

WORD UP

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



OCTOBER 2026

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& Lady Kenyatta Pryor

Victorious

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT VISION GALA:

A Night of Celebration and Inspiration

A VISION RESTORED. A COMMUNITY UNITED. A FUTURE REIMAGINED.



Saginaw Promise

POWER OF A PROMISE *Fundraiser*

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A PROMISE MADE AND KEPT!

HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 11 AM
PROGRAM STARTS AT 11:30 AM

Join us as we report on Saginaw Promise program outcomes, Saginaw Promise Scholar attainment, highlight Scholars, and hear from the Presidents of SVSU and CMU regarding their universities' plans for the Medical Diamond and impact for our community's health and economy.

**Luncheon Event, Entertainment, Program & Scholar
Highlights and 2025 Scholar attainment Report!**



KEYNOTE PANEL

President George Grant (SVSU), President Neil MacKinnon (CMU), Dr. Marcia Mastracci Ditmyer (SVSU), Dr. Joshua Nosanchuk (CMU) Discuss CMU and SVSU Plans for the Medical Diamond.

PANEL MODERATOR: Art Lewis

Event proceeds support Saginaw Promise programming to impact Saginaw's future, its economy, population, and quality of life through postsecondary education.

**Promotional
Partner:**



Online Registration: <https://saginawpromise.org/events>

For questions and Information contact Deborah Sanchez at dsanchez@saginawpromise.org or (989) 607-3428.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) is encouraging Michiganders to review and understand their health insurance coverage for breast cancer screenings, diagnostic services, and treatment.

Breast cancer remains one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers in Michigan. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 9,900 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in our state this year and an estimated 1,320 Michiganders will die of the disease, underscoring the importance of regular screenings and access to timely health care.

"Early detection significantly increases breast cancer survival rates, and taking preventive steps such as regular screenings, staying informed, and understanding your health insurance coverage can ensure you get the best care and reduce stress and uncertainty if you need further care," said DIFS Director Anita Fox. "Michiganders should know what preventive screenings their health insurance covers, understand their rights when diagnostic testing or treatment is needed or denied, and know where to turn if they have questions or encounter a problem with their insurance coverage. DIFS is here to help consumers understand their insurance and assist with any insurance-related concerns."

This month, DIFS is encouraging Michiganders to think "PINK" when it comes to getting the most out of their health insurance for important preventative care:

- **P — Preventive Screenings:** Mammograms and other preventive services are covered at no cost.
- **I — Insurance Coverage:** Michigan law requires coverage for diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitative breast cancer services.

- **N — No Out-of-Pocket Costs:** Most preventive screenings do not require copays or deductibles.
- **K — Know Your Coverage Options:** Open Enrollment for 2027 runs November 1, 2026 through January 15, 2027. Enroll by December 15, 2026, for coverage starting January 1, 2026. Michiganders who need health insurance will be able to enroll during the Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment period that begins on November 1, 2026. For more information about insurance options, visit Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance.

Consumers who are due for a mammogram or other breast cancer screening should not delay because they are unsure about their insurance coverage. Contact your health insurance company before scheduling care to confirm coverage, participating providers, and whether any prior authorization or other requirements may apply.

If additional testing is needed after a screening, consumers should ask their health insurance company and health care provider about coverage for diagnostic services and any potential out-of-pocket costs. Consumers diagnosed with breast cancer should also ask their health insurance company about coverage for treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitation, and other medically necessary services included in their health plan.

If a consumer has a question or a concern about an insurance claim, coverage determination, medical bill, or other insurance matter, DIFS is here to help. DIFS provides consumer assistance and can investigate complaints involving an insurance company. Consumers with questions about their health insurance can call DIFS at 877-999-6442, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit Michigan.gov/DIFS for more information and resources.

The mission of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services is to ensure access to safe and secure insurance and financial services fundamental for the opportunity, security, and success of Michigan residents, while fostering economic growth and sustainability in both industries. In addition, the Department provides consumer protection, outreach, and financial literacy and education services to Michigan residents. Translation services are available for individuals with limited English proficiency who contact the Department. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/DIFS or follow the Department on Facebook, X, or LinkedIn.

WORD UP

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The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation Commits Additional \$4 Million to Midland Center for the Arts Capital Campaign

New commitment brings Foundation support to \$9 million, with additional \$500,000 matching opportunity for new Capital Campaign donors



The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation has committed an additional \$4 million to Midland Center for the Arts' transformational Capital Campaign, bringing The Foundation's total commitment to the campaign to \$9 million.

In addition to the \$9 million committed, The Foundation is providing an additional matching grant opportunity to encourage new donations from individual donors who want to become part of the campaign. Every gift from a new Capital Campaign donor will be matched by The Foundation dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$500,000, for commitments secured by November 30, 2026.

"The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation has been an extraordinary partner in bringing this vision for Midland Center to life," said Dr. Matt Travis, President and CEO of Midland Center

for the Arts. "This additional commitment represents a tremendous investment in the future of our organization and the community we serve. And through this new matching opportunity, even more people have the chance to be part of completing this transformation."

The new commitment comes at a pivotal moment in the Center's transformation. With \$51.6 million committed toward the \$53.2 million project, approximately \$1.6 million remains to complete the final phase of the campaign.

The reopening of the Hall of Ideas this fall marks a major milestone, but work will continue beyond the museum. The final phase includes new education spaces in the Doan Center, dedicated space to care for Midland County's historical archives, additional community spaces and continued accessibility improvements

throughout the Center. Campaign support also addresses critical building infrastructure, including electrical, heating and cooling systems and improvements that increase the building's energy efficiency and support daily operations.

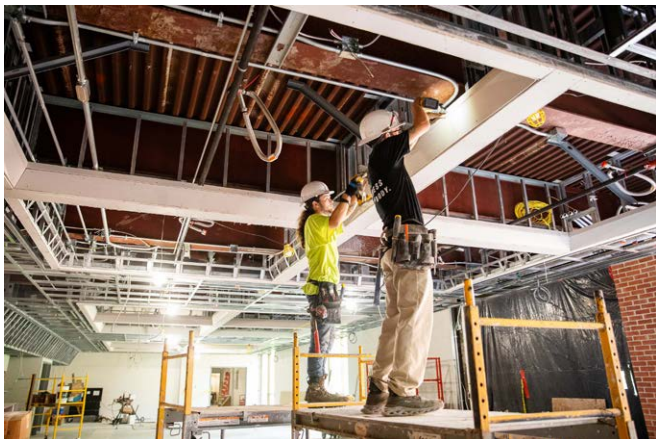
Together, these investments are creating new and reimagined spaces for learning, creativity, performance and connection while strengthening the building that makes those experiences possible. The full renovation is expected to be completed in 2027.

"Midland Center for the Arts has long been an important part of what makes Midland a vibrant place to live, learn and connect," said Dr. Ruth Alden Doan, President and Trustee of The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. "We are proud to continue our support at this important moment in the Center's transformation and to help bring this vision to completion. Through this matching opportunity, we also hope to inspire new individual donors at any giving level to join Trustees in investing in this Capital Campaign. Every gift, no matter the amount, makes a difference in this transformative project."

The \$500,000 matching opportunity is specifically designed to welcome **new donors to the Capital Campaign**. Every gift from a new Capital Campaign donor will be matched dollar-for-dollar for commitments secured by **November 30, 2026**, while matching funds remain available.

"This match gives someone who may not have supported the campaign yet a meaningful opportunity to become part of it," Travis said. "A first gift to the campaign can now have twice the impact, helping us complete this work and shape what is possible at Midland Center for decades to come."

To learn more about the Capital Campaign or make a gift, visit midlandcenter.org/campaign.



Victorious Community Development Vision Gala: A Night of Celebration and Inspiration

A Vision Restored. A Community United. A Future Reimagined.



Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center - 346 S. 9th Street, Saginaw, MI 48601

What a joyous night of celebration, inspiration, and renewed hope for the Saginaw community! Victorious Community Development (VCD) celebrated a significant milestone as community leaders, churches, elected officials, CEOs, and supporters gathered for the Vision Gala honoring the transformation of the former Trinity School and Community Center into the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center. This \$3.2 million revitalization project represents more than the restoration of a building it represents a renewed investment in Saginaw's children, families, and future. Once a place designed for education and community engagement, the building is being brought back to life with a renewed purpose: to become a vibrant educational hub where children can learn, explore, discover their gifts, and expand their understanding of what they can become. Several hundred guests from across Saginaw and beyond joined in celebrating the vision and the collective effort to create lasting change for children and families.

The Voices of Our Future

One of the evening's most powerful moments came when children from the Impact Center shared why this space matters. **These young leaders** spoke about the opportunities before them and how the time they spend at the center will help them grow, learn, and envision a brighter future. Their voices captured the heart of VCD's mission: strengthening families, empowering children, and transforming communities through education, opportunity, and exposure. Their voices were a powerful reminder that when we invest in our youth today, we are



empowering the leaders, innovators, and changemakers who will shape our community tomorrow.

Investing in Education. Investing in Potential.

VCD's goal is to provide students with the academic support, educational resources, and enrichment opportunities they need to excel. Through dedicated educators, the center will prioritize strengthening reading and mathematics skills while introducing children to STEAM, career exploration, mentoring, and other experiences that broaden their horizons.

President and CEO Pastor Christopher V. Pryor delivered a compelling message about the responsibility the community shares in shaping the next generation. "When good people do nothing, bad things happen." Pastor Pryor emphasized that we

cannot stand by and allow children to fall behind when we recognize their potential and understand the support they need to succeed. The Impact Center represents a commitment to act but to provide the right environment, dedicated educators, meaningful exposure, and people who believe in every child's ability to excel. His vision is for children to



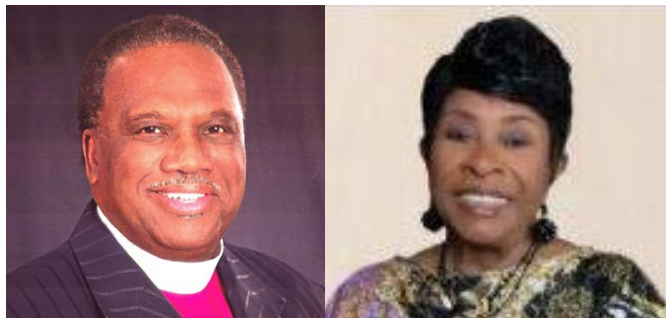
Pastor Christopher V. Pryor

**Victorious Community Development
Vision Gala,
continue to next page...**

... continued, Victorious Community Development Vision Gala

encounter opportunities they may never have imagined, meet people who inspire them, and explore pathways that help them see that their future is full of possibilities.

A Vision Rooted in Legacy and Faith



Bishop Marvin C. Pryor and Evangelist Ruth C. Pryor

Pastor Pryor expressed heartfelt gratitude to his parents, family, and the Victorious Believers Ministries church family, whose love, prayers, generosity, and unwavering support have helped bring this vision to fruition. Named in honor of his father, **Bishop Marvin C. Pryor, the Impact Center** carries forward a legacy rooted in faith, education, and the belief that every child has the capacity to excel. Bishop Pryor was a high school principal of Flint Northern, the largest high school in Genesee County, where he championed the importance of education and believed in the potential of every student. His legacy continues through the Impact Center, carrying forward his commitment to helping young people learn, grow, and excel. What began as a vision on paper has become a tangible investment in the future of Saginaw. It is a testament to what can happen when faith, determination, community partnerships, and a shared commitment to children come together.

Preparing for the Next Generation



Dr. Ericka Taylor

Dr. Ericka Taylor, VCD's Director of Education, will lead the educational charge alongside a team of dedicated teachers and lead educators. Together, they will help build programming designed to address academic needs, cultivate curiosity, and prepare children for opportunities

beyond the classroom. The Impact Center will begin with pilot programming through the remainder of the year, with plans to expand access and serve as many children as possible as additional programming becomes available. The work ahead

is significant, but the vision is clear: children will receive the support they need to strengthen their academic skills, discover their interests, and pursue their dreams.

The Future Is Bright for Saginaw

The Vision Gala was more than an evening of celebration. It was a declaration that our children matter, their futures matter, and their community is willing to invest in their success. Pastor Pryor's desire is simple but powerful: he wants children to excel in whatever they choose to become. Through education, exposure, encouragement, and community collaboration, the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor

Impact Center will help children look beyond their current circumstances and recognize the possibilities ahead of them.

When we educate our children, empower our families, and expose young people to the world of possibilities, we help them understand that the sky is the limit.

As Victorious Community Development moves forward, one thing remains certain: this vision is bigger than a building. It is about creating opportunities, changing trajectories, and building a stronger future for generations to come. **Pastor Roland Hendricks**, a retired Dow executive and former Victorious Believers Ministries (VBM) member, delivered a powerful challenge to those in attendance. He encouraged everyone to take an active role in mentoring our children,

reminding us that investing in the next generation requires more than words—it requires our time, guidance, and commitment. He also challenged those seated in the room to personally invest in the vision of the Bishop Marvin C. Pryor Impact Center, helping ensure that the resources and



Pastor Christopher V. Pryor & Lady Kenyatta Pryor

opportunities our children need will be available to them. His message reinforced a central truth of the evening: building a brighter future for our children is a shared responsibility, and everyone has a role to play.



Pastor Roland Hendricks



Phone: 989.759.9116 | info@govcd.org | www.govcd.org

A Red, White & Blue Christmas”

Positive Results Downtown Saginaw Names Jeanne & Jim Conger Grand Marshals for its 48th Annual Christmas Parade



Positive Results Downtown Saginaw (PRD) is proud to announce that two familiar faces who have helped bring decades of community celebrations to life are taking center stage in this year's Christmas parade. Jim and Jeanne Conger have been selected as Grand Marshals of PRD's 48th Annual Christmas Parade, taking place Saturday, November 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Downtown Saginaw. This year's theme, "A Red, White & Blue Christmas," invites participants to combine holiday cheer with patriotic spirit for a celebration of community, tradition, and the nation's 250th anniversary.

Jeanne led Positive Results Downtown Saginaw for nearly 30 years, helping create new traditions and strengthen longtime favorites that generations of Saginaw families have come to love and enjoy, including Friday Night Live, Holidays in the Heart of the City, the Memorial Day Parade, Ice Blast & Chili Contest with the Saginaw Spirit, Harvest Days, and many more.

Retired after 42 years with GM/Delphi/TRW, Jim has continued to give back to the community alongside Jeanne. Both remain active volunteers with Friday Night Live and the Memorial Day Parade. Jim also serves as President of the River Bend Association Hunting Camps in the Upper Peninsula, while Jeanne continues to volunteer with the Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market, Friends of Hoyt Park, and the Saginaw County Veterans Memorial Plaza.

Married for 48 years, the Congers have three children and 14 grandchildren. Their commitment to family and community makes this recognition especially fitting for one of Saginaw's most cherished holiday traditions. "Jim and Jeanne have given

so much of their time and heart to our community, and we're excited to celebrate them this year," said Ann Marie Batkoski-Sullivan, Executive Director of Positive Results Downtown Saginaw. "Jeanne is usually busy working behind the scenes to keep the parade moving, and Jim is typically away hunting. This year, they'll have a special seat together as our Grand Marshals and a chance to enjoy the entire parade."

Enter Your Group! PRD invites businesses, schools, nonprofits, churches, clubs, neighborhood groups, and other community organizations to bring their creativity and holiday spirit to this year's parade. "You don't have to be a large organization to make a big impression," Batkoski-Sullivan said. "Gather your group, have some fun, and help us create a memorable morning for our community." Entries will be accepted through November 13. The entry fee is \$25. Entries will be accepted through November 13 with an entry fee of \$25. Awards will be given out to recognize outstanding entries in several categories. High school marching bands may participate free of charge.

The parade begins at Johnson Avenue and North Washington Avenue, travels south on Washington to Ezra Rust Drive, and ends on Ojibway Island.

Learn more and access parade entry information at www.prideinsaginaw.org

A promotional graphic for the 48th Annual Christmas Parade. It features a photo of a white parade float carrying several people in holiday costumes. A sign on the float reads "Sign Up Your Group Today!" with a QR code. Another sign on the float says "Grand Marshals Dan Streeter". Below the photo is a green banner with the text "A Red, White & Blue Christmas". To the left is a logo for the "48th ANNUAL POSITIVE RESULTS DOWNTOWN SAGINAW CHRISTMAS PARADE". The date and time "SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21 11:00 AM" are prominently displayed. At the bottom, it says "STARTS AT JOHNSON AVE. AND N. WASHINGTON, CONTINUING SOUTH ON WASHINGTON TO EZRA RUST ENDS ON OJIBWAY ISLAND" and "For more information, visit our website at www.prideinsaginaw.org".



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MPSC Approves \$139 Million Rate Hike for Consumers Energy



The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) authorized Consumers Energy to raise its natural gas rates yet again, by 4.3% for a typical residential customer, allowing the monopoly utility to raise an additional \$139.2 million per year from its bill-paying customers. The MPSC also approved a 9.8% return on equity, the utility's profit margin on capital investments. Consumer Energy had sought permission to

raise rates by 10%, seeking to raise \$240 million more annually among all customers. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel urged the MPSC to slash the request by more than half, arguing that Consumers Energy should be allowed to raise rates by no more than 3.5%, a decrease to the requested rate hike that would have saved utility customers more than \$146 million.

Consumers Energy announced its rate hike request in

October 2025 less than a month after it received Commission approval to raise its natural gas rates by \$157.5 million. The Department of Attorney General found several instances within Consumers Energy's rate hike application where Consumers Energy inflated capital spending projections and included for themselves unreasonable profit margins. The Attorney General also called on the MPSC to not increase monthly service charges for Consumers Energy customers and to reject the utility's request to force its ratepayers to pay for the utility's lost revenue during warmer months and sales losses through a Revenue Decoupling Mechanism.

The Attorney General has saved Michigan consumers more than \$4.6 billion by intervening in utility cases before the MPSC. Recent rate hike requests from DTE and Consumers Energy have included such inappropriate costs as private jet travel for staff, millions in executive incentive compensation tied to maximizing shareholder returns, and other unsupported expenditures that could not be demonstrated to be reasonable or prudent. Other rate hike cases currently open before the MPSC include DTE's electric rate hike request (U-22046) and Upper Peninsula Power Company's electric rate hike request (U-22032).

Consumers Energy sells electricity to approximately 1.9 million customers throughout Michigan and natural gas to 1.8 million customers across the state.

The Mid Michigan Waste Authority (MMWA) yard waste and brush collection for 2026 runs from the first full week in April through the first full week in December



This seasonal service allows residents to dispose of yard waste effectively, ensuring proper composting and recycling of organic materials.

Yard Waste Collection Guidelines

- Yard waste must be placed in cans that are 20-35 gallons in size or in paper yard waste bags.
- Cans should be labeled with "Yard Waste Only" stickers, which can be obtained from MMWA or local municipal offices.
- Each can or bag must weigh less than 50 pounds and should be closed securely.

Additional Information

- Residents are encouraged to have their yard waste ready at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on collection days.
- For any service issues, residents should contact MMWA within one business day.

MMWA Curbside Brush Guidelines

One bundle of brush is allowed per week.

To make a bundle of brush, take your larger branches (two to six inches around) and cut them so they are no longer than four feet. Secure these branches at both ends with twine or duct tape. Your bundle should be no larger than three feet around and weigh no more than 50 pounds. Set your bundle at the curb along with your trash, not your yard waste.



Public testing of election equipment now underway statewide for November 3 General Election

Pre-election testing is open for public observation as required by Michigan law



County, city, and township election commissions in Michigan have started testing their voting machines to ensure they are working properly in advance of the November 3 General Election. The mandatory pre-election testing is open to the public and must be conducted at least five days before early voting starts.

"Before every election, local election commissions must

perform tests on their election equipment to ensure the machines are working correctly before voters cast their ballots," said Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie. "These tests are open to the public, providing an opportunity for residents to observe the process, speak directly with clerks, and see firsthand the steps that are taken to ensure every machine is programmed properly and will count every vote accurately. Public testing is an important security measure, giving Michiganders transparency into our secure, accurate election system."

"Logic and accuracy testing is one of the many ways that Michigan law invites voters to become involved in the election

process," said Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. "I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to observe both the security of our election equipment and the expertise of our election officials firsthand."

Logic and accuracy tests check and confirm that voting equipment is in working order and functioning properly. Commissions run a set of test ballots through the machine to verify it's programmed correctly and operating as expected. After the test, the test materials are securely stored and kept separate from early voting and Election Day materials.

Michigan law requires the use of paper ballots for every election and for the ballots to be machine-counted. Each county clerk selects, purchases, and maintains their own certified election equipment from a qualifying vendor.

Early voting begins statewide for the General Election on Saturday, October 24, and runs for nine days in a row, including two weekends. Some communities are offering additional days of early voting beyond the statewide period – check mi.gov/earlyvoting to find your dates, times, and location.

To learn more about the election equipment used in Michigan or to find your local clerk's office, visit mi.gov/vote.



Saginaw's newly renovated Mexican American Council headquarters will open its doors to the public November 22 during Holidays in the Heart of the City



The yearlong renovation is finished. Leaders of the MAC Center will aim to show off not only the restored 150-year-old home at 1537 South

Washington, but also a sampling of community activities that will commence, especially geared to young people and to education, which includes culture along with career planning.

When Saginaw's \$52 million ARPA federal grant arrived three years ago, MAC applied for a \$250,000 share for programming. Council members, seeking inroads toward Latino inclusion, added another quarter million dollars to rehab the 5,000-square-foot mini-mansion, which formerly was the Catholic bishop's residence in the upper-scale Grove area between Hoyt Park and Ojibway Island.

City Hall eventually took ownership when former Bishop Ken Untener opted for a traveling residency as various parish rectories. Former Councilman Daniel Soza Jr. won support in 2005 to donate the home to the Mexican American Council.

As with several ARPA infrastructure projects, cost overruns entered the picture, especially with the MAC Center, which already was in a state of neglect when obtained 19 years ago. This absorbed the entire original \$500,000, along with an added \$120,000, taking the funds that had been intended for programming, and now MAC must rely on volunteer teachers and mentors while seeking other grants for operations and activities.

Therefore, the November 22 hours from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. will serve not only as a showcase, but as a recruitment tool for anyone interested in getting involved.

Treats for children of all ages will include Mexican sweet bread. Vendors of traditional food favorites and various holiday items also will be on hand, and live music also is on the agenda, weather permitting.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Tips to Help Michiganders Avoid Online Scams



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) is sharing steps Michiganders can take to protect themselves from falling victim to scammers and cyberattacks.

Here are some steps consumers can implement to protect their personal and financial information:

- **NEVER provide any information to anyone calling, writing, emailing, texting, or messaging you on social media**, even if caller ID or an email looks legitimate or the person contacting you says it's for "verification purposes." This information should be provided only when you have initiated contact with the person or business using contact information from their website, statement, or other official documentation.
- **Create strong, unique passwords.** Passwords should have at least 12 characters and never be reused across accounts. Consider using a password manager.
- **Use multifactor authentication and protect passwords and security codes.** Strengthen your account security by using multifactor authentication, which requires a second step after entering your password, such as a security code sent via text or email, in order to access your account. **Never share these passwords or security codes with anyone.**
- **Click safely.** Avoid clicking on suspicious links, pop-ups, or attachments unless you can verify the source. Reach out to the sender directly to verify the email is legitimate. Never use your work email for personal communications.
- **Update software regularly.** Promptly install updates on phones, computers, and apps to fix security vulnerabilities.
- **Check your own credit reports.** You are entitled by law to a free copy of your credit report from each of the reporting agencies once a year. You may request your free credit reports at AnnualCreditReport.com. Looking at your reports regularly is important to ensure all the information is accurate and your identity has not been stolen. Catching inaccuracies and reporting those

immediately to the credit reporting agencies is key to clearing fraud from your name, getting approved for loans and other services, and protecting yourself as a consumer.

- **Report any scams or suspicious activity in a timely manner.** Monitor your accounts and report any suspicious activity right away to your bank or credit union.

The DIFS Fraud Investigation Unit (FIU) investigates criminal and fraudulent activity related to the insurance and financial markets, and DIFS works with the Attorney General and other state, county, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate

these cases and refer them for prosecution.

Suspected fraud in the insurance and financial sectors can be reported to the FIU safely, easily, and, in most cases, anonymously by visiting Michigan.gov/ReportFraud2DIFS. Consumers with questions or concerns about their insurance or financial services can contact DIFS Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by calling 877-999-6442 or file a complaint at Michigan.gov/DIFScomplaints.

A poster for "Coats for Kids" by The Salvation Army. The top left features the Salvation Army logo. The title "Coats for Kids" is in large, bold, red and blue letters. Below the title, it says "The Salvation Army 2030 N Carolina St Saginaw, MI 48602 (989) 401-7881". The main text reads "Call October 5-30 between 9am-4pm to reserve an appointment (Giveaway held at a later date)". Below this are three bullet points, each preceded by a red circle with four white dots: "Child **MUST** be present to receive a coat", "Parent or guardian **MUST** bring picture ID with a **current Saginaw County** address for a child to be eligible", and "Coats are available for children 18 and under". At the bottom, it says "Kindly Sponsored in Saginaw County by:" followed by logos for abc 12, 102.5 WQQ, Suski, Flint Institute of Arts, skaff FURNITURE CARPET ONE, and Gaines JEWELRY.

Samara Joy Announces Temple Theatre Performance for February 21, 2027

Multi-Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Samara Joy will bring her acclaimed live show to the Temple Theatre in Saginaw, Michigan



Hailed as one of the most remarkable voices of her generation, Samara Joy brings her rich, silky tone, effortless command of jazz standards, and warm stage presence to the Temple Theatre stage for an evening of music that is elegant, soulful, and timeless. Joined by her longtime touring band, Joy weaves classic jazz repertoire together with her own thoughtful lyrics and inventive arrangements, honoring the tradition of her heroines Sarah Vaughan, Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln, and Carmen McRae while making it entirely her own.

From her Grammy wins for Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album to her latest Verve release, *Portrait*, Samara Joy creates a concert experience that is intimate, joyful, and unforgettable. Join us for a Sunday evening of beautiful music in the historic Temple Theatre with one of today's most celebrated jazz artists.

Tickets on sale to the general public available from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm with password "JAZZY". Visit templetheatre.com or <https://bit.ly/samarajoyFEB21> for official ticketing information.

About Samara Joy

A native of the Bronx, Samara Joy became entranced by classic R&B as a child and cut her teeth as a singer in her church's gospel choir. And while her family history is deeply musical—her grandparents helmed the Philadelphia gospel group the Savettes, and her father, the musician and songwriter Antonio McLendon, has produced, composed and arranged his own astounding original work—she didn't delve into the jazz tradition until college at SUNY Purchase. During her studies there she won the 2019 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, which introduced her to the larger jazz scene as a rising star to watch. She was heard, by audiences and critics alike, as a masterful interpreter of jazz standards and a rightful heiress of the sound, technique and charisma that defined her jazz heroines—including Vaughan, Betty Carter, Abbey Lincoln and Carmen McRae.

Samara Joy released her self-titled debut on the Whirlwind label in 2021, followed a year later by *Linger Awhile*, her breakout Verve debut, of which *Down Beat* said, "With this beautiful recording, a silky-voiced star is born." The album earned her a Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album in addition to a headline-making win for Best New Artist. A deluxe edition of the album was released, as well as the EP *A Joyful Holiday*, which took home Grammys for Best Jazz Vocal Album and Best Jazz Performance in 2025. Her latest Verve album, *Portrait*, which Joy co-produced with the veteran trumpeter/bandleader and multi-Grammy winner Brian Lynch, showcases the intimate, soulful chemistry she's developed with her touring band, earning her an NAACP Image Award in 2025 for Outstanding Jazz Album and the GRAMMY for Best Vocal Jazz Album in 2026. *Portrait* also spotlights her burgeoning gifts as a lyricist, in ingenious arrangements that meld her thoughtful words with music by Charles Mingus, Sun Ra and her late mentor Barry Harris.

Show Details Artist:

Venue: Temple Theatre | 203 N Washington Avenue, Saginaw MI 48607

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2027

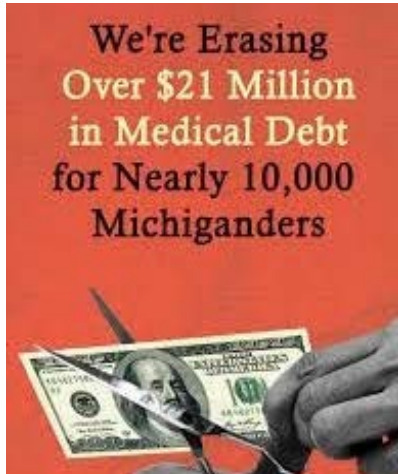
Doors: 6:30 pm

Show Time: 7:30 pm Venue

Presale: On sale now, 10:00am–10:00pm, Code: "JAZZY"

local Tickets: <https://bit.ly/samarajoy FEB21>

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced a third round of medical debt relief



Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced a third round of **medical debt relief**, totaling over \$21 million for 9,767 Michiganders. Recipients will receive letters starting this week. The State of Michigan has now provided more than \$221 million in relief through each round of debt forgiveness through nonprofit, Undue Medical Debt.

The State of

Michigan has contracted with the national nonprofit, **Undue Medical Debt**, with the goal of putting money back in Michiganders' pockets by erasing medical debt for people across the state. On average, one dollar given to Undue Medical Debt relieves \$100 of medical debt. The debt was sourced from local hospitals, which wish to remain anonymous but are committed to community benefit and making healthcare accessible. As the cost of health care continues to skyrocket, Governor Whitmer remains committed to keeping costs low for Michiganders, so they can get the care they need without breaking the bank.

Impact of Medical Debt Abolishment

Medical debt often results from unplanned and unexpected illnesses and accidents. About half of adults in the United States have difficulty in paying their health care bills. In many areas and for many reasons, people remain uninsured and those who are insured receive expensive bills after receiving care.

Across the U.S., medical debt is the number one cause of bankruptcy, and it affects hundreds of thousands of Michiganders who have to choose between paying their medical bills or putting food on the table. Relieving Michiganders of the burden of medical debt will help to stop people from skipping or delaying medical care because of cost-related fears and support people living healthier lives.

Undue Medical Debt is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to erasing medical debt for Americans across the country by purchasing qualifying medical debt in bulk for pennies on the dollar from providers like hospitals and physicians' groups as well as collection agencies. The partnership between Undue Medical Debt and the State of Michigan will support hundreds of thousands of Michiganders, giving them a lifeline to free themselves of the burden of medical debt.

Those who qualify for medical debt relief earn at or below 400% the federal poverty level, (around \$100k/year for a family of three), or have medical debts that equal 5% or more of their annual income. These are the only criteria for relief. This is a one-time abolishment to help remove the financial and emotional burden of unpayable medical debts. Medical debt relief cannot be requested and is source-based, depending

on community-minded providers like hospitals who choose to engage. Those benefiting from medical debt relief will receive an Undue branded letter in the mail starting this week. There is no action required from recipients, the letters simply inform them of debt relief details and encourage them to share their stories.

Fighting to Reduce Medical Debt

The Whitmer-Gilchrist administration is committed to reducing medical debt for Michiganders across the state and putting more money back in people's pockets. Today and previous rounds of medical debt erasure have been supported by a \$4.5 million 2024 State of Michigan appropriation. In 2026, Governor Whitmer signed a balanced, bipartisan budget protecting core Medicaid services for Michiganders.

In her 2026 State of the State address, Governor Whitmer called on the legislature to take action to ease the burden of medical debt:

1. Capping interest rates on medical debt.
2. Preventing medical debt from showing up on credit reports.
3. Requiring hospitals to set up financial assistance programs for patients.
4. Banning liens or foreclosures on homes because of medical debt.

Through the State of Michigan's partnership with Undue, more rounds of medical debt forgiveness will take place in the future.



A Murder Mystery with 216 Possible Endings Comes to Pit & Balcony Community Theatre



There's been a murder at Boddy Manor, and everyone is a suspect! Pit & Balcony Community Theatre and Production Sponsor, Lionwood Creations, invites audiences to put their detective skills to the test

with *Clue, The Musical*, running November 6–8 and 13–15, 2026. Directed by Todd Thomas, this hilarious, interactive musical brings the beloved Parker Brothers board game to life with mystery, music, and plenty of unexpected twists.

Based on the internationally popular board game, *Clue, The Musical* follows six colorful suspects as they attempt to unravel a familiar mystery: Who killed Mr. Boddy, in which room, and with what weapon? With 216 possible solutions, no two performances are guaranteed to end the same way!

The production features a talented cast of local performers, including Dale Peters as Professor Plum, Melony Lamar as Ms.

Green, Amariah Talley as Colonel Mustard, Janessa McIntosh as Miss Scarlet, Joy Howell as Mrs. Peacock, Hayden Sparks as Mrs. White, Matthew Howe as Mr. Boddy, and Terri Weitze as the Detective.

Clue, The Musical features a book by Peter DePietro, music by Galen Blum, Wayne Barker, and Vinnie Martucci, and lyrics by Tom Chiodo.

Performances will take place November 6, 7, and 13 at 7:30 p.m., with matinee performances November 8, 14, and 15 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at pitandbalconytheatre.com.

Whether you're a longtime fan of the classic board game or simply looking for a fun night out, *Clue, The Musical* is an entertaining whodunit that will keep audiences guessing until the very end. The suspects are assembled. The weapons are ready. The only thing missing is YOU. Can you solve the mystery?

City of Midland, Michigan - Municipal Government



It's curbside leaf collection time, Midland!!!

Curbside leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 26 in Area B and proceed to Areas C, D, and A. No, we haven't forgotten the alphabet. Area B is our largest geographical area so we start there every year. FYI: your leaf collection area is the same as your Heavy Item &

- Do not put sticks in the leaf pile.
- Leave one foot of gutter space between the leaf pile and the curb to allow a path for water to properly drain from the street.
- Do NOT place brush, sticks, small children, pumpkins, or refuse into curbside leaf piles, as this creates a safety hazard for crews and equipment.
- Place fall yard waste (sticks, pumpkins, etc.) in yard bags or bins at the curb on refuse collection day. Annual bin stickers or bag stickers are not required through the end of the 2026 collection season.
- Residents who live on a street that is currently under construction should rake their leaves onto their out-lawns until construction is complete.
- Seriously, do not put sticks in the leaf pile. Please.
- Public Works crews are out conducting scheduled equipment testing on City streets in areas C and D. Don't worry if you see trucks on your street, this testing does not count towards official leaf collection rounds!

Brush Collection area.

Please follow these guidelines when preparing leaves for collection:

- Rake leaves into the street (or in the outlawn if you're on a major street – see the website link below for a list).

For more information on curbside leaf collection and to find your collection area, visit www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/leafcollection

Sowing Seeds of Hope Mustard Seed Shelter Holds Ninth Annual Fall Fundraiser at Dow Event Center



We're officially one month out from the ninth annual "Sowing Seeds of Hope" fall fundraiser benefiting Saginaw's Mustard Seed Shelter. This year's event is **Thursday, November 19, 5-8:30 p.m.** at the Dow Event Center, located at 303 Johnson St. in downtown Saginaw.

Tickets are \$60 and include hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner prepared by the Dow Event Center culinary team, plus musical entertainment throughout the evening. There will also be a cash bar and attendees will be able to participate in a variety of raffles for a chance to win items and experiences donated by local businesses and supporters.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit themustardseedshelter.org/ssoh. To inquire about sponsorships, email ssoh@themustardseedshelter.org.

"Last fall, our 30th anniversary celebration took the place of our traditional Sowing Seeds of Hope fall fundraiser, but we've brought the tradition back in 2026," said Amy Bartels Roe, executive director. "Our 'Sowing Seeds' events – this fall gathering and our annual golf outing – provide critical funding for the life-saving work we do each and every day at Mustard Seed. We are excited to hold our second event at the Dow Event Center, just minutes from our home on Cherry Street. Not only is it right in the heart of downtown Saginaw, the venue has plenty of space for attendees to enjoy an evening of great food, drinks and music, while learning about our organization. Former guests will also share powerful testimonials of healing and transformation. Our goal this year is to raise \$60,000 toward our operating budget."

Sowing Seeds of Hope

The evening's program includes the annual presentation of five awards to recognize volunteers who have gone above and beyond to help further Mustard Seed's mission.

"We began our award program in 2022 as a way to recognize the individuals, groups, businesses and fellow nonprofits that are key to sowing seeds of hope year-round," said Bartels Roe. "Volunteers and community partners have

always been a huge part of how our Mustard Seed family builds up those among us in need of love and compassion.

"As always, we're looking forward to a really fun evening celebrating, sharing inspiring stories and sowing seeds of hope together!"

About Mustard Seed Shelter

Since its founding in 1995, Mustard Seed Shelter has welcomed more than 2,600 women and children experiencing homelessness, providing emergency shelter to more than 90 individuals annually and assisting more than 90 people each year with permanent supportive housing services. During their time at Mustard Seed, guests find shelter from the weather, while working hand in hand with staff and volunteers who help them access the services they need to turn their lives around. Learn more at themustardseedshelter.org.

For further information, contact: Amy Bartels Roe, (989) 295-8392, amyroe@themustardseedshelter.org.

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App to help residents quit tobacco



Michigan adults now have a new tool to help them quit tobacco. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has launched the QuitLogix app, bringing support straight to their phones.

Available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, the app was built using feedback from participants who use the online program, with the goal of making the Michigan Tobacco Quitlink program more accessible and easier to use.

“We know the use of tobacco takes a significant toll on people’s health,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Quitting can be difficult. By adding this app, Quitlink is making it easier for Michiganders to access the resources and support they need to successfully quit tobacco and begin living healthier lifestyles.”

The QuitLogix app has an age rating of 18+, following standard rules for tobacco quitting programs and nicotine replacement therapy. It provides participants a flexible way to get quitting support. Some of its main features include:

- Helpful reminders: The app sends encouraging messages, checks in on progress and reminds participants of their goals.
- Support in many forms: Participants can easily switch between the app, the website and the phone-in program to get the help they need.
- English and Spanish support: The app offers support in both languages.
- Section for young adults: A simple, easy-to-use

dashboard made for young adults ages 18 to 24.

- Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT): Participants can order NRT products, like patches or gum.

MDHHS reminds Michigan community members that quitting tobacco has many benefits. These include saving money, feeling healthier and spending more time with family and friends. It often takes more than one attempt to quit for good, so people are encouraged to keep trying, even after a setback.

The Michigan Tobacco Quitlink is a free and confidential service. It offers different types of support, including phone and online coaching, so people can choose what works best for them. Quitlink uses methods that have already helped more than 1.5 million people quit tobacco.

Michigan community members who want help quitting can call the Michigan Tobacco Quitlink at 800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. People can also text or chat online with a coach.

Thanks4Giving Period Dignity Drive

October 13 - November 18, 2026

Join the fight to end period poverty
by donating **pads** and **tampons**.
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Donations will be given to low-income or unhoused women/ girls in
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