



The Michigan Banner

Celebrating Diversity, Empowering Communities



PICS OF THE WEEK
Saginaw County Animal Care and Control Center grand opening

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An original voice on Saginaw radio passes on

COMMUNITY, PG 15

SVSU and Mary Free Bed partner to expand educational access for healthcare employees



FROM LEFT: GEORGE GRANT, JR, PRESIDENT OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, AND JOE PISELLI, PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL REHABILITATION AT MARY FREE BED AT COVENANT, SHAKE HANDS TO MARK THEIR AGREEMENT TO OFFER TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS TO MARY FREE BED EMPLOYEES WHO ATTEND SVSU. (PHOTO CREDIT: SVSU)



Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity names Abbey Stemple as new Executive Director

COMMUNITY, PG 20



Debra Wyatt-McCain named Saginaw United's first Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year

EDUCATION, PG 35

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — A new partnership between Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital is expanding access to higher education for healthcare professionals while strength-

ening Michigan's talent pipeline.

The agreement allows eligible Mary Free Bed employees to receive a tuition scholarship when enrolling in SVSU's undergraduate, graduate, or certificate programs. In addition to the scholarship, Mary Free Bed will offer tuition reimburse-

ment for qualifying employees, further easing the financial burden of continued education.

"Building and strengthening the talent pool for Michigan employers is one

CONTINUES ON PG. 2, SVSU, MARY FREE BED

FEATURED STORY

Corning expands solar manufacturing in Saginaw County with \$1.5 B investment

BUSINESS, PG 44



Cover story, SVSU, Mary Free Bed

of SVSU's chief priorities," said George Grant Jr., president of SVSU. "Through this partnership with Mary Free Bed, both organizations will help deliver a better experience to the communities we serve."

The collaboration aligns with SVSU's broader mission of fostering workforce development and professional growth across the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. By offering accessible educational pathways, the university aims to help working adults gain the credentials and expertise needed in high-demand fields—particularly within healthcare.

"This program will provide our team members access to seek out higher education," said Joe Piselli, program director of internal rehabilitation at Mary Free Bed at Covenant. "SVSU offers many high-quality programs that will allow for clinical expertise to be developed and obtained right here in our region."

Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital is a nationally recognized leader in physical rehabilitation, with over 2,300 employees at more than 60 locations across Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Virginia.

Information regarding application procedures and tuition benefit details will be shared directly with Mary Free Bed employees through internal communication channels.



**THIS DAY IN
MICHIGAN
HISTORY**

MAY 1, 1948

On May 1, 1948, President John A. Hannah of Michigan State College formally presented a charter to Alpha Phi Alpha, marking the establishment of the college's first Black social fraternity. The chapter, part of the nation's oldest historically Black fraternity, was led by Herbert Burnett of Detroit, who served as its founding president. This moment was a significant milestone in the university's journey toward greater inclusion and representation.



Charter members of Alpha Phi Alpha, Michigan State College's first Negro fraternity, pose with their official charter following the founding banquet held Saturday, May 1, at the Hotel Olds in Lansing.



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 9



Flint youth can apply for \$100,000 in climate action funding through Bloomberg Philanthropies



FLINT TEENS WHO PARTICIPATED IN A PREVIOUS ROUND OF THE YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND SMILE DURING A PROJECT AIMED AT PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

wide range of project-related expenses, including:

- Supplies, tools, and technology needed to implement climate initiatives
- Venue rentals and materials for community workshops or events
- Permitting fees
- Transportation costs for youth participants
- Promotional content such as photography and videography
- Training or mentorship fees (up to a reasonable amount)
- Administrative sponsorship costs (not exceeding 15% of the grant)

Projects may focus on climate-resilient infrastructure, recycling programs, flood mitigation, sustainable transportation solutions, environmental education, and more.

Ineligible Expenses

Grant funds may not be used for salaries, honorariums, direct family support, rent or utilities, partisan political activity, scholarships, or capital campaigns.

“This program gives young people in Flint a direct seat at the table in tackling the climate crisis,” said city officials. “By investing in their ideas and leadership, we’re also investing in Flint’s sustainable future.”

For more information or to apply, visit mha.org or the City of Flint’s official website.

BY MB STAFF

FLINT — The City of Flint has been awarded a second round of funding through the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund, with \$100,000 earmarked to support youth-led climate projects in the city. The initiative provides microgrants to individuals and organizations engaging youth in meaningful efforts to address climate challenges at the local level.

Building on the success of the first round—during which eight youth-led projects were awarded microgrants—this year’s funding is double the previous amount. Flint will continue to serve as one of dozens of cities worldwide participating in the program, which

is designed to engage youth ages 15 to 24 in developing climate solutions within their own communities.

Mayor Sheldon Neeley announced the award, calling it a significant opportunity for young leaders in Flint to build on past success and expand their impact.

The Youth Climate Action Fund is a global initiative launched by Bloomberg Philanthropies and supported in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University, operating through Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. It offers both technical assistance and financial support to city governments working to empower youth-driven responses to

climate change.

Applications for microgrants are open now and will be accepted until May 5, 2025. Selected projects will receive funding by June, and all projects must be completed by October 31, 2025, with final reports due by November 15, 2025.

Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants include youth ages 15–24, or organizations with programs focused on that age group. Applicants must either meet expenditure compliance requirements or work with a local sponsoring organization. Projects must demonstrate a clear climate focus and be designed for community impact.

Microgrants can be used for a

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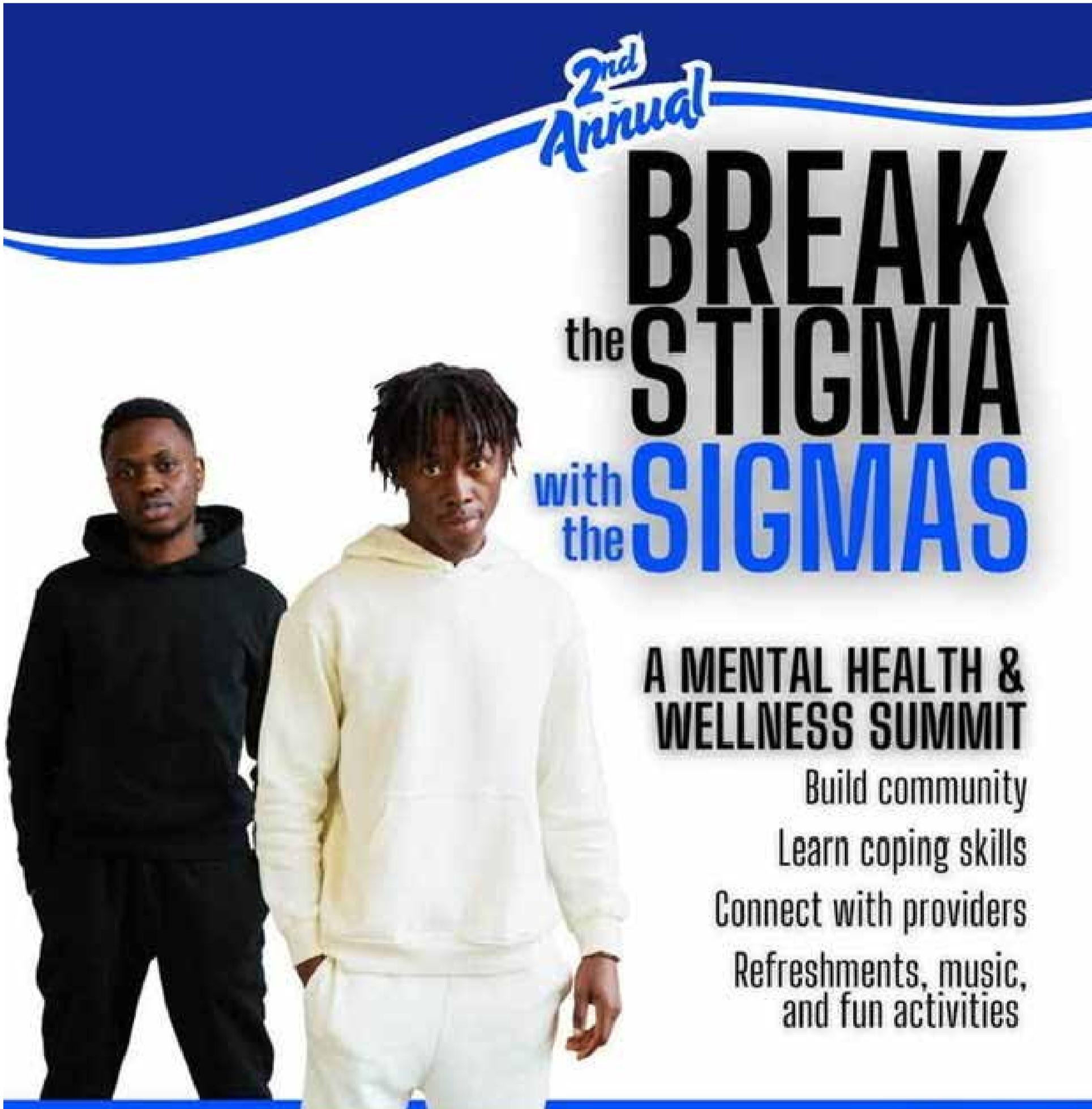
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Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

Latino resource fair highlights heart health in Saginaw

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — With heart disease and stroke ranking among the leading causes of death in Latino communities, the 2025 Latino Community Resource Fair is placing health and prevention at the forefront. Hosted by BWell Saginaw in collaboration with the Mexican American Council and several local partners, this year's free event will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Success Academy, 1000 Tuscola Street in Saginaw.

Designed to support one of Michigan's most at-risk populations, the fair offers attendees access to vital health resources, including free screenings, expert-led discussions, and wellness services aimed at reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

At 12:45 p.m., Dr. Jennifer Romeu of CMU Health will deliver a presentation on heart disease and stroke prevention. Her talk will cover key risk factors, preventive strategies, and community resources that can help individuals manage their health more

effectively.

From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., guests can visit vendor tables offering

a wide range of community services. Free health screenings will be provided by CMU Health and

the CMU Medical Street Team, including blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, and BMI checks.

The event is more than just a health fair—it's also a celebration of wellness. Attendees can enjoy complimentary snacks from East Side Soup Kitchen, free chair massages by Therapeutic Hope, LLC, Alternative Therapy, and Gina's Massage & Spa, and yoga instruction from Prem Yoga. Additional wellness activities and prize giveaways will round out the afternoon.

"This year's focus on heart and stroke prevention is critical for the Latino community," said Joyce Seals, event coordinator. "Everyone needs to know their numbers. Our goal is to provide a space for open discussion, share resources, and empower individuals to take proactive steps to prevent heart disease and strokes."

Seals emphasized that the event is a call to action. "We want people to make a choice to take a chance to change. With the right tools and support, we can take control of our heart health."

The 2025 Latino Community Resource Fair is free and open to the public. Registration opens at noon.

LATINO COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

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



Saginaw

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Parade starts at 10am and heads North on Washington Ave. to Downtown

K? Onda! Cinco de Mayo celebration returns to Saginaw with music, food, and family fun

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Saginaw is gearing up for a high-energy celebration of culture, community, and music as the 3rd Annual K? Onda! Cinco de Mayo Celebration takes over the SVRC Outdoor Pavilion on Monday, May 5, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and this year promises to be the biggest yet.

Headlining the evening is the popular Tejano group La Nueva Onda, along with a special performance by Ramon Lucio—marking their first-ever appearance in Saginaw. Live music will be the centerpiece of a celebration filled with vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors.

The event will also feature a Jalapeño Eating Contest, a Kid's Corner, and a wide array of food and merchandise vendors, offering everything from authentic Mexican cuisine to handcrafted goods.

The celebration is made possible through support from local sponsors including Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, Covenant HealthCare, Labadie Auto, and IMIX, LLC.

The SVRC Outdoor Pavilion is located at 203 S. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI. For more information, contact Miguel Torres at (989) 332-1107.

Whether you're coming for the music, the food, or the family fun, the 2025 K? Onda! Cinco de Mayo Celebration promises a lively evening full of tradition and entertainment in the heart of downtown Saginaw.

FREE!

K? ONDA!

3rd Annual 5 de Mayo Celebration

Monday, May 5, 2025 5:30pm-9pm

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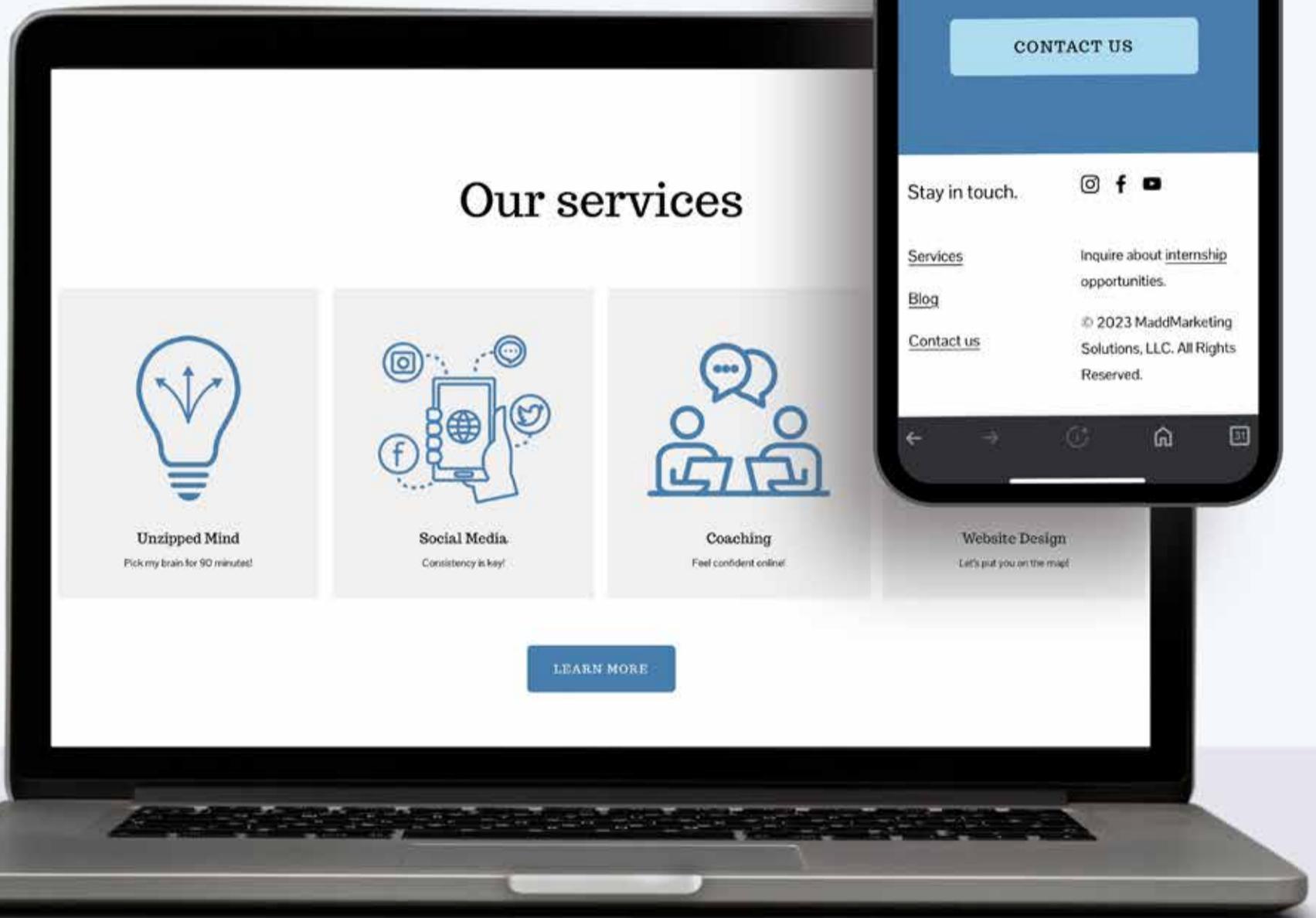
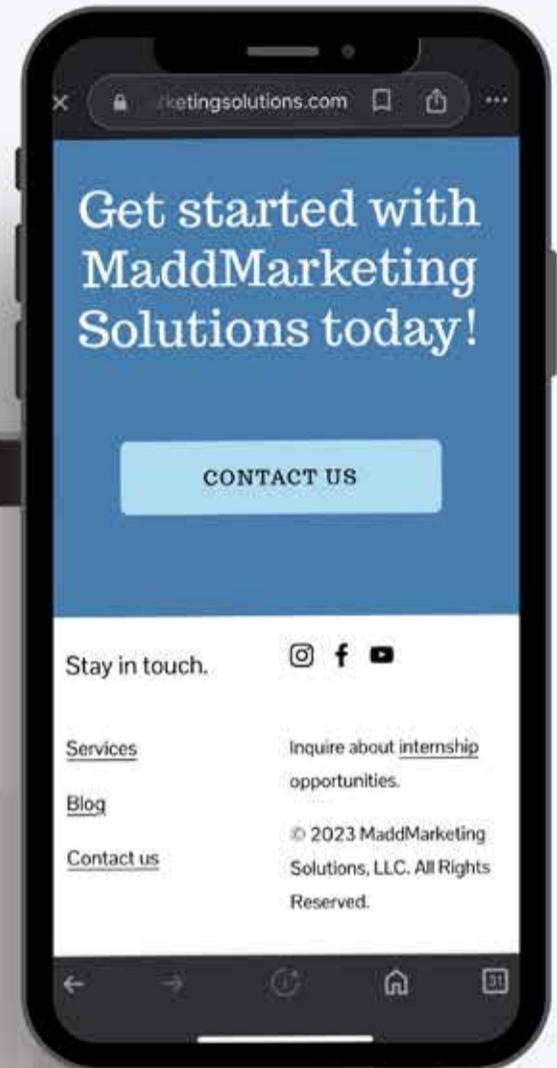
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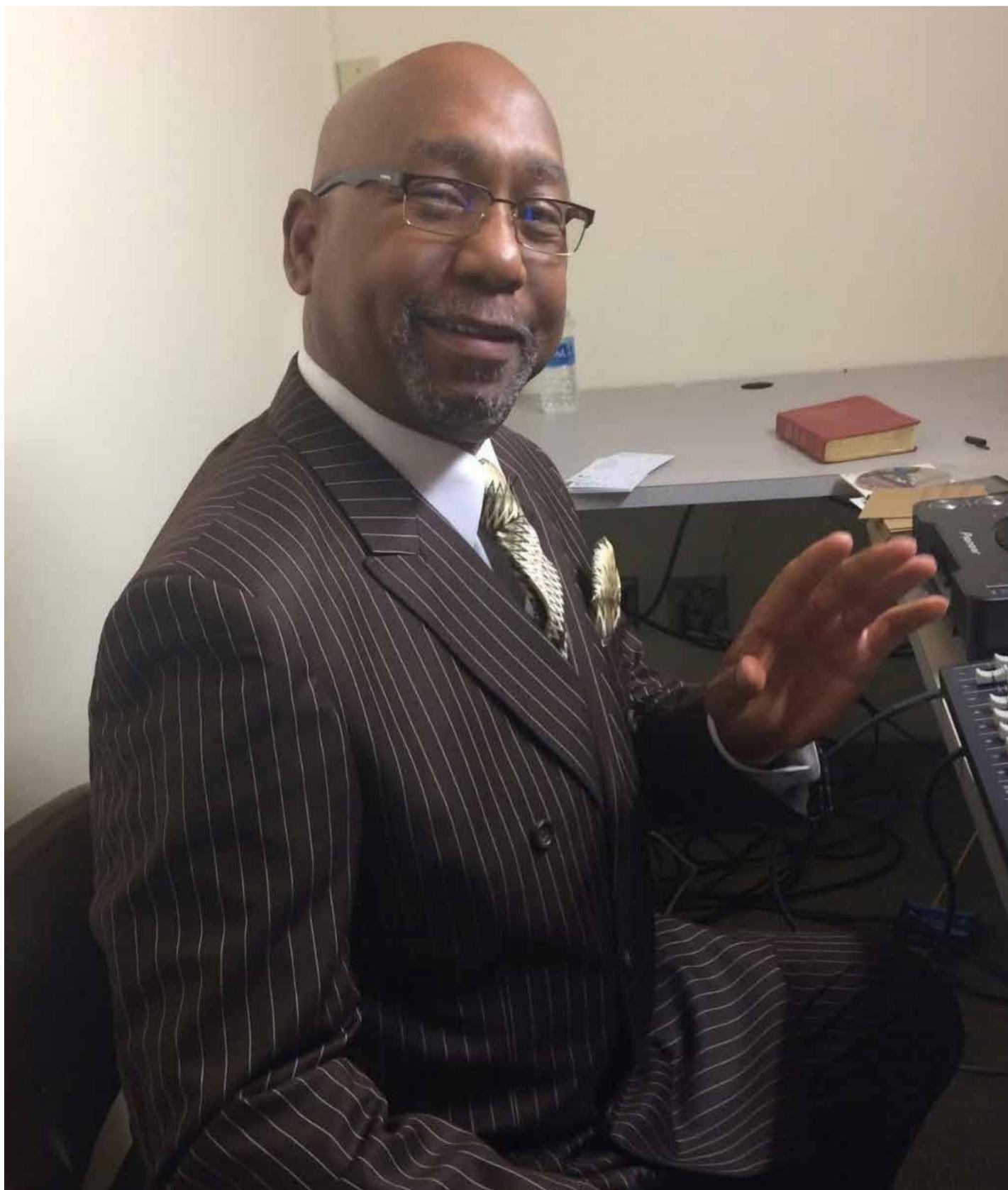
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COMMUNITY

An original voice on Saginaw radio passes on



HERB WILLIAMS

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Herb Williams was one of the original voices when KISS 107 launched nearly

60 years ago as W-3-SOUL.

His style reflected his kind, gentle soul. The basement musical studio in the family's home contained a poster from the De-

troit Jazz Festival. His daughter Elise knows this because when she was little, she would sneak down the steps from time to time.

Upon his recent passing away

at age 70, she reflects, "Dad was a lover of music from the time he was a kid."

Smooth jazz might seem to fit his personality. Smooth and mellow?

Not all the time. Elise says his fave, on the air or at a deejay gig, was the disco era's "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang.

"He had all sorts of stuff in his collection," she says. "People would be surprised!"

Gospel songs were right there in the middle, at the heart, as Herb Williams served to the loyal end as a deacon at Jacob's Ladder Ministries, where memorial services are set for May 9, a Friday, starting at noon.

Pastor Dempsey Allen first encountered Herb during the early 1970s. Dempsey was an Urban League employment recruiter, and Herb was coming out of Saginaw High School. This led Herb to work in the building trades, leading to an eventual career with Dow Chemical. They kept in touch through the years.

Deacons are not normally known as buildings and grounds managers, but Pastor Allen says Herb Williams quietly filled a role.

"If something needed repair, he would do it or he would hire someone, and pay the bill himself, never saying a word and never charging the church."

Gospel lady Vicki Hill also paid tribute: "Herb was my co-worker at WWWS back in the day. I was new to radio and Herb was on before me. I found him to be such a kind person and very knowledgeable when it comes to music and radio. He will be missed and I'm praying for his family."

COMMUNITY

Anti-tax caps push doesn't add up

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — City Hall's current general fund operating budget is \$44 million, a number nearly double the sum of \$24 million in 1979, the year voters enacted property tax caps on the revenue and the rate.

So why do leaders of Restore Saginaw, in support of a referendum to thaw the frozen twin peaks, continue to assert that the city is "living on a 1979 income?" Isn't \$44 million more than \$24 million?

Supporters of canceling the caps refer to the line item for property tax revenue, which indeed has been capped at \$3.8 million for all those years, but this is less than 10 percent of the total spending plan. The remaining 90-plus percent (city income tax, federal/state aid, user fees) is not frozen and has increased year by year.

Even so, Floyd Kloc, the Restore Saginaw chair and former mayor, asserted at the April 21 unveiling that City Hall is stuck with "the same budget it had in 1978." The audience at Andersen Enrichment Center was invited to imagine how they would cope if their total personal finances -- not simply a fraction -- were locked for nearly a half-century, with no boosts for inflation.

It's not like Restore Saginaw doesn't have other facts and figures in their favor. For example, this year's budget, if adjusted to inflation for the past 46 years, would be \$105 million instead of \$44 million. On the flip side, opponents note that the current population of 42,500 is reduced by nearly half of the 1979 headcount, so the budget should be lower per capita. Supporters, in return, point out that there still are the same 300 miles of streets to sweep and to plow, and 600 acres of park land, and so forth.

Bottom line, City Hall is no-



FILE PHOTO

where near suffering to the point of surviving on a 1979 income. A 1999 comparison would be more accurate. Since the turn of the millennium, among major rollbacks:

- Short-staffed city cops must rely on daily state police patrols and backup, along with help from county sheriff's deputies.
- An entire quarter of town, the southeast, lacks its own fire station with the closing on Hess Street, while the housing stock ages with each passing year.
- City recreation, which formerly served thousands and employed hundreds of teens, now relies totally on volunteer time and private funds.

Keep in mind that water/sewer are separate and self-supporting.

Restore Saginaw does not claim that lifting the caps would

reverse all these hardships in the most basic of services, but they aim to make a major dent,

Kloc's background in local leadership begins as city attorney and transitions into local elected office, somewhat similar to retired educators on the school board. He was Brenda Moore's predecessor as mayor before he stepped down in 2020, stating a belief that he could better focus on the tax caps as a private citizen. Five years later, he says "now is the time." The strategy for reversing the failed ballot proposals of the past is for the City Council to express support, but for the front of the campaign to come from a citizen movement that builds momentum.

During the 1980s, city leaders repeatedly asked voters to change their minds on the caps, but this was the cutback era that sparked Ronald Reagan's rise to the presidency. Events go so far back that the original rollback group was named E.T., for Eliminate Tax limits,, while calling to mind the blockbuster movie. After a break during the 1990s,

renewed attempts were voted down during the first decade of the new millennium.

The negative results have confounded city leaders, because voters have not similarly opposed other increases, including a 1980 trash tax (now a fee), a 1989 city income tax increase, and especially a 7.5-mill special assessment for public safety in 2005 that exactly matches the rate that is frozen for general taxation. These levies are the reasons City Hall is not living on a 1979 income.

State Rep. Amos O'Neal, based on his prior experience on the City Council and on the County Board, is backing legislation that would cancel property tax revenue limits in Saginaw and in other Michigan cities. Saginaw could restore 0.8-mill that has been lost to the 1979 revenue cap through the years. This would generate less than \$500,000 per annum. Local voter approval to lift the rate cap likely would add another 2.5 mill for another \$1.6 million.

The cost of training, equipping and paying a single police officer or firefighter is about \$100,000 for the first year. Saginaw was funding recreation to the tune of more than \$1 million annually before the cutbacks took effect.

O'Neal efforts last year fell short of a House vote, even with Democrats in control in Lansing. Now that Republicans have retaken the 2025 House majority, O'Neal faces an even tougher challenge.

The council has not set a date for a referendum, and is on the record at this point only because Michael Balls made a surprise motion at the close of last year that placed members on the spot.

COMMUNITY

Saginaw's "Family Play Dates in the Park" returns with free summer fun for kids and families

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 - 7 PM
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

FAMILY PLAY DATES IN THE PARK

children ages 5 to 13 and will focus on throwing, catching, hitting, and base running drills.

On Saturday, June 28, youth can head to the Saginaw Skate Park on Fordney Street for Skateboarding Day. Led by instructor Shawn Deer, the event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with separate sessions for ages 7 to 12 (10–11:30 a.m.) and ages 13 to 18 (11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.). Space is limited and participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Later in the summer, Tennis and Pickleball Day takes place on Friday, August 8, at the Garber Tennis Courts. The Urban Racquet Sports Foundation will guide youth through the fundamentals of serving, hitting, and court rules. The event runs from 4 to 7 p.m., with ages 7 to 11 scheduled from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and ages 12 to 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. This event also operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

The final event, Free Play Day, will be held on Friday, August 22, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Organized by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, this gathering will feature classic outdoor games like Red Rover, Tag, and Kick the Can, along with access to community resources, school supplies, and sports physicals. Open to youth ages 5 to 18, the event is designed to offer fun, movement, and community engagement in an informal, all-ages setting.

All events require registration, and families are encouraged to sign up early, especially for those with limited capacity. Participants should wear comfortable, active clothing and closed-toe shoes, and bring any necessary equipment such as helmets or baseball gloves, as noted.

For registration and additional details, visit www.saginaw-mi.com/parks.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — This summer, the City of Saginaw is inviting families to step outside, get active, and enjoy quality time in neighborhood parks through a new season of Family Play Dates in the Park. The free outdoor series—geared toward children ages 5 to 18—offers fun, structured opportunities to learn the basics of popular sports, practice teamwork, and participate in

classic games across five themed activity days.

Led by local sports organizations and community partners, each Family Play Date includes coaching, snacks, water, and take-home items like jump ropes, baseballs, or skateboards. The goal is to make physical activity accessible while giving youth the chance to discover new interests and connect with their community.

The program kicks off on Fri-

day, June 6, with Track and Field Day at Saginaw Middle School from 4 to 7 p.m. Led by the Greene ST33L Track Club, youth ages 7 to 18 will learn the fundamentals of running, participate in practice drills, and take part in interactive relays with their families.

Baseball Day follows on Thursday, June 12, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Hoyt Park's Lower Drive. Hosted by the Saginaw Sugar Beets, this event is designed for

COMMUNITY

Consumers Energy rolls out first all-electric bucket truck in Grand Rapids



CONSUMERS ENERGY'S ALL-ELECTRIC BUCKET TRUCK (COURTESY OF CONSUMERS ENERGY)

BY MB STAFF

GRAND RAPIDS — Consumers Energy has introduced its first all-electric bucket truck, now operating in Grand Rapids, as part of the company's broader push toward cleaner energy and a more sustainable transportation future in Michigan.

The heavy-duty vehicle, which will be used for utility maintenance and repairs, is designed to deliver reliable electric service to customers while producing zero tailpipe emissions. The move aligns with the energy provider's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and serve as a model for the growing range of

electric vehicle (EV) applications across the state.

"We continue to see more EVs take to the road in Michigan, and it's interesting to see how they arrive in different forms, from heavy-duty vehicles to school buses, to meet all sorts of needs," said Lauren Snyder, Consumers Energy's vice president of customer experience. "We want to provide an example to our customers who are making their own choices about buying EVs."

The electric bucket truck was built by International Motors and features an Altec boom. It's powered by a fast charger at Consumers Energy's Grand Rapids service center and can travel up to 135 miles on a full charge. The

vehicle will be operated by a specially trained utility crew.

Chris Laird, vice president of electric operations, emphasized that the new vehicle reflects the company's dual priorities of maintaining reliable service while adapting operations to meet sustainability goals. "Our traditional mission to serve customers isn't changing, but we are changing the way we do that work," said Laird. "In this case, that means powering a durable vehicle with zero-emissions energy."

The truck also supports the company's Reliability Roadmap, an ongoing plan to reduce both the frequency and duration of power outages across Michigan.

In addition to greening its

own fleet, Consumers Energy continues to support the EV transition statewide through programs such as PowerMIDrive, which offers rebates for home and public charging stations, and PowerMIFleet, a program that helps businesses electrify their vehicle fleets.

Consumers Energy is Michigan's largest energy provider, delivering electricity and/or natural gas to 6.8 million residents across all 68 counties in the Lower Peninsula.

To learn more about Consumers Energy's electric vehicle initiatives, visit ConsumersEnergy.com.

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ETA UPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER

HATS OFF TO MOM SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

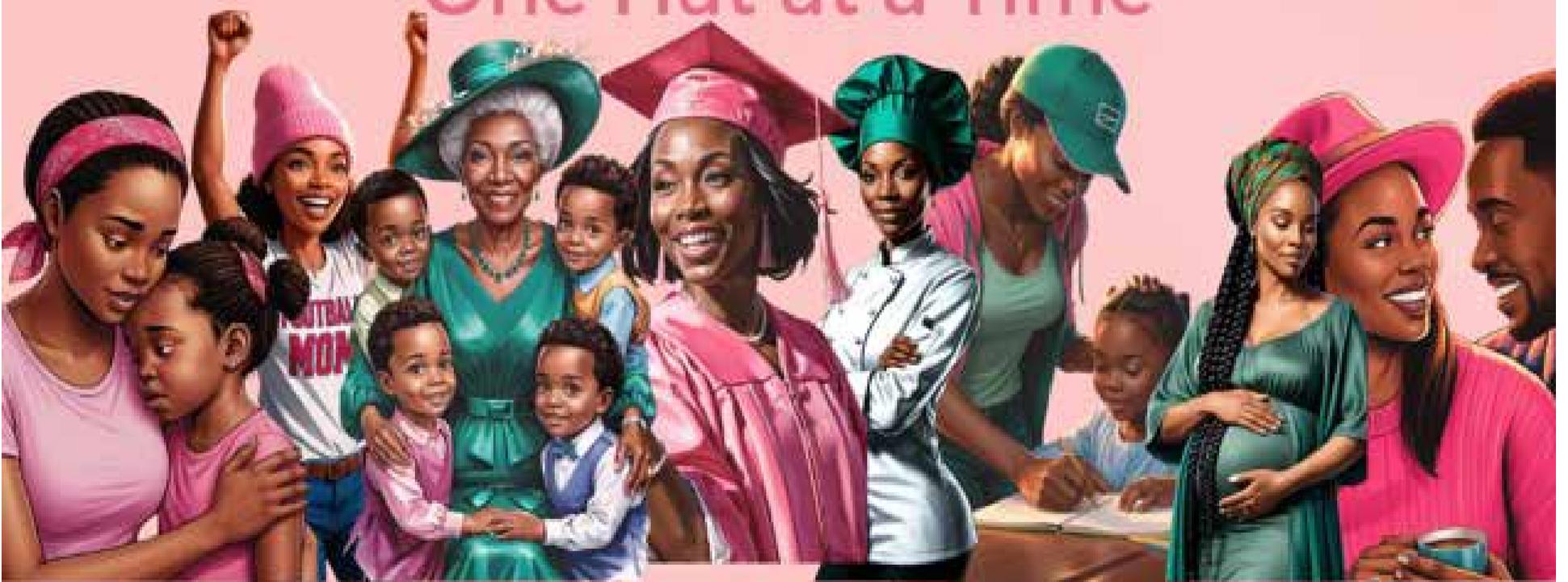
Save the Date

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

11AM

Standing on Business

Nurturing Dreams & Securing Futures,
One Hat at a Time



COMMUNITY

Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity names Abbey Stemple as new Executive Director

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Abbey Stemple as the organization's new Executive Director. The announcement was made by Board President Jamie Forbes, who praised Stemple's experience, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the nonprofit's mission.

"Abbey's deep commitment to our mission, her strategic insight, and her ability to build strong community partnerships make her the ideal leader for this next chapter of Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity," said Forbes. "The Board is confident that Abbey will continue to drive impactful growth and innovation while staying rooted in the values that have guided this organization for nearly four decades."

Stemple becomes the sixth person to serve as Executive Director in the affiliate's 38-year history. She succeeds a legacy that began with Herb Spence Jr., the organization's founding leader, who left his family-owned company, Spence Brothers, to serve as Habitat's first full-time volunteer director.

Prior to this appointment, Stemple served as the Director of Neighborhood Initiatives and Grant Compliance, where she led the expansion of the Neighborhood Revitalization program, including a successful partnership with Covenant HealthCare. She originally joined the organization as a member of the Board of Directors and brings experience in education and social work to her new role. Stemple also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Social Work & Youth Services at Saginaw Valley State University, where she



ABBEY STEMPL

earned her Master of Social Work degree.

"I am incredibly humbled and honored to serve as the new Executive Director of Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity," said Stemple. "It's a privilege to step into this role knowing the real and urgent housing needs families face in our communities. Every day, I'm reminded that a safe, stable home is the foundation for so much more: health, opportunity, dignity, and hope."

Founded in 1986, Saginaw-

Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated over 272 homes and provided critical repairs, weatherization, and home preservation services to more than 750 households across Saginaw and Shiawassee counties. The affiliate operates under the umbrella of Habitat for Humanity International, which works in over 70 countries and has helped more than 3 million families globally since its founding in 1976.

As the organization prepares

for upcoming home builds and revitalization projects, Habitat is calling for both skilled and unskilled volunteers to support efforts throughout the year. Immediate needs include helpers for the Tuesday/Thursday Crew and volunteers for the June Neighborhood Revitalization program.

To donate, volunteer, or learn more about Habitat's local impact, contact the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity office at (989) 753-5200 or visit sshfh.org.

Applications open for 2025 LPGA Leadership Academy

BY MB STAFF

FREELAND — The Dow Championship, in partnership with the LPGA Foundation, is now accepting applications for the 2025 LPGA Leadership Academy, set to take place July 28–29 at Apple Mountain Resort in Freeland, Michigan.

The academy is designed for girls ages 13 to 18 who are interested in developing their leadership potential while learning the fundamentals of golf. The two-day event combines classroom-based lessons on teamwork, confidence, and personal growth with interactive golf activities led by LPGA-certified professionals from across the country.

Participants will engage in structured learning sessions covering topics such as decision-making, communication, and goal-setting. These lessons are brought to life on the golf course, where students apply what they've learned through team-oriented drills and creative challenges tailored to all skill levels.

A highlight of the experience is the executive lunch panel on day two, featuring four female executives from Dow who will share their personal stories—from high school through college and into their careers. The informal format allows attendees to ask candid questions and gain real-world insight from women in leadership roles.

Applications are due by May 5, 2025. Space is limited, and selected participants will be notified ahead of the program start date.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.girlsgolf.org/leadership-academy/michigan2025>.

Saginaw Community Foundation earns national re-accreditation for philanthropic excellence

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Community Foundation has once again received national recognition for its commitment to excellence in philanthropy, achieving re-accreditation through the National Standards for Community Foundations—the highest benchmark in the field. Originally accredited in 2006, the foundation has maintained its standing for nearly two decades.

The designation, awarded by the Community Foundations National Standards Board, affirms that the foundation upholds best practices in transparency, integrity, and accountability across all areas of operation—from donor services and investments to governance and grantmaking.

“Meeting the National Standards benchmarks is a rigorous, comprehensive process,” said Austin Dickson, president of the National Standards Board. “This accreditation is a significant accomplishment that indicates the Saginaw Community Foundation demonstrates a commitment to transparency, quality, integrity, and accountability as it carries out its mission.”

The accreditation requires documented compliance with a comprehensive set of policies and procedures, ensuring donors and their advisors can have full confidence in the foundation's operations and stewardship. More than 500 community foundations across the United States have earned the distinction.

“This is critically impor-



SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, 1 TUSCOLA ST #100B, SAGINAW, MI



RENEE JOHNSTON

tant to our donors,” said Renee Johnston, president and CEO of the Saginaw Community Foundation. “When people make a charitable bequest or establish a fund, they're placing a great deal of trust in us. The National Standards accreditation confirms that our house is in order and we're managing those resources responsibly.”

The foundation manages a wide range of charitable funds, giving donors the

flexibility to support specific causes, nonprofit organizations, or evolving community needs. In addition to donor services, the accreditation also validates the foundation's grantmaking practices, ensuring they are fair, strategic, and community-focused.

“Grantmaking is a lot like investing,” Johnston added. “We assess risks, diversify our support, monitor outcomes, and aim for meaningful returns—in this case, social impact. Accreditation confirms that we're doing this work with care and professionalism.”

As community foundations navigate increasing regulatory scrutiny at both state and federal levels, the National Standards program provides an added layer of quality assurance, reinforcing public trust and promoting long-term impact.

For more information about the Saginaw Community Foundation's work or how to get involved, visit saginaw-foundation.org.

COMMUNITY

From garden to ice cream cone

Michigan Sugar and Boys & Girls Clubs launch edible mint project



MICHIGAN SUGAR AGRONOMISTS SHOW YOUTHS AT THE SAGINAW STONE CLUB THE BEST METHOD FOR PLANTING SEEDS IN STARTER TRAYS.

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — This summer, a new white chocolate-peppermint ice cream flavor will carry more than just a refreshing taste—it will also carry the hard work of local youth gardeners. Through a hands-on collaboration with Michigan Sugar Company, members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region are cultivating mint plants as part of an Edible Education initiative connecting agriculture with healthy habits and entrepreneurship.

The program, dubbed “Club-to-Cone,” is underway across six Boys & Girls Club locations in Saginaw and Bay counties. Throughout April, agronomists and staff from Michigan Sugar visited each site, teaching club

members how to plant and care for mint seeds in starter trays. Once the weather allows, the seedlings will be transferred to outdoor garden beds—many of which were established last year

with support from Michigan Sugar.

By late summer, the youth-grown mint will be harvested and used by Michigan Cream & Sugar Ice Cream Company to create



MICHIGAN SUGAR COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER TYLER KRING PASSES OUT MINT SEEDS AT THE SAGINAW KIDSCAMPUS LOCATION.

a limited-edition flavor: white chocolate-peppermint.

“The great part of the program is they’re doing all of the planting and all of the activities themselves,” said Tyler Kring, community relations manager for Michigan Sugar. “These kids are, in essence, running a small farm right here at the Boys & Girls Clubs.”

The initiative builds on Michigan Sugar’s role as the Clubs’ official Healthy Habits program partner, a title it took on in 2024. Last year, youth members learned the basics of soil composition, grew vegetables like tomatoes and peppers, and even prepared veggie pizzas from their harvest. Some locations produced such an abundant yield that members explored canning and pickling.

This year’s mint crop will grow in dedicated garden beds alongside returning vegetables from last year’s successful plantings.

“This is such a neat partnership,” said Sam Oliver, program director at the Boys & Girls Clubs. “As a cooperative of sugar beet farmers, Michigan Sugar is uniquely positioned to help with the gardens. They were instrumental in getting the gardening program going last year, and now we are really taking it to the next level together.”

In addition to agricultural education, the program promotes nutrition, teamwork, and the satisfaction of seeing a project come full circle—from seed to cone.

Summer registration is now open for all six Club sites in the Great Lakes Bay Region. For more information or to get involved, visit boysandgirlsclubsgl-br.com or call the administrative office at 989-321-9648.

**DO YOU KNOW A MOM WHO DESERVES TO BE CELEBRATED?
NOMINATE A MOTHER YOU KNOW OR YOURSELF TODAY**



THE MOTHER YOU KNOW Contest



Submit NOMINATION

Do you know a mother who deserves to be celebrated? Whether she is a biological mother, grandmother, community mother, foster mother, church mother, stepmother, godmother, or a mother reflecting on her own journey—this contest is an opportunity to recognize the profound impact of “mothers.”

GET INVOLVED!

- 📌 Nominate a Mother or Enter Yourself!
- 📌 Celebrate the women who have shaped our lives!
- 📌 Make your voice heard through storytelling!

TOTAL PRIZE POOL: \$1,000

Winners will be recognized at a special Awards Brunch on June 21.

HOW TO ENTER

Submit Online:

<https://forms.gle/tFG33Bsea5fax9fK6>
or using the QR Code:



Submit by Mail:

3057 Davenport Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

Deadline:

Monday, May 12, 2025

Essay STARTERS

Use the prompts below to spark inspiration for your essay. You may choose one, combine multiple, or create your own unique approach to crafting your submission. Feel free to express your story in a way that feels most meaningful to you.

- ▶ The moment I truly understood my mother's impact was when...
- ▶ One of my most cherished memories of my mother is...
- ▶ A lesson my mother taught me that continues to shape my life is...
- ▶ A mother's love has the power to...
- ▶ Becoming a mother changed my life by...
- ▶ Through the loss of a child, a mother learns...
- ▶ An inspiring story of motherhood that others need to hear is...
- ▶ Surrogate mothers—such as grandmothers, community mothers, foster mothers, and godmothers—make a lasting impact when...
- ▶ If I could capture my mother's love in a poem, it would say...



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call (989) 737-9286 or email ewmtoday@aol.com

SPONSORED BY:



EVELYN MCGOVERN

COMMUNITY

Older books can be as good as new ones

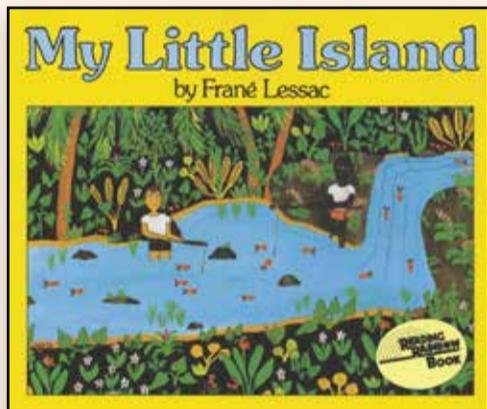
(As the Michigan Banner focuses on literacy, we will offer suggestions for children's books.)



There's nothing better or more beneficial than a fresh, new children's book -- even if it's from the past millennium. You might be surprised at how many good copies sit around unread, or maybe once-read for decades on end, until someone donated them to a thrift store or a library, where they sold, often for pennies on the dollar. Special events like the upcoming Zaue Library Used Book Sale, May 15-17, starting at 9 a.m. each day, provide an opportunity to create mini at-home book shelves for young ones for far less cost than a pair of sneakers.

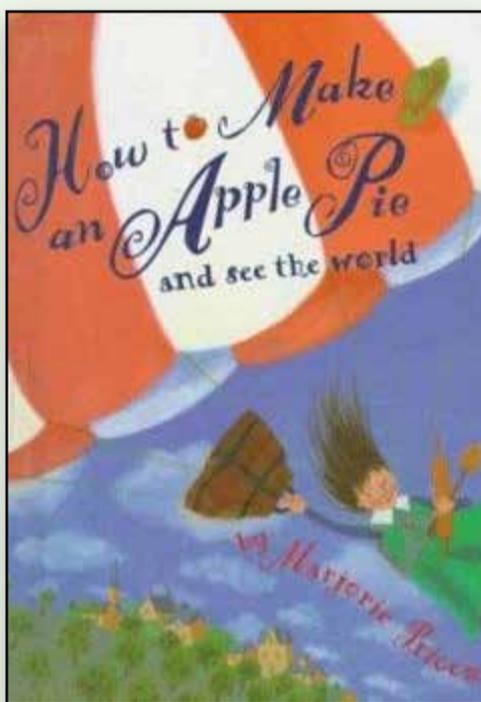
Check closely for smudges and wrinkles on covers, and make sure no signatures or scribbles are on inside pages, which may occur even when a copy appears to be untouched. Soft-cover books can offer higher quality than hardcovers when the pages are glossy, in some cases washable and wipeable, as opposed to news print contained in hard covers.

Here are three among countless examples:



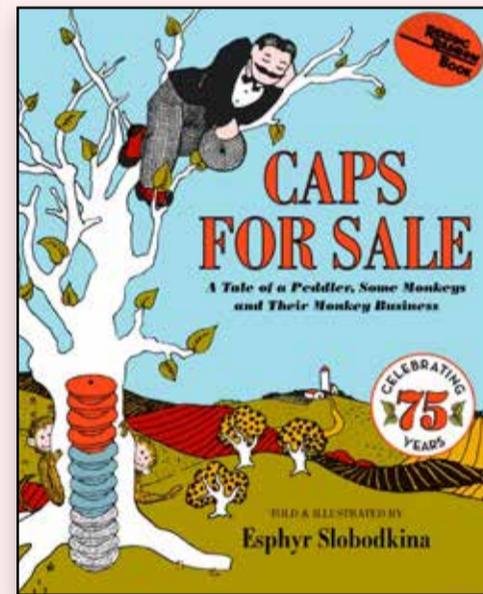
My Little Island Book, Frané Lessac, 1985

A little girl joins her best friend in a vacation visit to the unnamed Caribbean island where she was born. "Wha de mangoes? Wha de nuts?" People have all sorts of questions as they visit the traditional open market. We know of coconuts, but soursops and christophines are new to our taste buds.



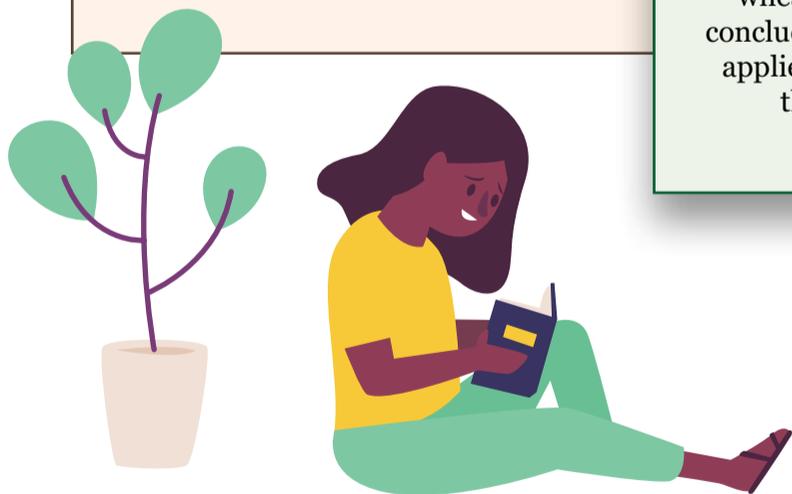
How to Make an Apple Pie (and see the world), Margaret Priceman, 1994

This time the travel mode is worldwide to assemble all the ingredients, starting with Italy for seminola wheat, heading to Jamaica for cane sugar and concluding in New England (Vermont) for the best applies. Geography combines with culinary, and there's even a simple recipe at the rear.

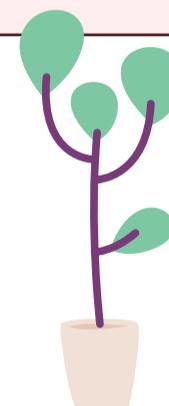


Caps for Sale, Esphyr Slobodkina, 1940

The author is not well-known because she emigrated to the United States to escape the Russian Revolution, but the tale of "mischievous monkeys" stealing the Kangols off the top of the salesman's head still endures. We don't mean to give away the story, but simply will say "monkey see, monkey do" to learn how the protagonist gets back the headgear that the antagonist chimps have taken from him.



You may not need to shop at a thrift store or attend a library sales. Simply check the deepest reaches of your attic, closet or garage. You never know what you may find.



To volunteer as a READ Association tutor, see their website or call (989) 755-8402.

COMMUNITY

The Neighb to host Mother's Day Brunch in Saginaw to support local youth and community programs

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — A warm meal, thoughtful celebration, and community support will come together this Mother's Day as The Neighb hosts a festive Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 11, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 3145 Russell Street, Saginaw, MI 48601.

Open to the public, the brunch will feature a wide selection of crowd-pleasing dishes, including herb roasted potatoes, pork bacon, turkey sausage, fried and baked chicken, brown sugar bourbon glazed ham, waffles, French toast, a custom omelette station, fruit, and desserts.

The event serves as a fundraiser for The Neighb's nonprofit programs, which support youth development, community wellness, creative arts, and neighborhood empowerment. As a registered 501(c)(3) organization, The Neighb directs all proceeds from the brunch toward programming that uplifts local families and young people.

Suggested donations are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 10. Guests are encouraged to reserve seats in advance.

To reserve a table or learn more, visit www.theneighb.org or scan the QR code on promotional materials.



Mother's Day Brunch

At The Neighb



10:00 AM - 3:00PM
3145 Russell Street
Saginaw, MI 48601

RESERVE NOW

Join us for our Brunch favorites, such as Herb Roasted Potatoes, Pork Bacon, Turkey Sausage, Fried/Baked Chicken, Brown Sugar Bourbon Glazed Ham, Waffles, French Toast, Omelette Station, Fruit & Dessert.

Adults: \$25 Donation
Children under 10: \$15 Donation
Sunday May 11, 2025

All proceeds benefit The Neighb's nonprofit programs, which support youth development, community wellness, creative arts, and neighborhood empowerment. The Neighb is a proud 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and many of our transformative programs are made possible through the passion and commitment of dedicated volunteers. By attending, you're not just treating Mom to a memorable day — you're also helping to uplift our community!

COMMUNITY

Freedom Schools returns for second summer



STUDENTS FROM THE 2024 CHARLES L. MCNAIR FREEDOM SCHOOL OF SAGINAW PROUDLY DISPLAY THEIR HANDMADE ART PROJECTS DURING A CREATIVE WORKSHOP SESSION.

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Even if your school district does not require your child to attend summer school, benefits still can be gained by enrolling youngsters in the second-year Charles L. McNair Freedom School.

This is true especially if parents are looking for an emphasis on reading and language arts.

Classes for K-3 will be at Bethel AME Church at 628 Cathay, with grades 4-8 hosted by Mount Moriah Baptist Church, 118 North 11th.

The six weeks of full-day classes run from June 16 to July 25, with a limit of 50 students at each site. Tuition is free of charge, and a donation of \$285 -- from an individual or from a group -- covers one child. For info on enrollment and/or financial support, search online for "Saginaw

Freedom School."

Charles McNair was the long-time principal of the former Morley Elementary School, home of the annual African Cultural Festival. When he passed away six winters ago, age 85, festival leaders looked for a tribute to an educator known for involving children in everything from chess to musical instruments to nature studies and, above all, reading. Karen Lawrence Webster researched and organized the Freedom School, named for 1964 "Freedom Summer" grassroots action in civil rights and education in the heart of Mississippi, marked by the Chaney-Schwerner-Goodman murders and the emergence of Fannie Lou Hamer.

Karen volunteers as coordinator along with Alexis Thomas, a longtime African Fest leader who this year is taking the reins from Ralph Martin. Local educators serve on the board. Twelve

staffers receive minimal pay to support their studies to become career educators, most enrolled at Delta College or Saginaw Valley State or any of the HBCU's across the nation. They prepare with a week of intensive training at Knoxville, Tenn.

In the debut last summer, the curriculum included high school, but the K-12 format seemed to spread the resources too thin. This year, in addition to keeping K-3 separate from older pupils, high schoolers will serve as classroom aides, all fitting with the city school district's "grow your own" emphasis on future teacher recruitment during an era of shortages.

Entire mornings are devoted to reading. When subjects from science to social studies are incorporated during afternoons, the format still emphasizes bookwork. Even answers to math questions must be explained in

proper English.

Cultural pride is essential in the Freedom School. Also, research repeatedly has shown that during summer vacation, many children -- especially in early elementary -- fail to retain all that they have learned previously between Labor Day and Memorial Day. Loss of retention ranges from the honor roll to kids with subpar or failing grades. In the Freedom School plan, reading equals retention.

Freedom Schools are established through the national nonprofit Children's Defense Fund, which was founded by Marion Wright Edelman.

Organizers also are in search for morning-opening adult guest readers, representing their areas of expertise. In addition to a Facebook page, see charlesmcnairfreed.org or send an email to charlesmcnairfreedomschool@gmail.com.

ARPA funds could enhance cleanup

BY MIKE THOMPSON

SAGINAW — Mayor Brenda Moore's sixth annual spring citywide clean-up, slated for May 10, could receive a boost under a plan offered by state Rep. Amos O'Neal.

At the April meeting of the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Task Force, O'Neal informed residents that he is encouraging city leaders to invest remaining federal ARPA funds on heavy-equipment projects to tackle sites with major blight.

Saginaw has more than \$4 million in interest revenue accumulated from bankrolled monies from its \$52 million grant through the anti-covid American Rescue Plan Act, which City Council members -- except for Monique Lamar Silvia -- have not discussed since last November's election.

Mayor Moore had said that at some point, a major cleanup must go beyond picking up litter and trash, and raking up old leaves

This year's event begins at 9 a.m. on May 10, the Saturday before Mother's Day, with volunteers gathering at the Public Works Center, 1435 South Washington, while renovation continues at the adjacent City Hall. The city will provide trash bags, latex work gloves and garden tools. Workers will be treated to a picnic lunch during a noon wrapup.

"It's just a few hours," Moore said in a prepared statement, "but it will make a big difference in our community."



Saginaw

TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP

Saturday, May 10, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet in front of the Public Works building
1435 S. Washington Ave.

BRING YOUR FAMILY, CHURCH GROUP, BUSINESS CREW, OR COMMUNITY GROUP OUT TO HELP CLEAN UP OUR CITY! PROPER WORK ATTIRE AND GLOVES ARE RECOMMENDED.

WE WILL KICK OFF THE MORNING WITH DONUTS AND COFFEE THEN PROVIDE LUNCH FOLLOWING THE CLEAN UP.

Please register by Monday, May 5
TO REGISTER SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
www.saginaw-mi.com/cleanup




TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP

POLITICS

More than 150 faith leaders across Michigan endorse Mike Duggan for governor



MIKE DUGGAN IS SURROUNDED BY MORE THAN 150 PASTORS AND CLERGY MEMBERS DURING A STATEWIDE ENDORSEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON APRIL 28, 2025. (PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE DUGGAN FOR GOVERNOR)

BY MB STAFF

DETROIT — A coalition of over 150 pastors and clergy members from across Michigan formally announced their endorsement of Independent gubernatorial candidate Mike Duggan on Monday, signaling broad support from religious leaders who view Duggan's leadership as a model for bipartisan, community-centered governance.

Faith leaders from cities including Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, and others gathered to express confidence in Duggan's approach to revitalization and his track record of collaboration with religious and civic organizations. The endorsement reflects growing interest in Duggan's candidacy from leaders who say they are seeking pragmatic solutions over party allegiance.

"No one should take our vote for granted," said Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony of Fellowship Chapel in Detroit. "Mike Duggan has already shown what leadership looks like—bringing internet and laptops to Detroit schoolchildren, reducing crime through the Shot Stoppers program, and creating an administration that reflects our city's diversity. His record speaks for itself."

Duggan, currently serving as mayor of Detroit, has built long-standing relationships with the faith community through initiatives such as Project Clean Slate, which provides expungement services for non-violent criminal records, and Adopt-A-Park, a program that ensures regular maintenance for over 200 city parks. Additional efforts include Detroit's Community Partnership program, which helped churches

and nonprofits purchase and rehabilitate homes to expand their outreach services.

Faith leaders pointed to these programs as tangible examples of Duggan's ability to deliver results in underserved communities—particularly those historically disconnected from economic opportunity and government support.

On Michigan's west side, Duggan's message is also resonating. "Mike Duggan's work in Detroit—reducing crime, creating jobs, and building affordable housing—offers a roadmap for what's possible in Grand Rapids and beyond," said Rev. Daryl Gaddy of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church.

In Flint, leaders expressed similar sentiments. "Too many politicians are focused on partisan battles," said Pastor Brent

Richard of the International Gospel Center. "Duggan's not caught up in that. He's focused on people, and that's what we need."

The endorsement is one of several major signals of support for Duggan's Independent bid for governor. It follows recent endorsements from multiple unions representing more than 11,000 hospitality workers, police officers, and firefighters across the state.

"Faith leaders have always understood that when people need help, you act—regardless of political affiliation," Duggan said in a statement. "That's the spirit I'm bringing to this campaign. I'm honored by this endorsement and grateful for the trust these leaders have placed in me."

Bishop Edgar L. Vann II of Second Ebenezer Church emphasized Duggan's ability to foster cooperation and rebuild communities. "Mike Duggan has helped shift the conversation from gridlock to investment, from rhetoric to results," Vann said. "That's the kind of leadership we need statewide."

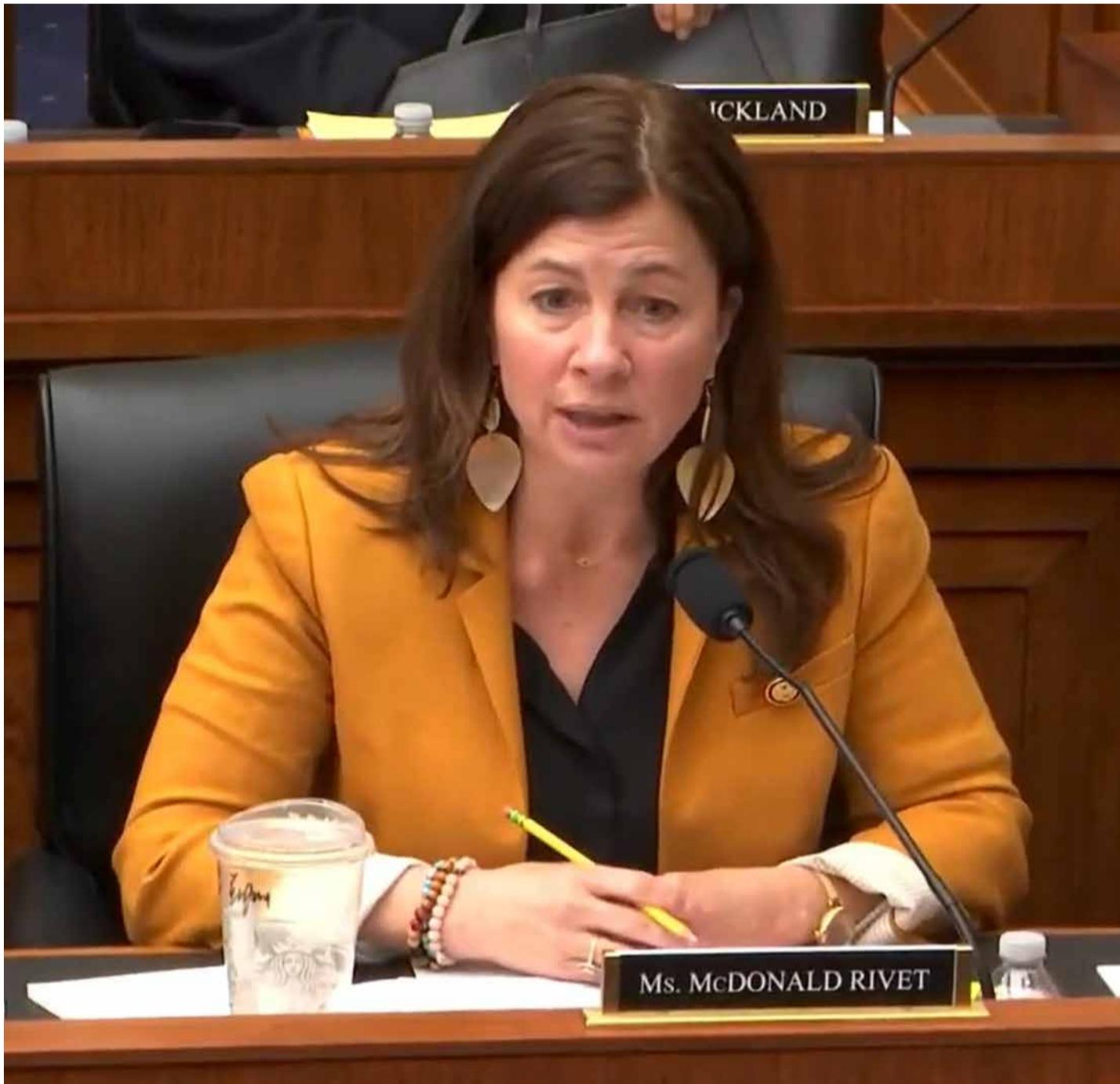
Under Duggan's leadership, Detroit has seen steady improvement, including historic declines in crime, major investments in affordable housing, and a population increase for the first time in decades. These outcomes have positioned Detroit as a national example of urban revitalization.

"Mike Duggan has proven himself time and again," added Bishop Andrew Merritt of Straight Gate International Church in Detroit. "His vision transformed Detroit, and I believe he can do the same for Michigan."

For more information about Duggan's campaign, visit www.mikeduggan.com.

POLITICS

McDonald Rivet calls for “common sense” budget that prioritizes Mid-Michigan families



CONGRESSWOMAN KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET (MI-08) DELIVERS REMARKS DURING THE U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET MARKUP ON APRIL 30, 2025.

To support that vision, McDonald Rivet introduced six amendments during the markup process, each aimed at addressing practical concerns in her district and beyond:

- Protecting Social Security services by prohibiting any budget funds from being used to close field offices.
- Supporting first responders by restoring in-person training programs at the National Fire Academy.
- Preserving the Great Lakes through increased funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- Expediting disaster aid by requiring FEMA to fulfill all outstanding disaster reimbursements.
- Repairing local bridges by increasing federal support for community-level infrastructure projects.
- Ensuring clean water access by boosting investment in sewer and storm-water systems.

The congresswoman’s remarks and legislative proposals come as House leaders begin shaping federal spending priorities for the coming fiscal year, a process that is expected to highlight divisions over taxation, entitlement programs, and environmental funding.

While her amendments’ fate remains uncertain, McDonald Rivet’s early involvement signals a focus on pragmatic policy solutions and a readiness to push for bipartisan cooperation in addressing Mid-Michigan’s most pressing needs.

For more information or to view her remarks, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu4cdDtpCU>.

BY MB STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the congressional budget process gets underway, U.S. Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet (MI-08) used her first official budget remarks in the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to advocate for working families in Mid-Michigan, urging lawmakers to choose public investments over tax cuts for the

ultra-wealthy.

Speaking during the committee’s budget markup, McDonald Rivet called on both parties to unite around widely supported goals such as reducing costs, defending social safety net programs, and investing in American manufacturing and infrastructure. “We do have choices — Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food assistance, public education or tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy,” she said. “That is

what we’re facing.”

The freshman Democrat framed the budget debate as an opportunity to enact “a positive, common sense agenda” that reflects the campaign promises made by lawmakers across the aisle. She encouraged her colleagues to deliver tangible results for working families, from tax relief and infrastructure improvements to strengthening national security and public health systems.

POLITICS

McDonald Rivet secures commitment to keep Saginaw social security office open



CONGRESSWOMAN KRISTEN MCDONALD RIVET (MI-08) SPEAKS AT AN APRIL 22 PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAGINAW, URGING THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP THE LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE OPEN. (MB)

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Social Security field office in Saginaw will remain open following a formal commitment from the Trump Administration, ending weeks of uncertainty over the facility's future. The assurance comes after U.S. Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet (MI-08) led a sustained effort to prevent its closure, which included multiple letters to federal officials and a public press conference with community members.

Earlier this year, the General Services Administration (GSA) quietly included the Saginaw office on a list of federal properties proposed for disposal. The list was later removed from the

agency's website without explanation, prompting concern from residents and local officials. In response, McDonald Rivet sent a letter urging transparency and pressing the Administration to keep the office open. After receiving no reply for more than a month, she issued a second letter and held a press conference on April 22 outside the office, joined by residents who rely on its services.

The following day, a Trump Administration spokesperson confirmed to WNEM CBS-5, "There are no plans to permanently close the Saginaw, Michigan field office." This marks the first public commitment from federal officials specifically addressing the status of the Saginaw

location.

"Keeping the Saginaw Social Security office open is a big win for our region and a testament to what we can accomplish when we stand together as a community," McDonald Rivet said in a statement. "While I'm glad mid-Michigan seniors finally have this commitment, it shouldn't take two letters and public demonstrations to make the case for continued access to vital services."

The Saginaw office serves as a critical point of contact for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and others who depend on face-to-face support for Social Security benefits. Community members at the press conference underscored the importance of the office, particularly for those

who face barriers to navigating services online.

McDonald Rivet also used the occasion to reaffirm her commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare from future attempts at cuts or privatization. "If there's another effort to reduce or restrict these programs," she said, "we will be right back out there to stop them."

The congresswoman's intervention was widely credited by residents and local leaders for prompting the federal government to provide a definitive answer.

For now, the Saginaw Social Security office remains open and operational, continuing to serve thousands of mid-Michigan residents each year.

HEALTH

Saginaw County Health Department celebrates public health leaders and local impact

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — In recognition of National Public Health Week, the Saginaw County Health Department (SCHD) honored outstanding individuals and community partners who have played a vital role in advancing the county's public health goals. From frontline service to health education and innovation, the honorees exemplify efforts that continue to move Saginaw toward becoming one of Michigan's top 25 healthiest communities.

Public Health Employee of the Year: **Rebekah Willard, RN, BSN**

Rebekah Willard, a registered nurse and public health leader at SCHD, was named Employee of the Year during the department's annual Volk Lecture. Selected by her peers, Willard was recognized for her dedication to teamwork, customer service, and promoting public health through both direct care and community-based initiatives.

Willard wears many hats at the department. She serves as a Nurse Family Partnership home visitor for new mothers, a harm reduction specialist who helped install free NARCAN vending machines across Saginaw, and a mobile clinic nurse administering vaccinations. She also contributes as a member of the Fetal Infant Mortality Review Committee and is a strong voice in lead poisoning prevention advocacy.

A graduate of Bay City Central High School, Willard earned her nursing credentials from Delta College and Eastern Michigan University. She is also a U.S. Army veteran, having achieved



FIRST PHOTO: REBEKAH WILLARD (CENTER) IS RECOGNIZED AS THE SAGINAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S 2025 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR. SECOND PHOTO: DR. STEVEN VANCE (LEFT) RECEIVES THE 2025 RICHARD CALLEY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD AT THE BWell SAGINAW SUMMIT.

the rank of first lieutenant and received multiple commendations, including the Army Commendation Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Richard Calley Distinguished Service Award: **Dr. Steven Vance**

Dr. Steven Vance, associate dean of clinical education at the Central Michigan University College of Medicine, received the Richard Calley Distinguished Service Award at the 2025 BWell Saginaw Summit. The honor recognizes a lasting contribution to public health through leadership, innovation, and community commitment.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Vance and his medical students were instrumental in supporting SCHD's vaccination response. Since then, he has continued to collaborate with local schools and health officials to

promote student health and safety, including efforts to achieve HEARTSafe school certifications.

Through his work with Pulse 3 Foundation and the Shocks and Saves hockey fundraiser, Dr. Vance has helped raise over \$1 million for CPR training and AED placements in schools. He is also a key organizer behind the new Hearts & Paddles Pickleball Tournament, expanding community engagement in cardiovascular health.

BWell Saginaw Champions Recognized

In addition to individual awards, SCHD and the BWell Saginaw initiative honored three organizations as 2025 BWell Saginaw Champions for their contributions to public health education and equity:

- CMU Medical Education Partners – Recognized for leading the “ABCs of

Safe Sleep” campaign, which promotes safe sleep habits for infants through a countywide multimedia initiative.

- Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority – Honored for a powerful anti-stigma video campaign featuring local community leaders sharing messages of hope around mental health and substance use recovery.
- Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) – Acknowledged for developing the Youth Mental Healthopedia, a digital self-help resource for adolescents, and for spearheading impactful health equity research to inform Saginaw's Community Health Improvement Plan.

HEALTH

Michigan health leaders unite to protect medicaid

BY MB STAFF

LANSING — In response to growing concerns over potential federal cuts to Medicaid, more than 120 Michigan-based organizations have joined forces to launch Protect MI Care, a state-wide coalition focused on preserving health care access for the 2.6 million Michiganders who rely on the program.

Spearheaded by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA), the coalition brings together health systems, educational institutions, community organizations, and safety-net advocates to defend Medicaid and prevent funding reductions that could affect nearly one in four Michigan residents.

The coalition warns that cuts



FILE PHOTO

to Medicaid could destabilize Michigan's health care infrastructure—especially in rural and underserved areas—by weakening hospitals and limiting essen-

tial services such as emergency care, maternal health, and behavioral health treatment.

Protect MI Care is designed to both raise awareness and advo-

cate at the federal level, emphasizing the broad impact Medicaid has on Michigan's public health and economic well-being. The campaign highlights the importance of continued funding for a program that supports low-income families, seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

The MHA continues its work alongside hospitals and providers across the state to improve health care quality, expand access, and ensure affordable coverage. With Medicaid now at the center of national discussions, Protect MI Care represents a coordinated effort to keep the issue at the forefront for Michigan lawmakers and residents alike.

For more information about the coalition and its mission, visit www.mha.org.



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Prioritizing Mental Health in May: Michigan joins national effort to turn awareness into action

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — As Michigan's tulips bloom and the school year winds down, May arrives with a powerful message: it's time to talk about mental health. This year, the state joins the national observance of Mental Health Awareness Month under the theme "Turn Awareness into Action," encouraging individuals, schools, and communities to take meaningful steps toward wellness and understanding.

From student-led mental health days in Ann Arbor to trauma-informed yoga workshops in Flint, Michigan's response is as diverse as its communities. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is calling on schools to partner with mental health organizations and implement classroom discussions that help young people better under-

stand their emotional well-being. Resources from Mental Health America and other national partners are helping school leaders build healthier, more responsive learning environments.

In a statement issued earlier this month, MDE urged districts to take an active role in the observance: "We invite schools across Michigan to engage in activities that promote open conversations about mental health and build a supportive culture for students and staff."

Meanwhile, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) continues to expand statewide mental health initiatives, including the development of mobile crisis response units and investments in community-based care. These services aim to bring immediate, culturally competent support directly to individuals experiencing

behavioral health challenges—regardless of where they live.

Throughout May, events and campaigns are happening across the state. In Detroit, community centers are hosting "Mindfulness Mondays" for families. In Saginaw, wellness pop-ups are offering free resources, screenings, and art therapy. And on social media, hashtags like #MentalHealthMI and #EndTheStigma are helping residents share stories, find support, and connect with local services.

For those looking to take action in their own lives, mental health experts emphasize that small, consistent habits can have a powerful impact. Here are a few evidence-based tips that residents can use to support their mental well-being:

Get outside — Michigan's natural beauty is a mental health asset. A walk in the park or sim-

ply spending time in the sun can reduce anxiety and lift your mood.

Limit screen time — Setting boundaries around phone use and social media can help reduce stress and improve sleep.

- **Talk about it** — Having open conversations with friends, family, or coworkers helps reduce stigma and fosters a support network.
- **Practice mindfulness** — Breathing exercises, meditation, or journaling can help ground you in the present moment.
- **Eat well** — Nutrition and mental health go hand in hand. Choose foods that fuel your body and mind.
- **Seek help when needed** — Call or text 988 to reach the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) for free, 24/7 support.

Do something joyful each day — Whether it's a hobby, a phone call, or a few quiet moments, small joys can make a big difference.

As Michigan's approach to mental health continues to evolve, so too does its message: well-being is not just a personal journey—it's a shared responsibility. This May, Michiganders are being called not just to recognize mental health challenges but to actively address them—whether through self-care, community engagement, or advocacy.

Residents in need of urgent support can contact MiCAL at 988 or visit Michigan.gov/Stay-Well for additional resources, including virtual support groups, mental health education, and links to local service providers.



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EDUCATION

Debra Wyatt-McCain named Saginaw United's first Saginaw Valley League Teacher of the Year



MRS. DEBRA WYATT-MCCAIN

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Valley League has announced its 2025 Teachers of the Year, and making history for Saginaw United High School is Mrs. Debra Wyatt-McCain, the school's first-ever recipient of the SVL Teacher of the Year award.

A proud Saginaw native, Wyatt-McCain's educational journey began in the Saginaw Public and Buena Vista School Districts. She attended Longfellow Elementary and Webber Middle School before graduating from Buena Vista High School in 1990, where she was a National Honor Society member and active in both athletics and the marching band.

Following high school, Wyatt-

McCain served in the U.S. military for eight years before pursuing higher education. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University in 2004, with endorsements in Special Education, Physical Education, and Health. Her teaching career began in Ann Arbor and Detroit, and later continued in Maryland, where she held positions as a Regional Emotional Impairment Teacher and a 6th-grade math and science co-teacher.

In 2015, Wyatt-McCain returned to her hometown and joined the Saginaw Public School District, where she currently teaches 11th grade special education. Since her return, she has taken on a wide range of leadership and support roles—serving

on school intervention and leadership teams, co-chairing MTSS/PBIS efforts, leading after-school clubs, and mentoring students beyond the classroom.

Her commitment to student well-being extends far beyond her professional responsibilities. Known for personally supporting students in times of need, she has provided transportation, secured clothing during emergencies, and maintained strong engagement with families to promote student success.

Under the guidance of Saginaw United Principal Mr. Gordon, Wyatt-McCain continues to serve as the school's Assistive Technology representative, contributing to innovation in learning accessibility. Her colleagues describe her as a dedicated team

player who brings both compassion and resilience to her work.

Wyatt-McCain says she finds joy in working with high school students—helping them grow into independent young adults who can advocate for themselves and set meaningful goals. She credits her school community for offering strength and support, adding that even the most challenging days are made easier by the camaraderie among staff.

As Saginaw United's inaugural recipient of the SVL Teacher of the Year honor, Mrs. Wyatt-McCain sets a high bar for excellence, advocacy, and service.

For more information about Saginaw United and its programs, visit spsd.net.

EDUCATION

SVSU assistant professor honored with Fulbright Specialist award

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — Jennifer Ward, assistant professor of teacher education at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Specialist Program grant, enabling her to serve as an international consultant in inclusive education at Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Ward began her two-week assignment on April 30, where she is leading workshops for undergraduate teacher education students and participating in academic forums at the Moroccan institution. Her work focuses on developing strategies and prac-



JENNIFER WARD

tices for supporting students with disabilities in classroom settings—an area she has dedicated much of her career to advancing.

“All of my work focuses on

inclusive education, particularly for students with disabilities,” Ward said. At the conclusion of her time in Morocco, she will submit a formal report to the Fulbright Program detailing the outcomes and insights gained from the experience.

The Fulbright Specialist Program, a U.S. Department of State initiative, sends American faculty and professionals abroad to share their expertise and foster institutional collaboration. Projects typically span two to four weeks and support areas such as curriculum development, faculty training, and academic planning.

Ward joined SVSU in 2023 and brings with her a robust record of leadership and service

in the field of special education. She currently serves as president of the Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) under the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)—the world’s largest and oldest professional organization dedicated to special education.

Ward holds a Doctor of Education degree from the University of San Francisco and is recognized for her contributions to equity-focused education both domestically and abroad.

Her selection for the Fulbright Specialist Program not only honors her individual expertise but also highlights SVSU’s growing presence in global academic and professional networks.

Three Michigan school districts awarded \$75 M to support school consolidation and upgrades

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has awarded a total of \$75 million in competitive school consolidation grants to three districts—Flint Community Schools, Union City Community Schools, and North Central Area Schools—as part of a broader effort to improve educational infrastructure and make more efficient use of resources.

Funded through Section 12d of the FY 2024 state supplemental budget, the grants are designed to help school systems dealing with declining enrollment and aging facilities. The initiative follows a School Finance Research Foundation study that identified nearly \$23 billion in needed school infrastructure investment across Michigan over the next decade.

“These consolidation grants will be transformative,” said State

Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. “They will help modernize buildings, reduce excess square footage, and create more efficient learning environments for students and staff.”

The MDE received 51 applications totaling more than \$626 million—more than eight times the available funding—highlighting the growing need for infrastructure support in districts across the state.

Flint Community Schools Award: \$35.9 million

Flint will reduce its number of school buildings from 11 to 7, closing underutilized facilities and building a new, modern high school to centralize secondary education. The plan also includes renovations to existing schools.

“This is a historic moment for Flint Community Schools,” said Superintendent Kevelin Jones.

“The investment isn’t just in buildings—it’s in our scholars and their future.”

Union City Community Schools Award: \$23.6 million

Union City will consolidate three buildings into two, renovating its elementary and high schools and demolishing the middle school. Improvements will focus on safety, learning outcomes, and long-term cost savings.

“We’re thrilled this funding will help us create safer, more modern facilities for our students,” said Superintendent Chris Katz. “It’s a major step forward for our district.”

North Central Area Schools Award: \$15.4 million

North Central plans to consolidate from two buildings into one state-of-the-art learning facility.

The project includes infrastructure upgrades such as a new roof, windows, and heating systems, along with investments in flexible classroom design and modern technology.

“This grant supports a long-term vision of academic excellence and stability,” said Superintendent Dr. Travis Depuydt.

Dr. Rice emphasized that while these investments will benefit the selected districts for decades, the broader infrastructure needs identified in the state report require further action.

“We urge the legislature to appropriate additional funding to help more communities create safe, supportive environments for learning,” Rice said.

For more details on school consolidation and facility investment efforts, visit Michigan.gov/mde.

Education and medicine: A vital partnership



FILE PHOTO



BY CRAIG DOUGLAS

It is no exaggeration to say that education and medicine are deeply interconnected. Education, especially through the advancement of science, continuously builds a foundation of knowledge that propels medicine forward. In turn, breakthroughs in medicine generate new knowledge, which enriches teaching and learning. This relationship is a cycle: learning promotes better medical practices, and improved medical practices drive even more learning.

Recently, I had the opportunity to see the world of medi-

cine through the experiences of friends and family members in urgent need of accurate diagnosis and treatment. From these experiences, several important generalizations emerged that I would like to share for consideration.

1. A Growing Need for Medical Professionals

There is a clear and pressing need for more skilled professionals across the medical field. This includes nurses, practitioners, technicians, and doctors across all specialties—especially anesthesiologists. While many of these roles require college degrees, others require certifications that can be earned through programs at institutions like the Saginaw Career Complex and Delta College. Whether starting with a certification or pursue an advanced degree, opportunities abound for those interested in joining the healthcare workforce.

2. Keeping Pace with Rapid Advances

The need for medical professionals to stay current with technological and scientific advancements has never been more crucial. Technology is evolving at a break-neck speed, and healthcare providers must continually update their knowledge to keep pace. For example, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine is just one of the many ways technologies are transforming the field. From diagnostics to treatment planning, technology is reshaping healthcare in ways we are only beginning to understand.

3. Education as the Cornerstone of the Future Workforce

The future of healthcare is fundamentally tied to education. Whether learning takes place in

classrooms, laboratories, or conference rooms, continuous education is critical to ensuring that medical providers are prepared to use new techniques, tools, and approaches. Educators and healthcare professionals must work closely together to ensure that learning is relevant, practical, and innovative. Moreover, government support at all levels is essential to fund the research and development necessary for seamless and effective medical advancement.

We are living in a fascinating era where changes in medicine and technology happen so rapidly that even the news struggles to keep up. Those who possess the right combination of aptitude and interest, the future is incredibly bright. The sky's the limit to step into the evolving world of healthcare.

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EDUCATION

When hope is present, dreams and goals flourish

The Saginaw Promise believes in the power of postsecondary education to be a “change agent” to impact Saginaw’s future and that of its students

BY MB STAFF

SAGINAW — The Saginaw Promise is working to impact Saginaw’s future, its economy and quality of life by eliminating barriers to higher education through information, programming and a scholarship. Since 2012, the Saginaw Promise has awarded \$1,350,713 in scholarships to 745 students and has seen graduation rates increase, and dropout rates decrease. The Saginaw Promise provides information and resources to assist students and parents navigate and finance postsecondary education. To that end, the Saginaw Promise’s mission is to provide scholarships to assist Saginaw’s “high school graduates” to earn a program certificate or degree from a technical/trade school, community college or university. Since forming, the Saginaw Promise has seen graduation rates increase and dropout rates decrease.

The Saginaw Promise Scholarship is a benefit for students who reside in, attend schools and graduate from a high school within the Saginaw Promise Zone (which includes the cities of Saginaw, Zilwaukee, Kochville and that area of Buena Vista designated to the Saginaw Public School District). The scholarship also serves as an incentive to stabilize and grow Saginaw’s population to affect the overall economic environment for current businesses and attract new businesses with an educated workforce.

Students meeting the residency, school attendance and graduation requirements are re-



FILE PHOTO

quired to complete the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) Scholarship Application (online) and FAFSA to receive the scholarship. The Saginaw Promise scholarship is available up to two years and does not consider parental income or GPA; students must maintain the standards of the institution they enroll with. Scholars have up to six years from high school graduation to use their Saginaw Promise Scholarship. For more information, visit the Saginaw Promise website at www.saginawpromise.org or for questions telephone Deborah Sanchez at (989) 607-3428 or email dsanchez@saginawpromise.org.

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EDUCATION

Former Jerome Elementary undergoing renovations to become high quality, state of the art green STEM preschool model



COURTESY PHOTOS

SAGINAW – Jerome was established as a Kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school in 1976 by the Saginaw Public School District. In 2013, due to low student capacity as well as district wide financial challenges. Dr. Ericka Taylor was the principal assigned to Jerome that year and understood first hand why the school was being offlined, especially in consideration of the many structural needs of the building and grounds.

However, when Dr. Taylor joined the Saginaw Intermediate School District in 2017 as the Director of Early Childhood, she was surprised to learn that Jerome was a preschool site that was being rented and utilized (in the very same condition) to provide early childhood services which include preschool classes, home visiting teachers and maternal infant support for the families of children birth through 5 years of age. This was an immediate reminder of the reasons why

Jerome was originally offlined, but it also spurred a deeper desire and vision to give our children and families in Saginaw County not only what they need, but what they deserve, which is the very best learning environment that we can possibly imagine and provide, despite their economic status and/or zip code!

A groundbreaking ceremony was held this past May and renovations are currently underway transforming the former Jerome elementary school into the new Jerome Preschool servicing students ages birth to 4 years old! These renovations will include a new roof, awning, heating/cooling system, parking lot and greenhouse. There will be designated space for onsite medical services for children and families, shared community space for partnerships with local colleges/universities, and community organizations. All classrooms and hallways will be updated with new lighting, paint and flooring. The former gymnasium will now be a multipurpose space for staff

professional development opportunities as well as community activities and events.

These renovations will not only enhance and beautify the local community, but will also give our youngest learners the academic, social and emotional foundation they need and deserve to begin their K-12 endeavors and beyond by providing them with a high quality, state of the art building focused on Green STEM. Our vision is that this preschool site will provide an early childhood model that we can replicate not only in Saginaw, but across the state of Michigan and beyond.

A huge thank you to Saginaw ISD Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Collier for allowing us to dream big for the children and families in our community! We welcome any questions you may have to be sent to Dr. Ericka Taylor, Executive Director of Early Childhood, at etaylor@sisd.cc.

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

pregnant women and their families.

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

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

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

Source: www.saginawheadstart.org



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

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

Joe Baca, former Dem. California Congressman

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

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BUSINESS + FINANCE

Corning expands solar manufacturing in Saginaw County with \$1.5 Billion investment



VIEW OF HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTOR

BY MB STAFF

HEMLOCK — Corning Incorporated has announced a major expansion of its advanced manufacturing operations in Saginaw County, increasing its total investment to \$1.5 billion and creating 400 new high-paying jobs, bringing the company's workforce in the region to 1,500.

The expansion reflects growing national demand for domestically produced solar components and positions Corning as a leading player in bolstering the U.S. solar supply chain. The announcement was made from the company's new facility in Hem-

lock, where Corning has deep roots through its ownership of Hemlock Semiconductor (HSC), a longtime leader in producing hyper-pure polysilicon—an essential material for solar energy technologies.

"We are proud to meet the increasing demand for U.S.-sourced solar products by accelerating the ramp of our advanced manufacturing assets and support the nation's priority of domestic energy security," said Wendell P. Weeks, Corning chairman and CEO. "Corning has a long, proud history in Michigan, and we're excited to expand our footprint here by increas-

ing our investment and creating more advanced manufacturing jobs that pay significantly above the regional median."

Corning's expanded facility will produce high-quality solar wafers, a critical component used in solar panel production. The company is working alongside Suniva and Heliene to manufacture what is believed to be the only solar module made entirely from U.S.-sourced materials, including polysilicon, wafers, and cells.

AB Ghosh, Corning vice president and general manager of Solar, and CEO of Hemlock Semiconductor, added, "Corn-

ing is excited to leverage our advanced manufacturing expertise to deliver top-quality solar components and secure the U.S. energy supply chain."

This investment is expected to play a significant role in advancing federal goals for clean energy and economic revitalization, particularly in regions like Michigan, where the solar industry continues to grow as part of a broader clean-tech transformation.

The new jobs will support operations, engineering, and skilled trades, further positioning Mid-Michigan as a hub for high-tech manufacturing and sustainable energy innovation.

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BUSINESS + FINANCE



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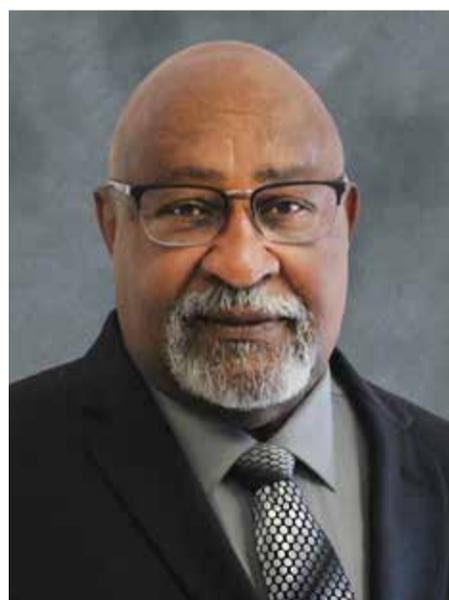
Ministry Without Walls expands vision with community-focused mission

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

FAITH IN FOCUS

Faith Ministries Church to host annual prayer breakfast featuring Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis

Faith Ministries Church
Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday
May 17, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

**NEW LOCATION:
Holiday Inn
810 Cinema Drive
Midland, Michigan 48642**

Tickets are \$40 Order Online:
www.faithministrieschurch.org
Phone: 989-837-7777

Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis, Speaker

BY MB STAFF

MIDLAND — Faith Ministries Church invites the community to its annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 17, at 9 a.m., featuring guest speaker Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis. The event will be held at a new location this year: the Holiday Inn, 810 Cinema Drive in Midland.

The prayer breakfast is a signature event for the church, offering a space for fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual rejuvenation. Known for drawing

attendees from across the region, the gathering brings together community members in faith and purpose.

Prophetess Linda J. Kemp Revis is a respected spiritual leader whose teachings focus on empowerment, clarity, and purpose-driven living. Her message is expected to center on faith, resilience, and the power of collective prayer.

Tickets are available for \$40 and can be purchased online at www.faithministrieschurch.org. Attendees are encouraged to reserve early, as seating is lim-



REV. DR. ANTHONY REVIS AND PROPHETESS LINDA J. KEMP REVIS

ited. For more information, call 989-837-7777.

Faith Ministries Church continues to host events that emphasize spiritual growth and community connection. The Prayer

Breakfast is open to the public and welcomes individuals of all backgrounds who are seeking a moment of reflection and renewal.

SERMONETTE SERIES

God is for Us

“What shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

(Romans 8:31-32)



BY MINISTER CAROLYN
CARTER TOWNSEL

There are a myriad of problems, situations, and conditions that we will experience in our lives that will be difficult to handle, painful to go through, and yes, they may even challenge our very existence. Maybe you're in the middle of one right now. Oftentimes when these things happen and we don't understand why, we ask, "Why is this happening?" But that's okay - God doesn't expect us to know it all or have it all figured out. But what He does want us to know is He knows what we are going through, we can trust Him, depend on Him, and know He is with us, and He is for us.

During these trying times we can not only feel wounded, weary, and worn, but that God has abandoned us. It is here in these verses Apostle Paul reminds us regardless of the circumstances we may be facing, God is with us. He is never against us. The very fact that God gave His only begotten Son to die for us, shows the immense love He has for you and I.

Therefore, as you and I journey through the day, embrace and hold on to what we know - **God is never against us**, and **No weapon formed against us shall prosper**.

Apostle Paul intentionally asks, **“What shall we say in response to these things?”** In essence when we find ourselves in these dire situations that make us cry sometimes inwardly and or outwardly, what will our response be?

My beloved, I pray that we will all truly know and be able to respond, **“God Is For Us.”**

Blessings To All,
Carolyn

CHURCH DIRECTORY



Christ Disciples Baptist Church

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



Ministry Without Walls

Pastor, John Dunn
3783 Mannion Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



New Life Baptist Ministries

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



Faith Ministries Church

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



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

Heart strings vs. purse strings



BY MEL AND PEARL SHAW

Which do you respond more to: a warm story about a puppy finding its forever home or statistics about the number of abandoned puppies in need of a home?

When you tell the story for your nonprofit, which do you focus on: stories and images that pull on the heartstrings or facts that communicate the impact the organization is making?

These two ways of communicating are posed as diametrical opposites, but here's the truth: how people respond is not that starkly different. These are the extremes. Some people get interested in knowing more about a nonprofit because of a powerful story, and others want to learn about the human impact after reading about the facts associated with your organization. Our experience has shown that when you are making the case for your organization or institution there needs to be a balance of both



FILE PHOTO

emotions and facts. Here are some of the things that can help assure you are able to appeal to both audiences.

"Just give me the facts." When you want to communicate with those who look at facts and numbers first, you have to share specific and quantitative information. Give the number of people served and the potential number of people you could serve with additional resources. Include your budget with sources of revenue and how funds are expended. Be clear about your financial standing – even if it's not what you want it to be. List your board members with their affiliations; include the year you were founded; how you have grown and/or contracted over time and why. Be specific. State clearly how much you need to raise and how that will impact your ability to provide specific research, services, education, or advocacy. As you share your history, use facts and figures as your benchmarks. Those who give testimonials should focus on the specifics that

differentiate your nonprofit from others.

"Tell me a story." Many people become engaged by a feel-good story. They are looking for examples of ways in which individual stories bring hope when they feel hopeless or that a situation is beyond help. Examples from your institution or organization can uplift spirits and carry the message that all is not lost. A child with a puppy in her arms warms hearts; a teenager or young adult at graduation reminds us of new beginnings and the promise of the next generation. Images combined with heartfelt text about what has been overcome can soften even

the most closed of hearts. Share your history with stories that span generations; include testimonials from stakeholders who have witnessed the power of your nonprofit's work.

The bottom line is creating a balance of information that you share so that you are communicating with people who respond to information in different ways. What's most important is a focus on how your organization offers solutions. Share what you are seeking to accomplish and how others can help your work forward. Don't dwell on the past – focus on the future with a blend of facts and emotions. 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

The Saginaw County Animal Care and Control Center celebrated the grand opening of its new surgical center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, May 1.



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We

empower.

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



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