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COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

MAY 2023

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Mental Health Awareness Month shines spotlight on available resources

Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) have joined mental health advocates around the nation to recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Observed nationally since 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month promotes mental health education and support to increase individual well-being and decrease the stigma often associated with seeking help for mental illness.

"Everyone should have access to mental health services and resources when they need them and where they need them," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "MDHHS is proud to continue to offer resources to support families experiencing concerns with mental health, substance use or other mental health-related issues."

MDHHS is dedicated to addressing mental health care as part of a larger public health approach and ensuring Michigan families have access to support when dealing with personal and community-related crises and tragedies.

The department is diligently working on a variety of initiatives to expand access and eligibility to programs that support mental health and well-being. Last year, MDHHS increased its investment in children's behavioral health services by developing a new Bureau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy and Supports. Since its inception, the bureau has developed and issued \$6 million in grants for community mental health service programs to explore innovative ways to support children and families in crisis, and for efforts to expand workforce to support the growing demand for mental health services across the state.

Additionally, the new bureau is overseeing efforts to improve behavioral health supports for youth and families with involvement in the child welfare system. These efforts are highlighting the reality

that consistent access to care and opportunities for timely, effective interventions are essential to family preservation and successful reunification in the community.

"We know the negative emotional impacts of a disaster can last for months or years," said Dr. Debra Pinals, MDHHS medical director for behavioral health and forensic programs. "Everyone recovers differently, and it can take time to regain emotional strength and equilibrium after all the stress, changes and loss we've been through. At the same time, we can be strengthened by the knowledge of all that we have been able to achieve during this time."

Over the past two years, MDHHS and its partners have implemented three statewide lines to ensure that mental health or substance use help for all Michiganders is just a phone call away: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, Michigan Peer Warmline and Frontline Strong Together Crisis Line. Cumulatively, almost 11,000 callers a month have received help from these three lines.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, is a free 24/7 line that people can use confidentially and anonymously through call, text or chat at 988lifeline.org. 988 is available to provide support to anyone who may be experiencing emotional distress or struggling with mental health or substance use concerns. It is also a resource for family members or friends who may be concerned about a loved one's mental health.

The Michigan Peer Warmline, 88-PEER-753 (888-733-7753), is a statewide warmline for Michiganders living with persistent mental health and/or substance use conditions. The Warmline connects individuals with certified peer support specialists who have lived experiences of behavioral health issues, trauma or personal crises, and are trained to support and empower the callers. All calls are anonymous and the warmline operates seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Continues on next page...

THIS MONTH'S COVER

National Mental Health Awareness Month

WORD UP Community Magazine

It's About You. It's About Family. It's About Community.

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Focus: Empowering our community by Focusing on the Positive Aspects of Our Area.

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... Mental Health Awareness Month continued ...

Frontline Strong Together, 833-34-STRONG, is a new service funded through MDHHS that provides 24/7 support to first responders (police, EMS, fire, dispatch and corrections) and their families through a crisis line, specialty treatment and referrals. This service was developed in a partnership between first responder professional unions, Wayne State University and Michigan Crisis and Access Line staff.

Mental health in the workplace has also taken on new significance in the wake of pandemic work-life challenges. The MDHHS Stay Well program recently created a collection of resources to help plan, implement and sustain wellness programs for employees within organizations, and is working closely with Labor and Economic Opportunity as they expand offerings attending to workplace mental health. Mental Wellness Tools for Organizations is available on the Stay

Well website.

According to the ongoing Household Pulse Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 30% of Michigan adults reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depression during the most recent reporting period (March 29 – April 10, 2023). The Pulse Survey also found more than 12% of Michigan adults “who have ever had COVID-19” reported experiencing long-term health effects from their infection, also referred to as Long COVID. Long COVID can be associated with mental health symptoms such as anxiety, depression and concentration or memory problems, also known as “brain fog.”

For additional mental health resources, visit the COVID-19 webpage.

GIVE LOCAL BAY 2023 RAISES MORE THAN \$178,000 FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS

Give Local Bay 24-Hour Online Fundraiser Raises Money for 59 Bay and Arenac Nonprofits



The Bay Area Community Foundation's 9th annual Give Local Bay event, powered by LiUNA-Local 1098, raised more than \$178,000 for Bay and Arenac nonprofits in just 24-hours on May 2. These dollars are used to help build long-term growth for some of our greatest community assets.

“Year after year the people of this community have demonstrated their unwavering support for one another. Give Local Bay 2023 yet again showcased the strength and resiliency of our community, as we came together to support our local nonprofit partners. We are proud to see the continued generosity of Bay and Arenac counties, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside local nonprofits to build a brighter

future for our community,” says Diane Mahoney, President and CEO of the Bay Area Community Foundation.

The Bay Area Community Foundation, the Paul Revard and Frances Santoro Fund at the Bay Area Community Foundation and Messiah Lutheran Church in honor of Reverend Andreas

the State Theatre of Bay City, Bay City Rowing Club, Ye Olde Courthouse/Arenac County Historical Society and Bay County Habitat for Humanity. Final leaderboards can be viewed at www.givelocalbay.org.

Bay Area Community Foundation called upon the community to award a prize winner for the “Most Creative Post” after seeing how much effort the nonprofits put into creating content to promote Give

Local Bay. Hell's Half Mile Events won the staff pick for the “Most Creative Post,” while Hidden Harvest won the community vote. Both organizations won \$250 prizes for their creative posts which you can view on the Bay Area Community Foundation Facebook page.

The Bay Area Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization working to improve the quality of life in Bay and Arenac counties. The Foundation's mission is to build community through generosity, leadership and strategic grantmaking. The Bay Area Community Foundation is located in the Pere Marquette Depot at 1000 Adams Street, Suite 200, Bay City, Michigan 48708. For more information, visit www.bayfoundation.org.



FATHERHOOD CONNECTION



A Faith-based Program for Unemployed and Underemployed in Saginaw County.

Sign up for the Fatherhood Connection, presented by The Saginaw Community Action Center. Become empowered to be the best father you can building bonds with your child(ren). Learn how to handle fatherhood at every stage, how to connect with your village for support and how your involvement can lead to a more healthy and joyous relationship with your child(ren).

To learn about upcoming dates and events contact Saginaw CAC to get enrolled today!

989-753-7741

Topics we'll Cover in the Educational Sessions:

- Mental Health
- Expungement & Restorative Justice
- Resume Building
- Job Interview Preparation
- Healthy Parenting & Co-Parenting

Our Partners:



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LET'S HELP EACH OTHER IN OUR FATHERHOOD JOURNEY**
PRESENTED BY THE SAGINAW COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER.



Saginaw Women of Colors Group and The Michigan Public Health Institute, Temple Theatre Sponsors the EVOC Production Play – The Family Car



SATURDAY, MAY 27 // 4PM

CONTACT THE TEMPLE THEATRE OR WOMEN OF COLORS FOR **FREE TICKETS**

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This play is an original stage play by Glecia Wright Tatum, with co-writers Twannie Gray and Ariel Pompey.

The Family Car is the story of one family's journey through loss and grief. Join Roz and Eddie as they struggle to find answers through the twists and turns of losing their daughter to suicide. Be a witness to their tears and triumphs as they travel from the valley of anger, sadness, and disbelief to the mountain tops of overcoming joy and celebration.

In these trying times, we invite our community to help unpack the stigma of mental health,

discover new coping mechanisms, and finally reach the place of acceptance. This original stage play serves as a reminder that we never forget those we've lost— we just remember with less pain.

The cast includes members from Detroit and Flint, and primarily Saginaw community members. The event will be held at The Temple Theatre on Saturday, May 27 at 4:00p.m. (Admission Free).

For more information and tickets contact Women of Color's office at: (989) 399-8775 Ext. 5 or the Temple Theatre (989) 754-7469 and website at the www.templetheatre.com/thefamilycar2023.



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Art & Garden Festival 2023

A summer tradition in the heart of Saginaw



Don't miss out on all the fun at the 18th Annual Art & Garden Festival, Wednesday, June 14, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Andersen Enrichment Center and Memorial Rose Garden, 120 Ezra Rust, Saginaw. The Art & Garden Festival is an all-day art and gardening event, featuring an art fair, art and garden vendors, food for purchase and a silent auction. Admission to the festival is Free!

Over 40 Art & Garden Festival Vendors will sell plants and original art including: painted glassware, pottery, jewelry, native Michigan perennials and ferns, several varieties of rose bushes, and many other items for home and garden.

Garden lectures by John Dusek of Faber's Greenhouse & Floral speaking on pollinators and Thomas Trombley of the Castle Museum speaking on the History of Saginaw's City Flower: The Peony.

NEW this Year! The peony show and competition is an opportunity to showcase your favorite bloom and compete for a cash prize. No entry fee, bring your bloom in a disposable vase, it will not be returned.

Our fresh made Strawberry Shortcake will be available for purchase and enjoy other Lunch Treats and Sweets on our front lawn by Tom's Coffee Truck, Mijo's and Robbie D's food trucks.

A Silent Auction will feature plants, art, home and garden accessories, gift certificates and much more donated by our vendors and local businesses. All

proceeds benefit the care and maintenance of the Lucille E. Andersen Memorial Rose Garden.

The Art & Garden Festival is proud to be a Saginaw Celebrates Summer participating partner. Presented by Hemlock Semiconductor, the summer long collaboration celebrates arts, nature and the humanities with events for the entire family to enjoy.

For further information about the Art & Garden Festival, please contact Andersen Enrichment Center at 989.759.1362, ext. 1 or email lrittenberry@saginawmi.com.



National Home Improvement Month



May of 2002 brought in the formation of the month-long holiday, National Home Improvement Month. It was developed by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (or NARI) with the help of the U.S. Congress. The holiday is meant to spark more home improvement transformations, as well as help homeowners find contracting professionals more easily. Additionally, homeowners are encouraged to learn more about the quality of their homes and

become more able to identify the problem signs that could ultimately cause severe damage or lead to other, even bigger problems.

Spring is typically when many Americans make plans to remodel their homes — from embarking on projects that help boost their home's efficiency to adding more of their personal style to their living space to tackling much-needed maintenance. As consumers consider which home

improvement projects to take on, it's important to understand the benefits of hiring a professional remodeler to make their dream home a reality. As always, you can take advantage of a no-hassle estimate from our team of waterproofing professionals here at Basement Masters Waterproofing. National Home Remodeling Month, which takes place every year in May, offers a great opportunity to learn more about the highly skilled work of these trained experts.

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New mural honoring Henry Marsh will transform the primary entrance to the City of Saginaw



After eleven years of research, advocacy, commitment, and tenacity, the Great Lakes Bay Region Quality of Life Council (Go Great Foundation) would like to announce a huge step forward in making the Henry Marsh Plaza Project (HMPP) a reality as it will serve as the 2024 CHL (Canadian Hockey League) Memorial Cup Community Legacy Project.

The Go Great Foundation and the Henry Marsh Mural Committee is announcing our partnership with local artist Stephen Hargash to create an original, 1,050 square ft. mural below I-675 on the east retaining wall of the underpass on Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI. The purpose of the mural is to honor former Mayor Henry Marsh, one of our nation's first black mayors and the first black mayor of the City of Saginaw. The mural will tell the story of Henry Marsh's faith, love of his family, highlight his accomplishments, capture his passions, include a snapshot of the community and showcase the qualities that make Saginaw unique. This mural will be the steppingstone in creating a universally accessible urban park area.

Since 1995, Stephen Hargash has brought public art

to communities by means of hand painted murals. Many of his murals can be seen around the Region, specifically his hometown of Frankenmuth, MI. Stephen has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career including two Michigan Beautification Awards.

"I have had the opportunity to explore and develop many projects involving history and honoring the past. Themes involving the community are often portrayed in my work. As an artist I observe and document life. I give homage to people and places of the past, as well as the here and now. I have equally been involved in projects that have allowed me to use color and imagination in different ways. Although the approach to my art is continuously changing and evolving, there is consistency to the dedication, patience, and attention to detail in all my work. I'm an advocate for the creative endeavor and hope to inspire and raise awareness to the importance art plays in our life, community, and society." Stephen Hargash

Continues on next page...

... Henry Marsh mural continued ...

About the Henry Marsh Plaza Project

The Henry Marsh Plaza Project (HMPP) – Will serve as the 2024 CHL Memorial Cup Community Legacy Project. The project will address Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, improve access to fresh water recreational activities, contribute to sustainability through recycling programs, support nature, provide an urban park area that is universally accessible, and culminates with a 1,050 square ft. mural capturing the Honorable Henry G. Marsh. In addition to the mural, the HMPP will be working collaboratively with our community partners and local artists to create and support a “mural apprentice program” to provide experience to up and coming artists. This “mural apprentice program” will use the piles (pillars supporting I-675) as a gateway to providing the opportunity for local artists to learn and grow their skill set and will serve to help strengthen our community and share in the creative process of arts and culture.

The benefits from this effort will:

- Create a place of honor for one of the first Black Mayors in the US
- Provide an improved impression (specifically the first impression) of the City of Saginaw
- Re-unite Saginaw's north and south sides divided by I-675
- Transform this area into a well-lighted, universally accessible, cultural, entertainment, recreational, and welcoming space
- Preserve a critical linking space needed for our trails system to unite
- Provides river's edge access to one of our nation's best walleye fisheries
- Enhance the area and attract visitors off I-675 to delight in the history shared with art, projections, changeable ambient lighting, the tone and atmosphere created, and enjoy activities that occur at this newly established urban park
- Provide a space for art and outdoor exhibits to happen
- Contribute to sustainability and supporting nature through recycling programs

About the Artist

The artist, Stephen Hargash, began his artistic career as an 18-year-old in Mid-Michigan. With an old pop-up camper, which he transformed into a vending booth, he traveled throughout Michigan selling airbrushed t-shirts. Putting himself through college this way, (Minneapolis College of Art and Design), he not only earned a living, but developed his skills as an artist. In 1995 he transitioned from airbrushing to hand-painted art when he received his first public art commission to paint five 8'x9' murals on the former Satow Drugs building in his hometown of Frankenmuth, MI. The success of these murals set a course for him as a mural painter as he continued to paint murals in private

homes and public spaces throughout the area. He has currently been pursuing his fine arts career as a painter showing in galleries as well as continuing his prolific nature as a muralist. In the past 30 years he has painted over 100 murals from Michigan to New York and continues to grow as an artist developing his own unique technique and style.

About the Go Great Foundation

The Great Lakes Bay Region Quality of Life Council, aka Go Great Foundation, serves as the fiduciary providing funds for tourism economic development projects and activities within Bay, Midland and Saginaw Counties that are facilitated by the three County Convention and Visitors Bureau organizations. The mission of the Go Great Foundation is to benefit the citizens and guests of Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region by identifying and remediating gaps within the leisure time activity and sense of place space. This is accomplished through product development efforts, services and education. Projects are identified that serve to improve the quality of life and sense of place for regional citizens, guests/visitors and also serve to attract talent and retain our citizenry.



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and *Chicken Feed*

By Sherry Draine Hannah



There are so many times that we miss out on financial help simply because we don't know who to contact.

Most of you have heard of Social Security benefits. You might be eligible for additional widows, widower's or surviving divorced spouse's benefits. You can find out if you are eligible by visiting your local social security office. Be prepared when you go with the necessary documents. You will need a birth certificate, proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful alien status if you were not born in the United States, U.S. military discharge papers if you had military service before 1968. You will also need two forms that describe your medical condition if you are applying for disability

benefits. The forms are: (SSA-3368 and SSA-827) and which will give your authorization disclosure of information to the social security office. You will need a copy of your marriage certificate and or final divorce decree, if you are applying as a surviving divorced spouse. Some information can be photocopied like W-2 forms and self-employment tax returns. Your original birth certificate will be accepted, copies will not be accepted, your original birth certificate will be returned to you.

You should have an established bank or credit union account so that when your benefits are approved you may sign up for a direct deposit. To assist you with your appointment, here are a few things you will need; your name and social security number, your name at birth, your citizenship status, whether you or anyone else has ever filed for social security benefits, Medicare or SSI on your behalf. You will need to supply the dates and locations of your marriages, and for marriages that have ended, how, when and where. The amount of your current income and source. If you are not 65 years old but are within three months of your birthday, you will need to decide whether you want to enroll in medical insurance (Part B of Medicare). These are just a few things to help prepare you to apply. Gather everything together so you can be organized. Don't get discouraged if you don't have everything. The Social Security office workers will assist you.

Feel free to contact me at sldraine@yahoo.com.

Saginaw Community Foundation awards \$878,550 in scholarships



Saginaw

community foundation

**Impacting Saginaw County.
For good. For ever.**

At its 36th annual Excellence in Education event, the Saginaw Community Foundation presented 649 scholarship awards to 389 high school, college and nontraditional students on May 15, 2023 totaling \$878,550.

"The purpose of the annual Excellence in Education event is to recognize, award and inspire students who have earned scholarships from the Saginaw Community Foundation," said

Chamika Ford, program officer at the foundation. "We also honor the donors who have established scholarship funds at the foundation."

Since 1987, the foundation has awarded more than \$9.9 million to students to help them achieve their educational goals.

"Education is vital to the growth and future of every community. Scholarships can help people in our region obtain a degree, certificate or other training that will help further their aspirations and goals," said Renee Johnston, president and CEO at the foundation.

The foundation currently administers 248 scholarship funds that have been established by its donors.

Saginaw Community Foundation will begin accepting applications for 2024 scholarships on Nov. 1, 2023. More information is available at saginawfoundation.org.

About the Saginaw Community Foundation

Since 1984, the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) has helped Saginaw County residents build a better community by linking donor interests with the community's most pressing needs and promising opportunities. As a nonprofit corporation, SCF serves three important constituencies: its donors who want to make a difference; the nonprofit organizations that provide services and programs essential in the community; and individual communities within Saginaw County through effective grantmaking and leadership. Learn more at saginawfoundation.org.

End of Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Brings Changes to Insurance Coverage for Michiganders



The Insurance and Financial Services Michigan Department of (DIFS) is alerting consumers that there may be changes to their health insurance coverage for COVID-related testing and treatments now that the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) has ended.

"The protections enacted under the federal Public Health Emergency helped millions of Michiganders access lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, treatment, and testing," said **DIFS Director Anita Fox**. "Going forward, it is important that Michiganders understand that their coverage for these important services may have changed. DIFS stands ready to assist consumers with any questions or concerns about their health insurance. Our live call center can be reached Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., by calling 877-999-6442."

Federal law required that many health services related to COVID-19, including testing and vaccinations, had to be covered at no cost for the duration of the PHE. Many Michiganders may now have to pay out-of-pocket for some COVID-related care. For more specific information about different types of medical care that have been affected by the ending of the PHE, see below:

At-Home and Laboratory COVID Tests:

- **Private Insurers:** The federal mandate requiring health insurers to provide no-cost coverage for COVID-19 testing, including at-home tests, has ended. Most people with health insurance will continue to have coverage for laboratory COVID-19 tests, subject to the plan's cost sharing. At-home testing for COVID-19 is an eligible medical expense for flexible spending arrangements (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs). Michiganders should check with their plan for more details.
- **Medicare:** Medicare is no longer required to provide coverage for at-home COVID-19 testing. Medicare Part B participants can still obtain laboratory COVID-19 testing, with authorization by a medical provider, without out-of-pocket cost. Medicare Advantage participants may have additional flexibility regarding COVID-19 testing. Michiganders should check with their plan for more details.
- **Medicaid:** Under federal law, Medicaid and MICHild participants can obtain at-home and laboratory COVID-19 tests through September 30, 2024.

COVID-19 Treatments:

- **Private insurers:** Treatment for COVID-19 will continue to be covered but insurers are now able to apply cost sharing, such as deductibles and coinsurance, and require prior approval for these treatments. Michiganders

should confirm coverage with their insurer or plan before seeking treatment.

- **Medicare:** Medicare beneficiaries may have to pay for a portion of their COVID-19 care as required by their plan.
- **Medicaid:** Medicaid and MICHild are required to cover all drugs for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 with no cost sharing for enrollees through September 30, 2024.

COVID-19 Vaccinations:

COVID-19 vaccinations continue to be supplied with no out-of-pocket cost by the federal government.

DIFS can help consumers with health insurance questions and complaints. Contact DIFS Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 877-999-6442 or Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance. For more information about the state's Medicaid and MICHild programs, visit the MIBridges website; <https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/>

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. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/DIFS or follow the Department on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.



Michigan Secretary of State
Jocelyn Benson

Statement from Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson on new law supporting military absentee voters

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson today made the following statement regarding the signing of Senate Bill 259 (Wojno), which has been filed and given immediate effect as Public Act 25 of 2023:

"Every citizen's vote strengthens our democracy and this law will help ensure the right of military service members and their spouses and dependents to make their voice heard in our elections while serving our country overseas. I'm grateful to the state Legislature and the Governor for their partnership to make this law a reality ahead of tomorrow's local elections."

The GLBMA Ken Horn Manufacturing scholarship



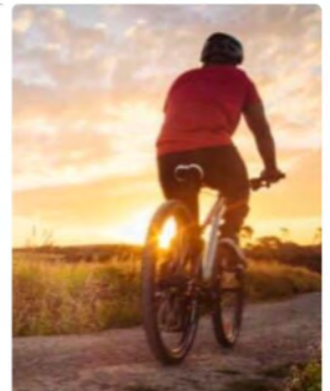
The Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association (GLBMA) has established the GLBMA Ken Horn scholarship in honor of Ken's service to the Great Lakes Bay region and Manufacturing across the state. Our inaugural scholarship was awarded to James Henige of Freeland. James attends Freeland High school, Delta College Early College program, and the Bay Arenac Skill Center. He plans to attend Owen Community college with the Michigan CAT collaboration pursuing an associate degree in Transportation Technology specializing in Diesel/Heavy Equipment.

Ken Horn came from a humble beginning. He was born in Detroit to German parents, that fled communist East Germany. As a first-generation American, Ken has come a long way in becoming one of the staunchest supporters of manufacturing in the Great Lakes Bay region. Ken has lived in Frankenmuth for over 40 years and enjoys spending time with his beautiful family and wonderful grandchildren. First elected in 1992, Ken was a Saginaw County Commissioner for 16 years before serving in the Michigan House of Representatives for 6 years. Ken served as chairman of the House Energy & Technology Committee. In 2022, Ken saw his final term in the Michigan Senate come to an end. Ken chaired the Senate Economic and Small Business Development Committee, along with two Senate Appropriations Subcommittees: Capital Outlay and Talent, and Economic Development/MEDC. Ken also served as the vice-chairman of the following committees: Energy and Technology, Education and Career Readiness, and the Appropriations Subcommittee at Universities and Community Colleges. He was also appointed

to the Insurance and Banking Committee and Legislative Council. Ken was instrumental in developing several programs within his time in the House and Senate. Most notable are the Going Pro Talent Fund, Michigan Reconnect, Procurement Technical Assistance program, Autonomous & Roadway funding, Streamline of the Skilled Trades licensing process, Strategic Outreach Attraction and Reserve (SOAR) funding. Ken has been recognized by various organizations around the state, see list below. After receiving his Michigan Manufacturers Association Legislator of the year award on September 14, 2002, in Lansing, Senator Horn said, "Manufacturing remains the backbone of our economy. It puts Michigan on the map and provides jobs for thousands of our hardest working residents." "My top priorities have always been keeping jobs here in Michigan and growing our economy." Ken holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Concordia University in Ann Arbor. He has completed Michigan State's Michigan Political Leadership Program, Leadership Saginaw County, and the Saginaw County Vision 2020 One Thousand Leaders Initiative. In 2022, Ken was bestowed Saginaw Valley State University Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

The Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association has been the voice of manufacturing since 1912. The organization has transformed from its original land bank origins to bring manufacturing to the region after the lumber era ended by promoting and educating the next generation. Putting manufacturing and skilled trades in the forefront of the talent pipeline.

Saturday May 20th, 2023 The Friends of Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting an off road, trail bike rally at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. The rally will be held at 6pm and should be over by 8pm. The refuge is located in Saginaw County, at the west end of Curtis Road. The nearest cross road would be Curtis Rd and M-13. Riders are to meet at the refuge parking lot and the starting point of the trail will be at the Shiawassee drive through gate. The trail will follow along the wetlands and Shiawassee River, connecting with the Ferguson Bayou Trail, then heading through the woods and back to the parking area. The trail will be marked and riders will need to follow the designated trail. This is an opportunity for trail bike riders to enjoy the refuge and meet other trail riders.



Governor Whitmer Takes Action to Help Michiganders Save Money, Stay Covered During Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination Process

Executive Directive Instructs State of Michigan Departments to Help Michiganders Who May Lose Medicaid Coverage Due to Recent Federal Legislation



Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive directive instructing all State of Michigan departments to work together to lower health care costs by helping Michiganders keep Medicaid coverage or find affordable health insurance as Medicaid eligibility renewals begin again this summer. This Directive builds on the work already being done by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) to ensure all affected Michiganders have the information they need to stay covered and save money.

"DIFS is committed to working with MDHHS and our other state partners to help Michiganders who no longer qualify for Medicaid get the affordable, comprehensive health insurance they need," said **DIFS Director Anita Fox**. "DIFS stands ready to answer questions about purchasing a Marketplace health insurance plan or finding other options, such as employer-sponsored health insurance. Call DIFS at 877-999-6442, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit Michigan.gov/StayCovered to learn more."

Nationwide, Medicaid beneficiaries will have to renew their coverage to comply with federal legislation. This may result in thousands of Michiganders transitioning away from Medicaid. In Michigan, annual renewals will begin again in June 2023 and will continue through May 2024. During this period, MDHHS will review the Medicaid eligibility of more than 3.1 million Michiganders, and those who are no longer eligible for benefits must take action to maintain healthcare coverage to protect themselves and their families.

To help Michiganders through this process, actions taken by the state so far include:

- Communication with impacted Michiganders by mail, text message, and targeted advertising campaigns.
- The launch of two new websites by MDHHS and DIFS to provide information to consumers about redetermination and alternative health insurance options.
- The addition of staff to the MI Bridges Help Desk and Customer Service lines to help Michiganders navigate the transition.
- Outreach to employers to help ensure that individuals are informed about their employer-based health insurance options, including the existence of a special enrollment period for those affected by redetermination.

Effective immediately, Governor Whitmer's executive directive instructs all state departments to cooperate with and assist MDHHS and DIFS as required, including working together to distribute information to Michiganders regarding the redetermination process and how to renew eligibility, and sharing necessary data to conduct outreach, subject to all applicable protections.

If you are a Medicaid beneficiary, you should take the following steps to prepare for redetermination:

- Make sure your address, phone number and email address are up to date at www.michigan.gov/MIbridges. You can also call your local MDHHS office. If you do not have an online account for MI Bridges to access your Medicaid case or report changes, visit www.michigan.gov/MIbridges to sign up for an account. You can also locate organizations that can help you by searching for community partners.
- Report any changes to your household or income. You can report changes at www.michigan.gov/MIbridges or by calling your local MDHHS office.
- If you get a renewal packet, be sure to fill it out, sign the forms and return it by the due date with any proof needed. NOTE: If you do not complete and return the renewal, you may lose Medicaid coverage.

For more information about Medicaid eligibility renewals, visit Michigan.gov/2023BenefitChanges. For more information about coverage options for those losing Medicaid coverage, visit Michigan.gov/StayCovered or call the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services at 877-999-6442, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Midland Center for the Arts Unveils Spectacular 2023/24 Season

From Broadway Blockbusters to Symphony Concerts, Dance Performances, and More, the Center Looks Ahead to a Spectacular Season



Midland Center for the Arts is excited to announce its 2023/24 season. Featuring a lineup of captivating performances from Broadway hits and symphonic classics to cutting-edge contemporary dance and global music, the Center is looking forward to welcoming audiences to a Spectacular Season.

"There's something in this season for everyone to enjoy, and I hope patrons will be as excited about the art and artists joining us as I am," said Jon Loos, President and CEO of Midland Center for the Arts. "This season has comedies full of side-splitting humor, dance from leading choreographers, enthralling music, high-energy Broadway performances, intimate dramas, and more. We are proud to continue our tradition of providing world-class entertainment to the Great Lakes Bay region."

The **Broadway & Beyond** series brings some of the biggest names in theatre to the Center, kicking off with the magical wonder, **Cirque Dreams Holidayze** to start the holiday season; Tina Fey's hilariously 'fetch' hit Broadway blockbuster **Mean Girls**, adapted from the iconic 2004 film; a new Broadway tour of the sensational family-friendly classic, **Annie**; the heartwarming and uplifting musical, **Come From Away**, telling the true story of how a small town in Newfoundland opened

its doors to stranded passengers when the world stopped on 9/11; and Broadway's longest-running revival returns with the shimmy-shaking **Chicago**.

The **Midland Symphony Orchestra** will open the season with **Spooky Symphony**, in which

theremin virtuoso Rob Schwimmer performs selections from classic Hitchcock film scores and Berlioz's **Symphonie Fantastique**; followed by **Postcards**, featuring bassist Kebra-Seyoun Charles performing picturesque works from around the world including Gershwin and Sibelius; the annual **Holiday Pops** will welcome Broadway star of Six and Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Abby Mueller, for a night of festive favorites; a multi-media marvel on stage will follow in **Wonders of Nature**, with Estacio's Aurora Triptych performed over breathtaking film of the Aurora Borealis from Dr. José Francisco Salgado; and concluding with **These Women's Works**, when piano virtuoso Wynona Wang joins the Center to honor the works of Lili

Boulanger, Clara Schumann, and Amy Beach.

Center Stage Theatre produces some of the most thrilling community theatre in the Great Lakes Bay region. They will begin their season with the regional premiere of the hilarious hit musical **The Prom** on the outdoor summer stage; followed by the provocative and gripping Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, **Doubt: A Parable**; then the classic holiday musical, **Irving Berlin's White Christmas**; with the deliriously funny Vanya & Sonya & Masha & Spike next spring; and ending the season with the emotional powerhouse Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, **Next to Normal**.



Our **MATRIX:MIDLAND** series celebrates the inspiring nexus of science, history, art, and entertainment. Featuring cutting-edge contemporary dance and global music performances, including a celebration of the great American songbook in **Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents Sing & Swing**, featuring Bria Skonberg and Benny Benack III; the **Wonders of Nature** collaboration with Midland Symphony Orchestra; the

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electrifying breakdancing group, **360 ALLSTARS**; and ending the series with captivating storytelling on life's ups and downs in **How to Navigate Life** with Belle Liang, Ph.D. and Timothy Klein, LCSW.

The newly renamed **Windows On Our World** series will feature three unique performances that explore culture and perspective, including the virtuoso Afro-Cuban sibling duo, **The Gavilán Brothers**; the mesmerizing juggling performance, **REFLEX**; and **Beyond Babel**, a contemporary dance show that tells a modern-day Romeo and Juliet story through choreography and pop music.

Don't miss a single moment of this Spectacular Season! Subscriptions provide the best seats at the best prices. Subscribers also receive exclusive benefits, including ticket discounts, priority seating before tickets go on sale to the public, and flexibility with their package purchase. Subscriptions to the 2023/24 season will open for new members on May 12. To become a subscriber and ensure that you won't miss any of these incredible performances, visit MidlandCenter.org/ Subscribe.

Midland Center for the Arts is a cultural destination for the Great Lakes Bay Region and State of Michigan. Imagine a place where you can experience the best of art, science, history, music, theatre, dance, and film, all under one stunning roof. This vibrant and unique institution, housed within an architecturally significant building, is a haven for artists, students, historians, and audiences alike. With its impressive 1,500-seat auditorium, 400-seat theater, interactive museum of science and art, Midland County Historical Society, and Studio School art studios, the possibilities for entertainment and enrichment are endless. Ready to explore? Visit midlandcenter.org.

Midland Center's 2023/24 Spectacular Season:

Broadway & Beyond:

Cirque Dreams Holiday / NOV 17-18, 2023
Mean Girls / FEB 9-10, 2024
Annie / MAR 8-9, 2024
Come From Away / APR 1-2, 2024
Chicago / MAY 17-18, 2024

Midland Symphony Orchestra:

Spooky Symphony / OCT 7, 2023
Postcards / NOV 4, 2023
Holiday Pops with Abby Mueller / DEC 9, 2023
Wonders of Nature / FEB 24, 2024
These Women's Works / APR 13, 2024

Center Stage Theatre:

The Prom / AUG 2-11, 2023 (A Regional Premiere)
Doubt: A Parable / OCT 12-15, 2023
Irving Berlin's White Christmas / DEC 8-17, 2023
Vanya & Sonya & Masha & Spike / APR 12 - 21, 2024
Next to Normal / MAY 17-26, 2024

MATRIX:MIDLAND Series:

Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents Sing & Swing / FEB 22, 2024
Wonders of Nature with Midland Symphony Orchestra / FEB 24, 2024
360 ALLSTARS / APR 20, 2024
How to Navigate Life with Belle Liang / APR 24, 2024

Windows On Our World:

The Gavilán Brothers / OCT 13, 2023
REFLEX / NOV 3, 2023
Beyond Babel / MAR 17, 2024





Glecia Tatum
Theatre major

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