

WORD UP

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2024

– FREE PUBLICATION –

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A Season of Giving

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FULL OF BOTH
THANKS & GIVING



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By Dorothy J. Nickleberry

Thanksgiving and Christmas, the season recognized by most for family gatherings and gift giving. Yes, it is that time of the year again when lots of people are hustling and bustling to find that perfect gift for their special loved one(s).

But why?

Let's talk. Why do we get that warm fuzzy feeling when we give someone a gift and see the smile on their face. The book of Genesis 1:26 states that, God created us in his image and likeness. God is the prime example of a true giver as seen in John 3:16, not only did God give his son for us, but his son **Jesus gave his life and position for us**, He agreed to leave a perfect place in Heaven for us so that we can be free, yes, he also gave sacrificially, He gave and continues to give to us. I believe it is the image and likeness of God in our hearts that inspires us to be givers, some of us yield or submit more than others.

It seems that during this time of the year we give more than other times of the year in celebration of the birth or arrival of Jesus. I don't believe that we are certain of the exact day of His birth; however, we agree to celebrate on December 25th. During our birthday we expect to receive gifts. On the day we celebrate as Jesus' birthday we give gifts to others. Why not give him the greatest gift "your heart/life!"

The holidays, especially Christmas is the season observed for giving, giving love, and giving thanks. The holidays are also



about faith, showing appreciation, and helping those in need.

"Giving" is more than just giving. Tangible items are great, but nothing is more priceless than kindness and love. Sometimes, the only thing people need is to be shown support through genuine care and compassion. The saying "They may forget what you said — but they will never forget how you made them feel," which is so prominent during this time. Humans are capable of changing others' lives, and we should really use this season to make it happen for the better.

It isn't just meant to be a season. Rather than only applying these ideas to the holiday season, consider practicing these different aspects of the giving spirit year-round. Hospitality is timeless. Begin with making it a New Year's resolution to perform more acts of kindness or to put more smiles on others faces as you set out on your giving journey. No matter what, always keep in mind that there is never a time where you shouldn't be considerate.

It will come back to you. There is no better feeling in the world than watching someone so delighted by kindness. A simple fact, yet sometimes difficult for people to understand, is that if you are kind to others, you will attract positive energy to you. What you put out in the world will come back to you in a multitude of ways. What you do will ultimately benefit you, as well as those who you interact with daily. Also, know that you will find joy and happiness the more you instill it in others. A positive attitude is key to a healthy lifestyle, and what better way is there to achieve optimism than to produce it yourself.

THIS MONTH'S COVER

A Season of Giving

WORD UP Community Magazine
It's About You. It's About Family. It's About Community.
A Monthly Publication.

Free Publication Compliments of our Advertisers
Focus: *Empowering our community by Focusing on the Positive Aspects of Our Area.*

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Materials are due the 20th of each month for the next month's publication Please contact our office for details.

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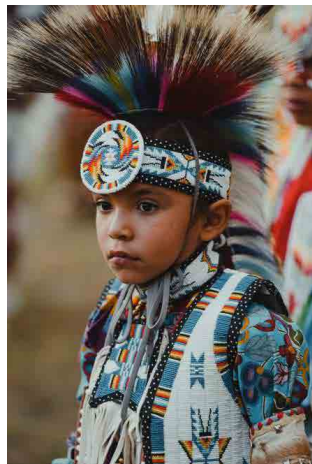




November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

NCAI participates in the DC Native Public Relations Roundtable, a group consisting of public relations professionals from national American Indian and Alaska Native organizations and agencies in the Washington, DC area. The group meets monthly to improve communication between groups and its primary function has been to create a more cohesive campaign for Native Heritage Month and to unify the month's schedule of events.



According to the National Congress of American Indians, more than 30% of the Native population is under the age of 18, compared to only 24% of the total population who are under the age of 18. This sizable young population represents a critical opportunity to ensure all youth and families are engaged, supported, and provided tools and resources they need to thrive.

- American Indians are the most rural population of the United States.
- American Indians experience higher disease rates, lower life expectancy rates, higher dropout rates and higher poverty rates than any other racial or ethnic group in the country.



- More than one-third of the American Indian population is under the age of 18.
- There are approximately 644,000 American Indian students in the U.S. K-12 system, with 90% of students attending public schools.
- Academic achievement and educational attainment among American Indian students lags far behind that of their peers. On average, less than 50% of American Indian students graduate from high school each year, and even fewer enroll in and graduate from college. *Source: National Congress of American Indians*



Yard Waste Season Ends the First Full Week of December



A friendly reminder to our residents who live in a community with yard waste collection. MMWA's yard waste season ends the first full week of December. Your community's calendar:

- **Monday Routes:** December 2, 2024
- **Tuesday Routes:** December 3, 2024
- **Wednesday Routes:** December 4, 2024
- **Thursday Routes:** December 5, 2024
- **Friday Routes:** December 6, 2024

The Mid-Michigan Waste Authority will kick off their 10th annual Holiday Light Recycling Drive on America Recycles Day, November 15, 2024, and run through January 15, 2025. Recycle your broken, old, or out of style holiday string lights this season and put some sparkle back into your holiday!

Residents can drop off their lights throughout Saginaw County at the following locations: Brady Township Hall, Bridgeport Twp Govt Center, The CAN Council office in the City of Saginaw, Carrollton Township DPW, Frankenmuth City Hall, James Township Hall, Kochville Twp Office, Lakefield Township Hall, Mid-Michigan Waste Authority Office, Merrill Village Office, Richland Township Office, Saginaw City Public Works, Saginaw Township DPS Bldg., Spaulding Township Office, St. Charles District Library, Swan Creek Township Office, Thomas Township Public Safety Bldg., Tittabawassee Township Office, Zilwaukee City Office plus one location in Gratiot County located at the Wheeler Township Office. A collection bin will be located at Hayes Park during the Freeland Light Show from December 1 to January 1.

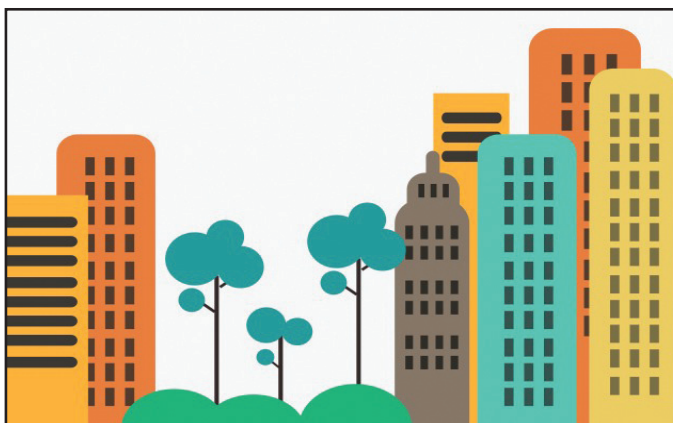
Over the nine years of the popular project, nearly six tons of unwanted holiday lights were collected, keeping thousands of strings of lights out of the landfill. When deposited in a landfill, it takes between 100 and 1,000 years for holiday lights to decompose, but through the recycling drive old lights will find new life. All sizes, styles and colors of indoor and outdoor string lights can be donated. **Only string lights – no other lighted holiday decorations – can be accepted.**

MMWA again has joined forces with Gary Shepard, organizer of the beloved Freeland Light Show, which runs through January 1 at Hayes Park. Visitors to the show may drop off lights at the collection bin located in the park.

The lights will be processed by Rifkin Scrap Metal and Iron, a local company that will send the constituent materials to a processor. The refined materials will then move on to manufacturers to be used in new products. Rifkin is providing a rebate for the lights, with all proceeds going to the CAN (Child Abuse and Neglect) Council.

Residents should not place holiday lights in their recycling bins or cans at home, as they are not an item accepted through the MMWA curbside recycling program.

Getting rid of old holiday lights is also a great opportunity to make the switch to LED lights, which last longer, and are more energy efficient and durable.



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7 Things You Can Do If You're Single Over the Holidays



Being single is not the worst thing that could happen to you this holiday season. Being with someone and feeling like you're alone is the pits...

Maybe this is not the most eloquent answer, but that's the truth. There are plenty of moments you find yourself thinking, man, it would be cool with someone else here. And the holiday hoopla definitely doesn't help ease the loneliness that can sometimes start brewing inside the heart this time of year, but you know what? Remember that this season doesn't have to be such a sob story for those who are riding it solo.

Here are 7 things you can do to remind yourself that being single during the holidays can actually be chill after all:

- 1. Buy Yourself a Gift:** So, you don't have a boo thing to surprise you with a cute gift—assuming they know what to get you. It's all good, because that also means you don't have to stress and spend money on getting someone else something, either (let alone their entire family). Instead, walk into your favorite shop or hop online and splurge on yourself, because guess what? You are your priority this Christmas, so have at it.
- 2. Take a Trip:** If you think traveling alone is depressing, please exit this dark hole you've created and channel your inner Elizabeth Gilbert, because everyone needs some Eat, Pray, Love in their life. Why stay in town for the holidays if you don't have to? Travel Pirates is an app that alerts you of all the craziest travel deals with destinations around the world. Get yourself some luggage, pick a destination, and just go.
- 3. Be a Mistletoe Ho (Ho, Ho):** If you're at a party or out somewhere and you see someone who catches your eye, make a move (and if you're really about that life, carry mistletoe with you)! You're single, you're awesome, and mistletoe is the perfect ice breaker to at least start a semi-awkward-but-always-memorable conversation with a stranger, even if it doesn't end up in a liberating make out sesh.
- 4. Throw a Singles Holiday Bash:** I know how annoying it can get to always be the single person at holiday soirees, so put together a little single and mingle get together for those who are in the same boat (this is especially great for New Years). If most of your friends are either married or in a serious relationship (yep, not kidding), then make it a party of one. Listen, have no shame in throwing on

some festive pjs (a onesie, preferably) and marathoning something on Netflix with a pint of ice cream. I know movies have made this the typical sad-girl scene, but there's nothing sad about being comfortable, entertained and fed.

- 5. Take a Sigh of Relief:** You don't have to worry about whose house you're spending what night at, or how many new family members you must meet, or making a good impression, or wanting that last piece of dessert but fighting yourself away because you already had two pieces and the kids want more. All of that is out the window. You have that last piece of pie.
- 6. Decorate How You Want To:** Or not at all, if Grinchmas is your thing. Colored lights or white lights, bright garland or a string of popcorn, tree or no tree, fake or real—whatever puts you in your holiday zen and spirit, you can do without having to consult anyone else.
- 7. Create a Game Plan for the New Year:** It's nice to have someone around, there's a part of you that still wishes you could share these moments with a person you love. Well, one day, you will. So instead of rushing to become part of a pair, use this time to focus on you. This is literally the only time in your life when you can be selfish and not feel bad about it. You don't have to consider your significant other's feelings or your kid's feelings, because once that chapter of your life comes, they will become a priority. So, give yourself some of that lovin' that you're storing away for someone who's not even here yet. Take out a paper and pen, write down what you want to happen this next year. Create a vision board. Build something that's all your own.

***Most Creative Display* *Facebook Favorite*
*Best Use of Inflatables***

Entries must be submitted by Friday, December 13th via QR code below or by email: clerk@carrolltontwp.com

The winner of each category will receive \$100 gift certificate to Jack's Fruit & Meat Market

Prizes sponsored by Saginaw County Commissioner Jack Tany

Judging: Thursday, December 19th, 5pm - 8pm

Facebook Favorite Online Voting: Dec 14th - 29th

Winners will be announced at the Carrollton Township Board Meeting on Monday, December 30, 2024 and posted online!

****see reverse side for contest rules & instructions****

Scan here to Register!



Governor Whitmer, MDHHS and other state organizations celebrate Family Caregiver Month. As part of a national movement to honor and show support for family caregivers, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed November as Family Caregivers Month in Michigan. This effort raises awareness of the critical role family caregivers play in providing a broad range of assistance for older adults, service members, veterans, people with disabilities, and those with serious or chronic health conditions.

“An estimated 1.7 million family caregivers in our state step up every day to ensure their loved ones can live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible regardless of age or disability status,” said Elizabeth Hertel, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services director. “We are committed to supporting these caregivers not only this month, but every month.”

“The Commission on Services to the Aging welcomes the Governor’s recognition of the important work done by family caregivers,” said Nancy Duncan, Commission on Services to the Aging Advocacy Committee chair. “Their care, love and dedication allow older adults to remain safely at home as they age.”

Resources for family caregivers include support groups, toolkits and workshops

through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, advocacy organizations and community-based services. A Michigan Care Kit is available from Caring Across Generations and additional resources are available through the Caregiver Action Network and AARP Resources for Caregivers and their Families.

“Caregivers experience the impact of caring on their time, with implications for their health, family, work and personal and financial well-being,” said David LaLumia, 4AM executive director. “Caregivers deserve our gratitude and our support. This month, we are pleased to recognize their many contributions to some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

“Family caregivers are the unsung heroes in our communities, providing essential care that enable loved ones to age with dignity at home,” said Paula D. Cunningham, AARP Michigan state director. “This month, and every month, we honor their dedication and recognize the invaluable support they offer to Michigan’s older adults and families.”

According to the Caregiver Action Network, more than half of those providing care in the United States do not recognize themselves as caregivers. Caregiving can include day-to-day support as well as periodic tasks such as attending doctor’s appointments, maintaining and assisting with medications and helping manage finances.

For more information on supporting caregivers, visit Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration (BPHASA).



MDHHS and community partners launch MiFamily Together pilot to help preserve families



To streamline services and help preserve families, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is partnering with several community-based organizations to launch the MiFamily Together program.

The two-year pilot program began Tuesday, October 1 in 25 counties. Its goal is to deliver more flexible family preservation programming that is responsive to each family's needs whether they are in crisis, need some extra support to avoid out-of-home placement, or have children returning home from foster care. The program was developed in partnership with the Michigan Federation for Children and Families, a Lived Experience Advisory Council, and private agency representatives who work directly with families.

"The launch of the MiFamily Together pilot is an important shift in the way we deliver services," said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. "The flexibility this program provides, and its holistic approach will have a positive impact on Michigan families and provide seamless transitions to additional resources as their needs change."

The pilot is designed to streamline access to services and create efficiencies by concentrating resources, integrating best practices and reducing the number of different programs families must navigate as their needs change. This approach should increase positive outcomes as families will now be able to build rapport and be connected with the same worker throughout their participation in the program.

"Switching workers and programs can lead to mistrust, confusion and families having to re-tell their stories," said Brittney Barros, lead advisor of the Family Preservation Lived Experience Advisory Council. "When services are connected to one worker and one program, it strengthens the ability for families to prosper."

MDHHS has partnered with the Michigan Federation for Children and Families and Ascend at the Aspen Institute to implement a two-generation, or 2Gen, whole-family approach into the MiFamily Together program. 2Gen is a method of engagement that integrates a more comprehensive and holistic approach to working with both the children and the caregivers in the home.

Although the main focus of service delivery will be to reduce the risk of child maltreatment, 2Gen recognizes the importance of addressing the needs of the whole family unit while increasing well-being and prosperity. This includes adult/child education, mental and physical health, supporting job skill development, community

engagement and building a social support network will also be integrated into service delivery.

"Community-based organizations are well-positioned to develop supports and increase the family's overall well-being by working with both the adults and the children in the home," said Kadi Prout of the Michigan Federation for Children and Families. "The 2Gen approach recognizes that when families have support in the many domains of their lives and the voice to drive their own outcomes, they are on a path to full family success, and we will

see reduced child abuse and neglect as a result."

MDHHS has also partnered with the University of Kentucky, Center for Innovation in Population Health, to integrate the Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST) into the pilot program. FAST is a tool that helps staff in identifying critical needs and protective factors of families through rapport building and engagement. The University of Michigan Child and Adolescent Data Lab will be providing analysis and ongoing evaluation of the pilot.

For more information, visit the Michigan Federation for Children and Families website. <https://www.michfed.org/2genmichigan>

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE SEA
HOLIDAY SWIM CAMP
December 30th - January 3rd
8 AM - 4 PM

❖ Morning Pool Time ❖ STEM Activity
❖ Gym Time ❖ Game Time ❖ Craft Time

Breakfast and lunch will be provided!

Ages 5 - 12
Non-Members: \$200 per child
Members: \$175 per child

Half Day: December 31st
No Camp: January 1st

Have questions? Contact Cathy Arnett
carnett@saginawymca.org or 989.753.7721 x 213



What It Is and Where to Shop?

If you've never heard of Small Business Saturday, then you've been missing out on some seriously fabulous, unique holiday deals! But don't worry—you still have time to shop and save this year. You can find every small business near you that's participating in the sale event at the American Express link here. Participating stores may include everything from restaurants and bars to gift shops, clothing stores, furniture and home decor stores, and more. The event is a way to honor and celebrate local brick-and-mortar shops and encourages us all to support our own local communities.

You can also follow and post about your favorite local stores using the hashtag #SmallBusinessSaturday to spread the word about the day. Shopping small is one of the easiest ways to influence your community and economy. Because when you shop small, you're supporting families, local artists, and your own neighbors, rather than the large retail giants. And that feels good!

What is Small Business Saturday?

Small Business Saturday is an annual event that began in 2010, when American Express launched the first Small Business Saturday campaign to help support small, local businesses during the big holiday shopping rush. It began as a marketing initiative to give exposure to smaller businesses during the busy season, as big box stores can often overpower the market during this time of year.

When is Small Business Saturday?

Small Business Saturday falls on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and Black Friday. This year, it takes place on November 30, 2024.

Who founded the event?

Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010. Since 2011, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) has co-sponsored the event. This year, Amex is celebrating 15 years of local shopping support!

Where can I shop for the best deals?

Specific sales and deals will vary store-by-store. Some businesses will offer special discounts or promotions during Small Business Saturday, like BOGO deals or free gift offers. Others might offer various percentages off certain products. All of this will be dependent on the individual store you shop at. And, if you're an American Express cardholder, you can even get rewarded for supporting local stores.



Michigan Bipartisan legislation introduced to amend the Earned Sick Time Act and Preserve Tipped Minimum Wage



What's happening: Bipartisan legislation was introduced to amend the Earned Sick Time Act (House Bill 6057) and preserve the tipped minimum wage (House Bill 6056). The bills, introduced by State Reps. Graham Filler and Nate Shannon were referred to the House Regulatory Affairs Committee.

Why it matters: The countdown to February 21 – the effective date of the new paid leave and minimum wage laws – has begun.

- Lawmakers have a limited number of session days remaining to pass practical and commonsense legislation to lessen the harm of the Supreme Court's decision on these issues.
- The Chamber and businesses community as a whole are not looking to roll back the substantive provisions of these laws, but instead have lawmakers act to make sure these laws are workable and implementable for businesses and workers alike.
- Absent a bipartisan legislative solution, the new Earned Sick Time Act will force employers of all sizes and types (even those with generous policies today!) to rethink their existing paid leave policies and businesses with tipped employees will see tremendous pressures around the tipped minimum wage changes.



Consumers Be Aware of Utility Imposters

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is reissuing her consumer alert on utility imposter scams. These schemes typically involve scammers posing as utility company employees to trick consumers into providing money and personal or financial information.

“Scammers often bully utility consumers, threatening to shut off their gas or electricity to coerce them into handing over personal or financial information,” Nessel said. “However, with the right information, customers can learn to detect and report these predatory scams. Remember, utility companies will never demand immediate payment in person or over the phone.”

Utility companies provide several ways to pay bills, including online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail, or in person. However, they will never:

- Demand payment be made immediately or ask for payment in an unusual form like Green Dot debit cards, Western Union wire transfers, bitcoin, or apps like Cash App, Venmo, and Zelle.
- Solicit personal information under the guise of signing you up for a government program that claims to reduce energy bills.
- Make unannounced visits to collect a bill or threaten shutoff. Utilities will never threaten to disrupt or disconnect service either in person, over the phone, or by email. All shut-off notices are mailed USPS and provide the steps to restore the account to good standing.
- Show up at your home to inspect or repair equipment, investigate a leak, or do a free audit for energy efficiency. Consumers are notified in advance of a home visit.
- Request personal or financial information, such as social security numbers, utility account numbers, or payment information. Instead, customers are asked to validate account information such as billing zip code, home address, or the phone number associated with the account.
- Claim consumers are entitled to a refund or rebate and ask for bank account or credit card information to make the alleged refund.
- Use aggressive tactics to get into a home. If a consumer feels unsafe or threatened by a suspected imposter, contact local law enforcement immediately.

Attorney General Nessel advises consumers to remain vigilant if someone claims their utility service will be

disconnected without prior notification. Utilities typically notify customers of delinquent accounts by mail, including steps to restore service. Never respond to demands for immediate payment or share personal information with unsolicited callers, visitors, or emails. Instead, hang up, close the door, or delete the email. To verify the legitimacy of a claim, contact the utility provider directly using a phone number from their official website or utility bills.

If consumers suspect they have been contacted by a utility imposter, they can report it online to the Michigan Public Service Commission or call 800-292-9555. If a consumer mistakenly provided bank account or credit card information to an individual they suspect might have been an impostor, Attorney General Nessel recommends they call their bank or credit card company immediately.

Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS) is an agency dedicated to combating impostor utility scams by providing a forum for utilities and trade associations to share data and best practices, in addition to working together to implement initiatives to inform and protect customers. They also published a comprehensive Consumer Guide to Imposter Utility Scams (PDF) for consumer assistance.

To report a scam, file a complaint, or get additional information, contact the Michigan Department of Attorney General.

NOVEMBER IS HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

DONATE Make a contribution to our local shelters in Saginaw County by donating Men's T-Shirts & Women's Deodorant

All donations will be shared among shelters in Saginaw County.

Your support helps to provide comfort and dignity to those in need!

Drop Boxes Located at
Mustard Seed Shelter
RCO Shelter
Saginaw City Hall
Collection will end 12/6/24

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Price Gouging Legislation



Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has joined a coalition of 16 attorneys general in urging Congress to pass federal price gouging legislation. In a letter sent to U.S. House of Representatives and Senate leadership (PDF), Attorney General Nessel and the coalition called for a federal prohibition on price gouging to address critical gaps in state enforcement and protect consumers and small businesses.

Currently, 40 states have statutes that prohibit certain aspects of price gouging. The letter highlights how these laws reflect the widespread national consensus that it is unjust and economically harmful to exploit consumers by inflating prices for essential goods and services in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

The coalition argues that a federal ban would assist consumer-facing retailers, especially small businesses, who often bear the brunt of the reputational and legal consequences of disaster-induced higher prices, even when the most significant price gouging activity may be happening up the supply chain – outside the jurisdictional reach of some states’ price gouging laws. Attorney General Nessel and the coalition also outlined four key benefits of a federal price gouging ban:

- Pausing panic-driven pricing decisions.
- Preventing inefficient pricing in the heat of a disaster.
- Discouraging hoarding; and
- Restraining pricing for products with little competition.

“Price gouging is an unscrupulous practice that takes advantage of customers during their most vulnerable moments,” Nessel said. “We should all be able to agree that consumers need to be supported, not exploited, in the aftermath of a disaster. I am proud to stand with my colleagues in advocating for a national ban on price gouging, and I will continue to call for stronger consumer protection laws in Michigan to protect small businesses and consumers.”

The Attorney General has been a strong advocate for consumer protection against price gouging. In July, Attorney General Nessel filed a lawsuit against several tree service companies for allegedly deceiving

and price-gouging consumers seeking storm clean-up services. She has also reached compliance agreements with Novi Hilton and pharmacies suspected of price gouging. However, under the current Michigan Consumer Protection Act, action is only possible when a single business, or a small group of businesses, charge excessive prices compared to others, not if sellers hike their rates in unison.

The Attorney General recently participated in a roundtable discussion alongside Michigan lawmakers who seek to strengthen the State’s tools against price-gouging announcing the introduction of Senate Bills 954-956. Senate Bills 954-956, which the Michigan Department of Attorney General testified in support of earlier this month, target price gouging on consumer goods, emergency supplies, lodging, and energy products like gasoline or propane. The bills define price gouging as selling goods or services at more than a 10 percent increase from the price immediately before an emergency or market disruption. The legislation would allow sellers to justify price increases and outline legal actions the Department of Attorney General or local prosecutors can take against violators, as well as penalties for those found in violation.

Joining Attorney General Nessel in sending the letter to Congress are the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and the District of Columbia.

the YWCA

Community
NATURAL HAIR & BRAIDING
Workshop

Presented by
The Beauty N Braids
ACADEMY

TOPICS

- HAIR CARE 101**
Learn proper hair care techniques
- BRAIDING BASICS**
Learn simple braiding techniques
- CREATIVE BRAIDING**
Students showcase of advanced styles

SCAN ME



DEC. 7, 2024
12PM - 2:30PM

TICKETS
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Contact us: 989.207.3665 Saginaw YWCA [1915 Fordney St](#)

Secretary Benson announces partnership with Saginaw Public Schools to ensure every student has their state ID by graduation

Department of State looks to expand program to schools across the state



Secretary Benson announced a new partnership with Saginaw Public Schools while speaking at Saginaw United High School.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced a new program with Saginaw Public Schools to expand civics education and ensure every student has their state ID by graduation.

“I’m proud to announce a unique partnership with Saginaw Public Schools,” said Secretary Benson. “We’re launching a program to ensure that every high school student in the district will get their state ID before graduation. The reality is – leaving high school without that official driver’s license or state ID in hand presents a significant disadvantage to Saginaw’s young people. It creates a real barrier on their path to success and to achieving their goals after graduation. That ends today.”

The Secretary of State mobile office will travel to Saginaw’s high schools throughout the school year to help students secure their state ID. An official state ID is necessary for educational opportunities, employment, transportation, housing, and other components of future success following high school graduation. Students with state IDs will also be able to register or preregister to vote.

“This civic education will give the students the background to know their responsibility in teaching education,” said Dr. Charles Coleman, president of the Board of Education for Saginaw Public Schools. “It will ensure that our students will understand the importance of one of our most important rights as citizens. That is the right to vote. Having this, having a state ID, having a voter registration card, is one of the most important things to give to students.”

“This is another example of how we are removing barriers for students, and this is removing the barrier that prevents students from voting,” said Mit Foley, assistant superintendent of secondary curriculum & instruction for Saginaw Public Schools. “We just really appreciate the opportunity to bring these mobile units to our students in order to allow our students to get them their ID so they can vote.”

A report released by Michigan Department of State (MDOS) in June identified a significant gap between the number of young people who were active registered voters and those who cast a ballot. As a part of the Saginaw Public

Schools partnership, MDOS will provide nonpartisan election information and host mock elections to make sure every eligible young voter knows their rights and options to participate in democracy. Michigan school administrators interested in hosting a mock election to teach students about the voting process can visit Michigan.gov/MockElections.

Introducing our MAYOR and MAYOR PRO TEM!



At the November 18, 2024 City Council meeting, Brenda F. Moore, a dedicated council member since 2013, was re-elected as Mayor of the City of Saginaw! Councilwoman Priscilla Garcia, who has served on council since 2022, was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

Congratulations Mayor Moore and Mayor Pro Tem Garcia!

SVSU Board Approves New Housing, Adding Women's Flag Football Team



The Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control approved constructing new student housing and adding a new intercollegiate sport, women's flag football, during the Board's regular meeting Monday, October 28.

SVSU will build new apartment-style housing for 48 residential students in its University Village complex along Pierce Road. Construction will begin in summer 2025 and be completed by summer 2026 at a projected cost of \$6.3 million. SVSU will fund the project through existing capital reserves.

"Our award-winning student housing is at full capacity this year, and we had even more students who wanted to live on campus," said Noel Hornbacher, vice president for Administration and Business Affairs. "We are able to complete this project without borrowing, and doing so allows us to provide more on-campus living options, which is what our students are seeking."

SVSU has consistently earned the "best dorms" honor among all public universities in the United States and retains that distinction for 2025 in the annual rankings by the website Niche.

Following Board approval, SVSU will introduce women's flag football as a varsity sport at the NCAA Division II level, beginning with the 2025-26 academic year. The team is expected to begin competition in the 2026-27 academic year.

"Women's flag football is one of the fastest growing sports in the country at the high school and collegiate levels," said John Lewandowski, vice president for Intercollegiate Athletics. "We already have outstanding indoor and outdoor facilities that make this program a good fit for SVSU."

The Board also approved a pair of property acquisitions not to exceed a \$1 purchase price. SVSU will proceed with acquiring land gifted by Dow for the construction of SVSU's Lake Huron Environmental Sciences Research Station along the Saginaw River near the mouth of Saginaw Bay in Bay County's Bangor Township. The State of Michigan has approved \$7.5 million to support construction of the facility.

In the city of Saginaw, SVSU will proceed with acquiring property on the south side of downtown, between Washington and

Water Streets, for the future construction of a building to support SVSU's academic programs in the health professions as part of a cooperative project known as the medical diamond.

In other action, the Board:

- Received and accepted the annual financial audit and federal award audit for the 2023-24 fiscal year, as conducted by Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC.
- Approved SVSU's capital outlay plan for 2026-2030.
- Approved spending up to \$1.25 million to replace the air handling system in Hamilton Gym.
- Approved spending up to \$800,000 for an automated building control system.
- Approved an amended lease agreement of up to 5 years for SVSU's Riverfront Center at 208 S. Washington in Saginaw.
- Approved granting an honorary degree to Mark Murray, who will serve as SVSU's Commencement speaker in December.

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Governor Whitmer Announces Biden-Harris Administration's \$325 Million Investment to Expand Semiconductor Industry in Michigan, Creating Over 1,000 Manufacturing and Construction Jobs

Michigan company Hemlock Semiconductor (HSC) secures first significant and largest proposed investment in the state from Biden-Harris administration's bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act to create jobs, grow Saginaw's regional economy

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that the Biden-Harris administration provided proposed direct funding of \$325 million to Michigan-based manufacturer Hemlock Semiconductor (HSC) to build a new facility supporting 180 permanent, advanced manufacturing jobs and over a thousand good-paying construction jobs. The proposed direct funding was made under the Biden-Harris administration's bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, which is focused on bringing vital supply chains and good-paying, cutting-edge jobs home to America.

New HSC Production Facility

Hemlock Semiconductor is one of the largest producers of hyper-pure polysilicon, a critical material for electronics and solar panels, and is the only one headquartered in America. In a growing global economy, HSC has established Michigan as a leader at the forefront of innovation and technology, with nearly every electronic device in the world containing HSC polysilicon. The proposed production facility will increase HSC's manufacturing capacity to support the semiconductor supply chain right here in Michigan.

Largest CHIPS Investment in Michigan

The Biden-Harris administration's CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 has worked to revitalize domestic manufacturing, create good-paying American jobs, strengthen American supply chains, and accelerate the industries of the future. In just over two years, the CHIPS Act has directly led to more than \$30 billion of advanced manufacturing projects in the United States, spanning 15 states. In Michigan alone, with today's announcement, our state has received nearly \$1.5 billion of investments in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing. These policies have also spurred a historic recovery in manufacturing, adding 642,000 manufacturing jobs across the U.S. since 2021.

The proposed funding represents the largest CHIPS investment in Michigan to date, and the Whitmer-Gilchrist administration is committed to keep bringing supply chains home to combat the negative consequences of offshoring chip manufacturing.

While America invented the semi conductor, we now make up only 12% of the world's supply of chips. In 2021, Americans saw the effects of offshoring firsthand with parking lots full of nearly finished Michigan-made cars and trucks, awaiting semiconductor chips from Asia. This national chip shortage also increased the costs of electronics and appliances, resulting in delays for families and small businesses across the states.

By awarding \$325 million to homegrown companies like Hemlock Semiconductor, the Biden-Harris administration is reducing America's reliance on overseas manufacturing, ensuring supply chains start and end where they belong—right here at home. By building on a growing trend of more jobs and investments in Michigan, domestic manufacturers will be able to get chips for their products and families can go to the store or dealership to get what they need without delay.

Ongoing Hemlock Semiconductor Partnership with State of Michigan

Announced in February 2024, the Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund was developed to help companies leverage unprecedented federal opportunities made available through the Biden-Harris administration's CHIPS Act, Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Infrastructure Office challenged companies applying to support workers with fair pay, good benefits, and skill development.

In addition to up to \$325 million from the Biden-Harris administration's CHIPS Act, the state of Michigan is supporting the proposed project with \$40 million from the Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund to Hemlock Semiconductor and additional partnership from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

The state of Michigan has a longstanding partnership supporting HSC's growth, including its September 2022 investment in Thomas Township. HSC has also collaborated with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Council on Climate Solutions, supporting a brighter and lower-carbon future in Michigan.

For more information about the Make It in Michigan Competitiveness Fund and how to apply for funding or technical assistance, please visit www.michigan.gov/whitmer/issues/michigan-infrastructure-office.






presents **FREE** Holiday Events for the Entire Family!



Friday, November 22, 2024 - 5:30 to 8:30 pm


Holidays in the Heart of the City

- 5:45-6:00 Lighting Ceremony at the **Water Treatment Plant** featuring Santa Claus and the Saginaw Youth Choir begins at 5:45 pm with lights going on at 6:00 pm
- 5:30-8:30 Food vendors offering hot dogs, pizza, popcorn, mexican cuisine, coffee, hot chocolate and more
- 5:30-8:30 Visit the **Japanese Tea House** (with Origami, Tea Ceremony demonstrations and hot matcha tea for sale)
- 5:30-8:30 Open house at **The Montague Inn** with a Live Nativity performed on the front lawn by Nouvel Catholic Central High School
- 5:30-8:30 Open house at the **Mexican-American Council** with music, vendors and Mexican Sweet Bread
- 5:30-8:30 Free admission to the **Saginaw Children's Zoo** (\$2.00 carousel rides - ticket sales stop at 8:00 pm)
ZOOletide wreath raffle
- 5:30-8:30 **Andersen Enrichment Center** -  Cookie House Competition, Hoyt Library Story Time and READ Association book giveaway
- 5:30-8:30 Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market "Holiday Market" on the Andersen Enrichment Center lawn
- 5:30-8:30 **Borchard Park** in Old Town Saginaw - Santa, Castle Museum Cookie Hut
- 5:30-8:30 Special Events in **Old Town Saginaw** - Business Specials, Holiday Lights, Window Displays
- 5:30-8:30 ***Holy Cross Lutheran Church** - Court St. - Music, children's crafts, free cookies, hot cocoa and bake sale
- 5:30-8:00 Free horse-drawn wagon rides on Ezra Rust sponsored by Frank N. Andersen Foundation, start at Andersen Center
- 5:30-8:30 Complimentary transportation over the Court St. Bridge provided by First Student
- 6:00-7:30 * **Michigan Avenue Baptist Church** concerts performed by the Saginaw Strings and the Saginaw Area Concert Band
- 7:00-8:15 * **Holy Family Catholic Church** - Presents Sacred Music in the Grove
* (donations of new hats, gloves and scarves for infants to teenagers will be collected at both concerts)
- 5:30-8:30 Saginaw Fire Department Experience - aerial fire truck, fire safety house, s'mores on Court St from Michigan to Hamilton
- 8:30 **FIREWORKS** from Ojibway Island!

Saturday, November 23, 2024 - 11:00 am

Annual Christmas Parade "A Saginaw Christmas"

**** Route begins in Downtown Saginaw traveling south on South Washington from Johnson, then west on Ezra Rust Drive to Ojibway Island ****
Grand Marshal - Dr. Eugene and Joyce Seals

- Girls on the Run 5k 'Reindeer Run'** (run/walk) - Registration and Festivities held at Saginaw YMCA 9:00 am;
Runs begin and end at Andersen Enrichment Center. Reindeer Run (open to all runners) 10:30 am; Girls on the Run 5K 10:35 am;
- Morley Plaza** on S. Washington Avenue will have the Saginaw Public Schools reviewing stand and visits with Santa before the parade
Free parking 8:00 am to 2:00 pm provided by **EZ Park** at the corner of N. Washington and Johnson Avenues
- Come Celebrate the Holidays** with activities, crafts and more for all ages at **Hoyt Library** 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
-  **Cookie House Competition** continues at **Andersen Enrichment Center** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Downtown Saginaw Farmers' Market Holiday Market** at **Andersen Enrichment Center** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- FREE Hot Cocoa Bar** in the **SVRC Marketplace Lobby** Saturday, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Old Town Saginaw Businesses Open** until 5:00 pm
- Saginaw Eddy Band Concert** at **Temple Theatre** 7:30 pm

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