "Our commitment to excellence in communication ensures that everyone is well-informed and engaged. We want all community members to understand that their voice has the power to make a significant difference to the district."

The non-homestead millage taxes businesses and second homes— not primary residences— and cannot be replaced by other revenue streams. Without

renewal, officials said programs and services would have faced deep cuts.

McMillan, who designed the campaign's visuals, called the award "a reflection of the collaboration, strategy and heart that went into supporting our community" and said she hopes sharing lessons learned will help other districts succeed.

Hemlock administrators will receive the award at NSPRA's national seminar in Washington, D.C., in July.

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5 People	\$75,300	\$150,600	9 People	\$119,300	\$238,600

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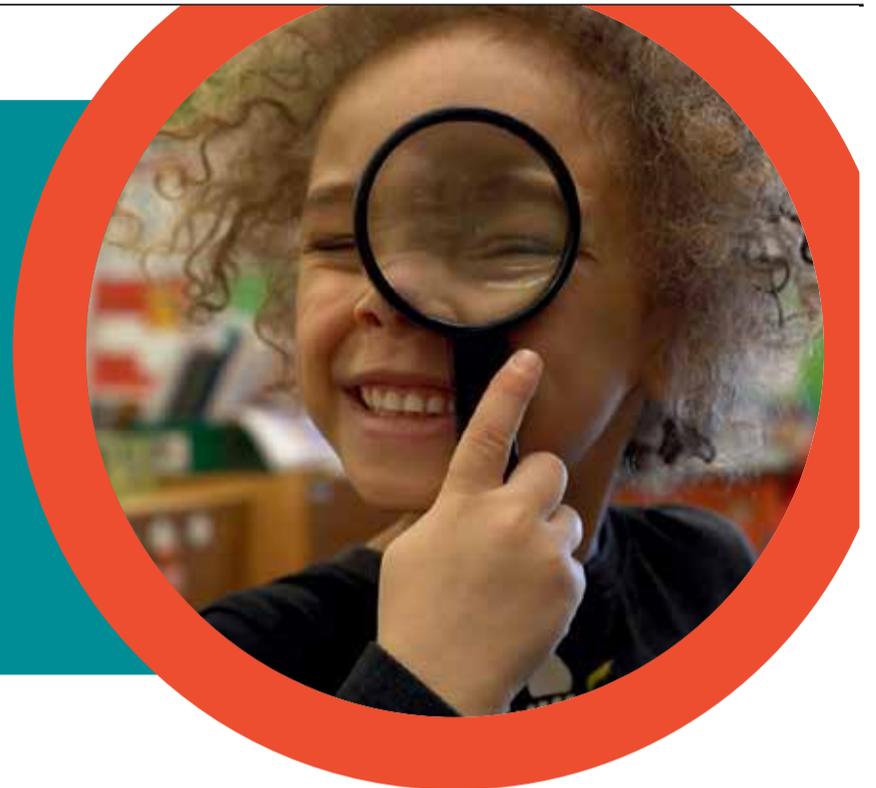
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Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

BUSINESS + FINANCE

Small-business owners invited to 'Grow on the Bridge' networking night in Flint

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — Genesee County entrepreneurs will gather this month at General Motors Factory One for "Grow on the Bridge," an evening designed to link emerging companies with local resources and peers.

The free event — scheduled for 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26, at 303 W. Water St. — is presented by the Flint & Genesee Small Business Support Hub, part of the Flint & Genesee Business Bridge, and is underwritten by Huntington Bank.



Karena Hamlet

"Our team is committed to ensuring that our small-business community has the support they need to make their business successful," said Karena Hamlet, program director of business services for the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance.

What attendees can expect

- **Resource panel:** Representatives from the Small Business Support Hub, Latinx Technology & Community Center, Michigan Black Business Alliance and East Michigan APEX Accelerator will outline financing, procurement and technical-assistance options.
- **The Entrepreneur's Chair:** Business Bridge members will share firsthand stories of growing their ventures and tapping local support.

- **Open networking:** Participants may meet with partners — including DOXA Development, Metro Community Development and the Michigan Small Business Development Center — before and after the panels. Dinner will be catered by Business Bridge culinary members.

Hamlet said the lineup reflects a deliberate effort to put many support agencies under one roof. "For this year's annual

Business Bridge event, we wanted to have multiple partners together to showcase how we work with businesses, as well as hear from the business owners that have taken advantage of these services," she said.

Launched in 2022, the Flint & Genesee Business Bridge serves businesses and entrepreneurs from historically marginalized communities, offering an online directory and a platform for business-to-business connections and requests for proposals. Details on how to use those tools will be highlighted during the

program.

Registration is required and seating is limited. To reserve a spot, visit developflintandgenesee.org/event/grow-on-the-bridge-an-evening-of-connection.

The Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, a division of the Flint & Genesee Group, leads economic-development efforts county-wide by providing resources to companies of all sizes and promoting the region's workforce and sites to prospective employers. For more information, visit flintandgenesee.org.



BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING (FILE PHOTO)

Team One Credit Union charts downtown Saginaw expansion with three-story headquarters



ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF THE PLANNED THREE-STORY, 28,000-SQUARE-FOOT TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION HEADQUARTERS IN DOWNTOWN SAGINAW. (COURTESY OF AKA ARCHITECTS)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Construction crews are scheduled to break ground in August on a 28,000-square-foot headquarters that will relocate Team One Credit Union's hub a few blocks south in downtown Saginaw and cap the cooperative's 90th-anniversary year.

The three-story project, designed by AKA Architects and managed by Ronnisch Construction Group, will house a full-service retail branch, open-plan offices, collaboration zones and wellness amenities for roughly 100 employees. Plans also call for a 2,400-square-foot community room to host public meetings, financial-literacy classes and civic programs.

"This new headquarters is more than a building. It's a symbol of our promise to our members, our employees and our community," Chief Executive Officer **Derrick Barber** said in a statement.

Team One will maintain normal operations during the build. Once staff move into the new structure, the existing headquarters will be demolished and con-

verted into a public plaza with green space.

Board Chair **Rebecca Sanchez** called the expansion "a powerful reflection of our longstanding presence in the communities we serve." A formal groundbreaking ceremony is slated for August; the credit union will announce the date in the coming weeks.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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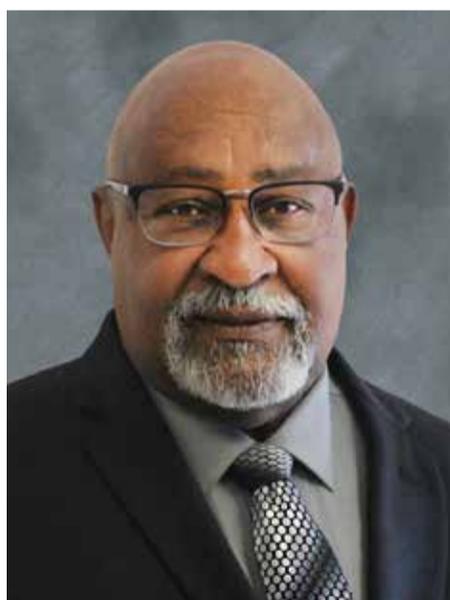
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

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.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Community Outreach Festival to bring family fun to Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Pony rides, bounce houses and backyard-style barbecue will fill the parking lot of New Birth Missionary Baptist Cathedral on July 12 when Parishioners on Patrol Saginaw hosts its annual Community Outreach Festival.

The free, family-oriented event is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church, 3121 Sheridan Ave. Organizers promise “food & fun for everyone,” with games, raffles and resource tables aimed at connecting residents with local nonprofits and public-safety groups.

“Our goal is to create a day of fellowship that reaches every corner of the neighborhood,” said Bishop Larry Camel, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Cathedral and one of the festival’s coordinators.

Camel and current Saginaw Mayor Pro Tem Amos O’Neal co-founded Parishioners on Patrol in 2006 as a faith-based effort to curb crime and violence in the city. Nearly two decades later, the organization still works alongside churches, law enforcement and social-service agencies to strengthen ties between residents and community resources.

This year’s festival is sponsored by Saginaw County ALPACT, Walmart of Saginaw (Bay Road), Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, McDonald Auto Group, Guided Graces, Mid-State Health Network and Molina Healthcare, among others.

For more information, contact Camel at 989-798-6405.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Festival

11 AM - 5 PM

JULY 12, 2025

@ NEW BIRTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CATHEDRAL
3121 SHERIDAN AVENUE, SAGINAW, MI 48601

FOOD & FUN FOR EVERYONE!
Horseback Rides, Bounce House, Games, Raffles & More!

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- PARISHIONERS ON PATROL SAGINAW
- Walmart of Saginaw (Bay Road)
- MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA
- MSHN Mid-State Health Network
- MCDONALD AUTO GROUP
- MOLINA HEALTHCARE
- Guided Graces

For More Information, Please Call Pastor Larry Camel at (989) 798-6405

FAITH IN FOCUS

Campus Comfort Room opens its doors to offer free social hub for Saginaw residents

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — World Outreach Campus Church is inviting area residents to drop in for conversation, games and light refreshments through its new Campus Comfort Room, a twice-weekly social program designed to combat isolation and build community.

The gathering space at 2405 Bay St. will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1–3 p.m., with free admission.

Visitors can expect “daily engaging activities,” complimentary snacks and a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere. The initiative is sponsored by the Saginaw Faith Collaborative, Community Alliance for the People and the Michigan Health Improvement Alliance.

World Outreach Campus Church, led by Senior Pastor Bishop Hurley J. Coleman Jr., hopes the Comfort Room will become a neighborhood meeting point for seniors, caregivers and anyone seeking fellowship during the afternoon hours.

For more information, call 989-752-2955.




WORLD OUTREACH CAMPUS CHURCH
Bishop Hurley J. Coleman Jr. Senior Pastor

CAMPUS COMFORT ROOM

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Daily Engaging Activities
- ✓ Free Snacks Provided
- ✓ Welcoming & Inclusive
- ✓ Atmosphere
- ✓ **FREE ADMISSION**

EVERY TUES. & THURS.
TIME: 1-3PM

SPONSORED BY:



Saginaw Faith Collaborative



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLE

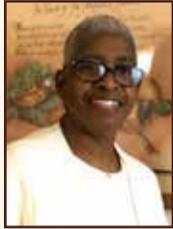


Michigan Health Improvement Alliance

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE **MICHIGAN HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE**

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT: 989-752-2955 2405 Bay St, Saginaw Mi 48602

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



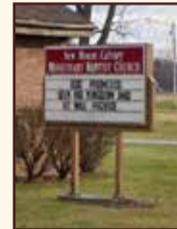
Faith Ministries Church

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



New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry

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



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



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FUNDRAISING GOOD TIMES

Leaders let leaders lead

BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

What makes a good leader? We offer one criterion: leaders let leaders lead. Leaders surround themselves with other leaders: talented people who possess skills that complement theirs; people with diverse perspectives on how to achieve a goal; individuals with technical expertise; volunteers with relationships; and more. A good leader provides other leaders with the opportunity to fulfill their responsibilities without micromanaging. Good leaders are supportive and questioning, wanting team members to advance their goals while looking out for potential challenges. Good leaders provide guidance, open doors, and help secure the resources that team members require.

As “the” leader – either a CEO, president, executive, board chair, or volunteer leader consider the following as ways to create a comfort zone for your team. First, look at yourself. Are you trustworthy? Do you respect the work of others? Can you “stay in your lane” and not micromanage the work of others? Are you honest, transparent, and accountable? Do you know when to take a back seat and let others experience the limelight? Are you able to admit when you are wrong, or don’t have a full understanding of a situation? Are you able to be both a leader and a team player, balancing both roles? Are you patient? Can you listen when you



FILE PHOTO

feel people are talking too much or taking too long? These are internal qualities we encourage you to develop. They will help you attract and build a team of leaders who lead.

As you build your team, take time to recruit the right people, whether a volunteer or a paid professional. Consider what you want each leader to accomplish. Document the roles and responsibilities you would like this person to fulfill, along with the impact you are hoping they can make. Share these with them before or during your first meeting. Talk with them individually, listen to why they want to be involved, and how they would like to contribute. Ask about their experiences and track record. Share with them your expectations, including working from an agreed-upon timeline and action plan, and your accessibility – how you are available to assist in develop-

ing alternate plans when needed.

When it comes to leading in the area of fundraising, you need to know the organization’s goals, vision, and fundraising priorities inside and out. You also need a working knowledge of fundraising. If you don’t have that, you won’t be able to evaluate the suggestions and ideas that others put forward. Invest time in a fundraising coach, online learning sessions, or talk with peers on how to increase your understanding of this critical and complex function.

In all cases, get to know your team members. What makes them happy? What are their top talents? What triggers their negativity? Be sensitive to each person’s strengths, shortcomings, and insecurities and generous with praise and acknowledgment. Keep everyone informed as things happen. Just a line or two – or sometimes a paragraph! – can make all the difference. You want your team members to know what’s going on, and you want to keep lines of communication open. God protect America.



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



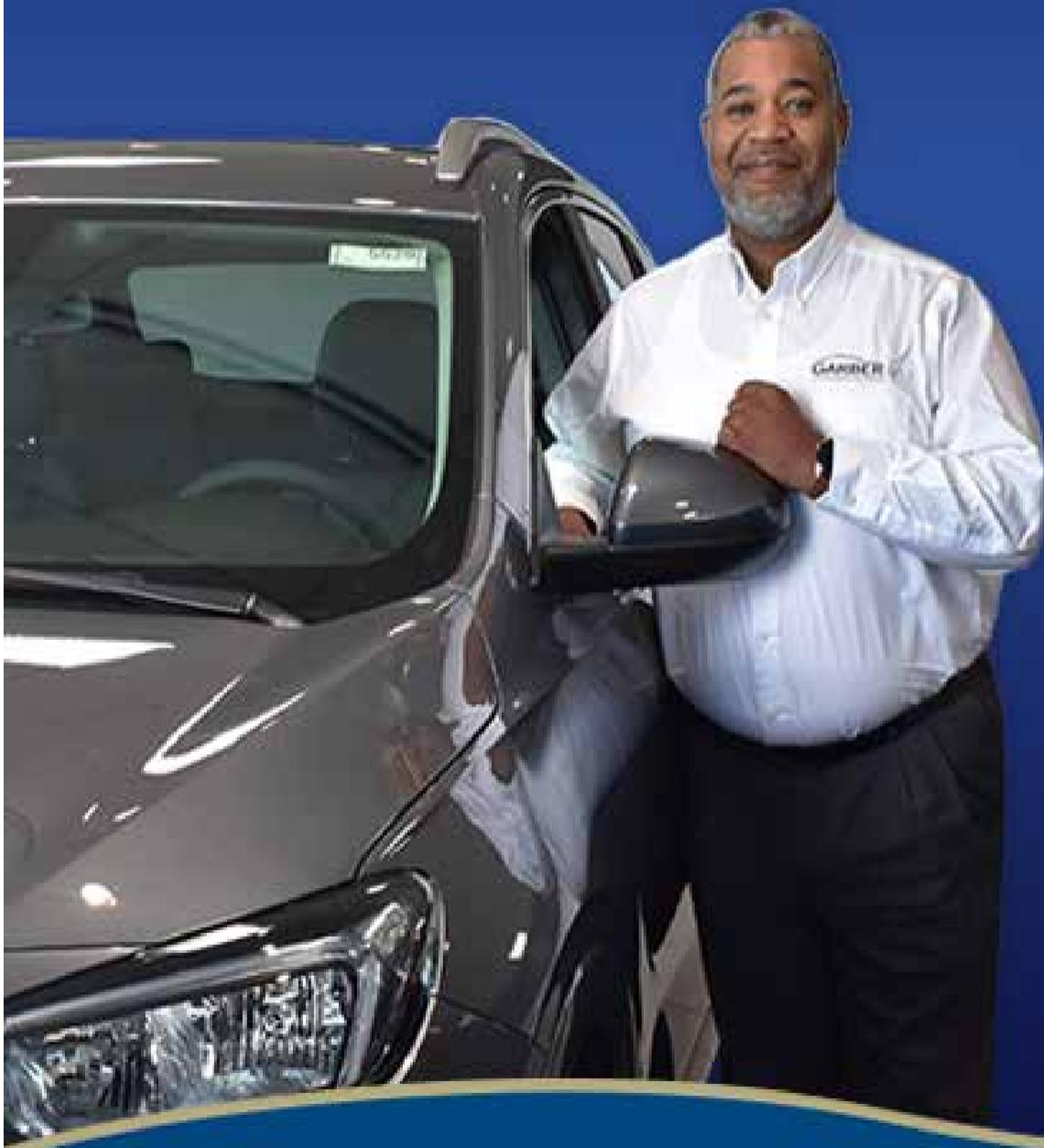
PICS OF THE WEEK

On Sunday, June 15, Midland held its annual Juneteenth Block Party at Creative 360 where hundreds of community members gathered to enjoy vendors, soul food, music and cultural exhibits.



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



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