



# COUNTY OF SAGINAW QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 1, 2024





Christopher S. Boyd, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners  
County of Saginaw  
111 S. Michigan Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48602

**RE: Saginaw County Quarterly Report—2024**

Dear Chairman Boyd:

The Saginaw County Quarterly Report is a summary of activities taking place in Saginaw County departments and or agencies. Departments contribute information to this report to assist in keeping the Board of Commissioners and County residents informed. The report can now be accessed through the county website at:

[County of Saginaw Quarterly Report](#)

Please use the site to share the report with residents and or other elected officials.

If you, or other Commissioners have questions regarding the subject matter presented, or ideas about future editions, please feel free to contact Jaime Ceja at [jceja@saginawcounty.com](mailto:jceja@saginawcounty.com)

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## **9-1-1 (COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE)**

Chris Izworski, Director - [cizworski@saginawcounty.com](mailto:cizworski@saginawcounty.com)

We currently have twenty-one fulltime dispatchers, two part time dispatchers, and four supervisors. There are currently five employees in the training program.

National Telecommunicators Week runs from April 14 – 20. We want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the incredible work telecommunicators provide on a daily basis. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our community does not go unnoticed.

We remain committed to upholding the highest standards of performance and continue ongoing efforts to provide excellent service to our community.

## **BUILDING AUTHORITY**

Mary Catherine Hannah, Building Authority Chairperson - [administratoroffice@saginawcounty.com](mailto:administratoroffice@saginawcounty.com)

The Saginaw County Building Authority continues to meet the first Thursday of each month. agendas and meeting minutes can be found by clicking this link: [Saginaw County Building Authority](#)

## **COMMISSION ON AGING (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Jessica Sargent, Director - [jsargent@saginawcounty.com](mailto:jsargent@saginawcounty.com)

**FREELAND SENIOR CENTER:** The center is moving locations to the Memorial Park Building and continuing our partnership with Tittabawassee Township. We are projecting an opening day at the new location on May 9, 2024.

**SENIOR PROJECT FRESH COUPONS:** Our organization is a lead agency and responsible for distributing Senior Project Fresh Coupons from the State of Michigan to residents in Saginaw County. This program provides a \$25 coupon book to adults age 60 and older to use like cash at registered farmers markets. Contact Rita at 989-797-7568 for income eligibility requirements. Coupon books will not be available until **AFTER MAY 1, 2024.**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON:** April is National Volunteer month, and the Commission on Aging will be hosting the annual Appreciation Luncheon on April 26, 2024, to recognize volunteers in the home delivered meal and congregate (senior center) programs. A proclamation will be presented to our dedicated volunteers on behalf of the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners. Last year, 172 active volunteers delivered 14,815 hours of service (that's the comparable equivalent of 7 full-time employees). We are grateful for our volunteers and the impact they have in the community.

**WAIT LISTS:**

**1.IN-HOME SUPPORT SERVICES:** Services include light housekeeping, personal care, and respite care. This program is supported through the Region VII Area Agency on Aging (AAA) with limited funding availability. Our agency contracts with authorized service providers approved by Region VII AAA. A wait list for services was established in January 2018.

- Currently there are 41 clients on the wait list for services. Clients are prioritized by need for service, and priority scale score (which is determined through the assessment process). Currently, there is approximately a one-year wait for individuals on the wait list for Homemaking services.

**2.HOME DELIVERED MEALS:** A wait list was established in August 2023 due to several delivery routes operating at capacity for the number of clients that can be put on the route and maintain safe food delivery guidelines. The highest need for volunteers is in Saginaw Township, City of Saginaw, and Shields area. **If additional volunteers are able to assist, new routes can be created.**

- Currently, there are 72 individuals on the wait list.
- Of the 47 routes delivered weekly, 16 currently have a wait list.



**SAGINAW COUNTY SENIOR PICNIC**

- **SAVE THE DATE**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024**
- **ENTERTAINMENT, PRIZES, VENDORS & LUNCH**
- **TICKETS AVAILABLE IN MAY**
- **JOIN SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING FOR A FUN DAY AT THE PARK!**

[WWW.SAGINAWCOUNTY.COM](http://WWW.SAGINAWCOUNTY.COM)



Saginaw County Commission on Aging

# Volunteers Needed!

**Join us in  
sharing  
kindness  
to others!**

Support our Senior  
Centers and Meals on  
Wheels program.



2355 Schust Road  
Saginaw MI 48603



**MEALS on WHEELS  
AMERICA**

**TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.**

**Deliver a smile and a  
meal to a senior or  
help out in one of our  
centers.**

For more information, contact Sheila @ 989-797-7566  
smcintosh@saginawcounty.com

## **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (COURT'S & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE)**

Mary McLaughlin - Manager - [mmclaughlin@saginawcounty.com](mailto:mmclaughlin@saginawcounty.com)

We finished out the 2023 fiscal year exceeding our projected program utilization for Pretrial Services. We completed almost 2,600 pretrial risk/needs assessments, with a vast majority of them being completed prior to arraignment and supervised over 1,000 clients on the Day Reporting or MOR programs. In tracking pretrial statistics, 92% of our supervised population did not have any new criminal charges prior to their sentencing dates (Public Safety Rate) and almost 87% attended all their court appointments as scheduled (Appearance Rate). Additionally, 75% of the pretrial population that were incarcerated were able to secure release prior to their next court date (Release Rate).

We started fiscal year 2024 being fully funded for all existing programs and services through our MDOC-OCC grant. In fact, we were awarded an additional \$15,000 for our Opiate Methamphetamine Specific Program (OMSP) because we had exceeded enrollments and exhausted our budget at the end of December. As we closed the first quarter of the year, we've seen enrollments higher than anticipated for Pretrial Services. Our Public Safety rate is at 95%, our Release Rate was at 73%, and Appearance rate 89%.

Currently we are working on our fiscal year 2025 MDOC-OCC grant application, which is due May 1, 2024, and plan on implementing a holistic program in Saginaw that focuses on habilitation and empowerment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (COURT'S & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE)**

Lt. Mark Przybylski, Emergency Manager - (989) 790-5434

### **Information Sharing**

- Emergency Management regularly attends local, state, and federal meetings that cover public safety, current situation updates, funding, and best practices.

### **Planning and Resource Management**

- Security assessment and plan assistance for St. Helen's Church in Saginaw City.
- Assess security improvements from a previous security assessment at Health Source Saginaw.
- Update information for 59 response plans and 124 site reports for Saginaw County SARA III sites.

### **Disaster Response**

- EOC Monitoring of two hazmat incidents (Birch Run Twp & Thomas Twp) and one weather event. No EOC activation was needed.

## **Training and Exercise**

- Conducted or assisted with Stop the Bleed training at Saginaw City Schools, Nouvel Schools, and Reese Schools.
- Conducted Rescue Task Force training for the Kochville Fire Department.
- Conducted ICS 100 & ICS 700 training for the Public Safety classes at the Saginaw Schools Career Complex.
- Hosted and attended National Weather Service Skywarn Weather Spotter Training.
- Conducted Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training for the security team at Community Baptist Church (Thomas Twp).
- Fentanyl & Naloxone training for Saginaw County Township Clerk's Association.
- Attend Responding to and Investigating Bomb Threats training.

## **Community Assistance & Presentations**

- Basic Emergency Management and public safety collaboration presentation for the Frankenmuth Morning Mingle and Leadership Saginaw.

## **EQUALIZATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Denise Joseph, Director - [djoseph@saginawcounty.com](mailto:djoseph@saginawcounty.com)

The 2024 March Board of Reviews are in progress. The Department verifies that the assessors and the boards of review have "covered" or met the tentative ratios and multipliers for the various real estate property classes as established by the Equalization Department studies. This data is then used for County Equalization, the first step in the taxing process, which will take place on April 16, 2024.

Following the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners acceptance, the State Tax Commission needs to affirm these numbers, which will be final the fourth Monday in May.

The Equalization Department will be preparing for the process of calculating the changes for the millage reduction fraction within each taxing unit that levies a millage. This is a total of 82 calculation worksheets for the year 2024. This reduction fraction calculates what growth the taxing unit has beyond the rate of inflation. This calculation involves interaction between the County of Saginaw and all the neighboring counties and has to be completed by the third Monday in May. Several units in the County will have Headlee millage rollbacks.

The final phase of the taxing process takes place when the County calculates and adds together all the taxable values of properties in the County. This tabulation must be completed by the fourth Monday in June, which is June 24, 2024.

## **GREAT LAKES BAY MICHIGAN WORKS! (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Kristen C. Wenzel, Interim Director - [kristenw@michiganworks.com](mailto:kristenw@michiganworks.com)

Please see Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works quarterly report attached.



# **GREAT LAKES BAY CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU**

Annette Rummel, CEO, Travel Trailblazer - (989) 245-1223

## **Challenges**

Ongoing: Staff was reduced due to Covid-19. Full replacement of staff has yet to occur. A conscious decision has been made to complete all the organizational plans prior to adding staff. The final draft plans have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration and received approval. These documents have also received approval by the Boards of Directors and made public during the organizations' Annual Business Meeting. These plans will guide the organizational programming in 2024, 2025, 2026 and beyond.

## **KPI Update & Organizational Financials**

Saginaw County Market Indicators Executive Summary

- Hotels' average daily rate (ADR) grew by 3.4% over prior year, despite a 1.6% decline in occupancy. The slowdown in demand is consistent with national trends and a byproduct of slowing economic conditions.
- As a result of the continued ADR growth, hotels generated \$6.9M in room revenue this month; up 1.8% over prior year and the highest on record for the month of January since 2019.
- Air travel continue to grow and reached 7,700 this month – up from 6,000 prior year. This was a 6.6% increase over prior year and slightly above the national average of 6% increase YOY.
- Hotel occupancy in the US reached 51.9% in January, starting the year 1.7% behind occupancy one year ago. Despite this, ADR increased 2.7% YOY to \$146.33, and RevPAR grew slightly by 0.9% to reach \$75.99.
- While data for local employment for January remains delayed, preliminary US employment results for January significantly outperformed expectations, adding 353K jobs for the month. Outside of typical January gains in Payroll employment, growth was led by professional and business services (+75K), and health care (+70K).

## Go Great Lakes Bay Market Indicators

January 2024

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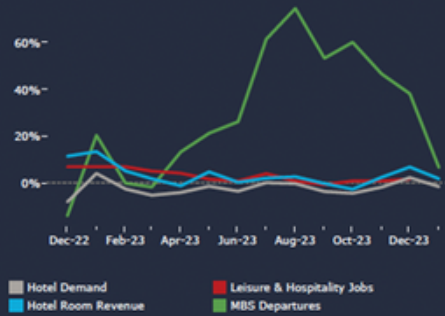
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### Tourism Indicators

% change relative to same month in previous year



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36.5%

Hotel Occupancy

▼ -1.6% YOY, ▼ -13.1% vs. 2019



\$6.9M

Hotel Revenue

▲ 1.8% YOY, ▼ -13.1% vs. 2019



7.7K

Airport Throughput

▲ 6.6% YOY, ▼ -30.5% vs. 2019



Leisure and Hospitality Jobs

Data Sources: STR, TSA, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Lodging Performance

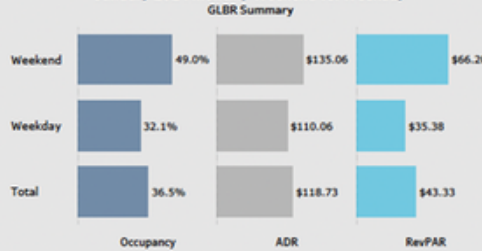
January 2024

Date	Year Type	Calendar	Period	Monthly	Location	GLBR Summary
January 2024	Year Type	Calendar	Period	Monthly	Location	GLBR Summary
<b>Occupancy</b>	<b>ADR</b>	<b>RevPAR</b>	<b>Supply</b>	<b>Demand</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	
36.5%	\$118.73	\$43.33	158.9K	58.0K	\$6.9M	
YOY	vs. 2019	YOY	vs. 2019	YOY	vs. 2019	YOY
▼ -1.6%	▼ -13.1%	▲ 3.4%	▲ 21.2%	▲ 1.7%	▲ 5.3%	▲ 0.0%
						▼ -5.8%
						▼ -1.6%
						▼ -18.1%
						▲ 1.8%
						▼ -0.8%

### Monthly Performance

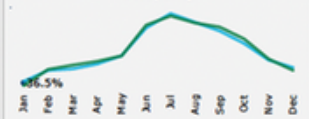
		January		
		2022	2023	2024
Occupancy	Bay County, MI	38.3%	38.1%	34.6%
	Midland County, MI	32.0%	39.7%	36.7%
	Saginaw County, MI	34.6%	36.0%	37.2%
	GLBR Summary	35.1%	37.1%	36.5%
ADR	Bay County, MI	\$82	\$89	\$96
	Midland County, MI	\$119	\$126	\$130
	Saginaw County, MI	\$113	\$122	\$124
	GLBR Summary	\$105	\$115	\$119
RevPAR	Bay County, MI	\$31	\$34	\$33
	Midland County, MI	\$38	\$50	\$48
	Saginaw County, MI	\$39	\$44	\$46
	GLBR Summary	\$37	\$43	\$43

### January 2024 Monthly Weekend vs. Weekday

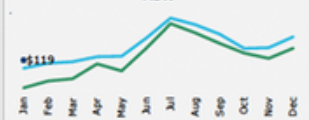


Powered by: SYMPHONY TOURISM ECONOMICS

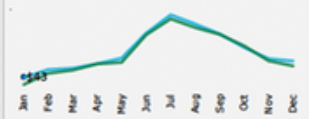
### Occupancy



### ADR



### RevPAR



2022

2023

2024

Data Sources: STR

### Social Media Performance January 2024

Date January 2024 Based On Calendar Period Monthly

Audience/Fans  
37,073

YOY ▲ 14.4% vs. 2019 ▲ 32.4%

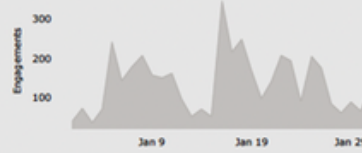
Engagements  
4,285

YOY ▼ -54.5% vs. 2019 ▼ -64.9%

Summary by Platform  
January 2024

	Net New Audience	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement Rate
Facebook	82	113,815	2,261	2.0%
Instagram	3	10,195	353	3.5%
LinkedIn	35	1,994	213	10.7%
TikTok	118	42,137	1,431	3.4%
Twitter	-4	767	27	3.5%
Total	234	168,908	4,285	2.5%

Social Media Engagements  
January 2024



Data Sources: Sprout Social

Powered by: SYMPHONY TOURISM ECONOMICS

### Benchmarking: Airport Throughput and Regional Employment January 2024

Date January 2024 Based On Calendar

TSA Throughput: MBS International Airport

January 2024 7.7K Calendar Year-to-Date 7.7K

YOY ▲ 6.6% vs. 2019 ▼ -30.5% YOY ▲ 6.6% vs. 2019 ▼ -30.5%

TSA Throughput Comp Set  
% Change Relative to 2019

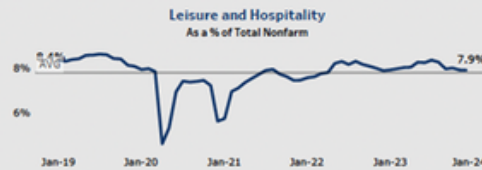
	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Detroit - DTW	-9%	1%	-2%	3%	-8%	-1%
Flint - FNT	-11%	-19%	-11%	-17%	-20%	-9%
Freeland - MBS	-24%	-22%	-24%	-27%	-28%	-30%
Great Lakes Region	-9%	0%	-2%	3%	-9%	-1%

Source: TSA; Great Lakes Regional air travel is defined as DTW, FNT and MBS airports

Leisure and Hospitality Jobs

January 2024 Leisure and Hospitality Total Nonfarm

YOY vs. 2019 YOY vs. 2019

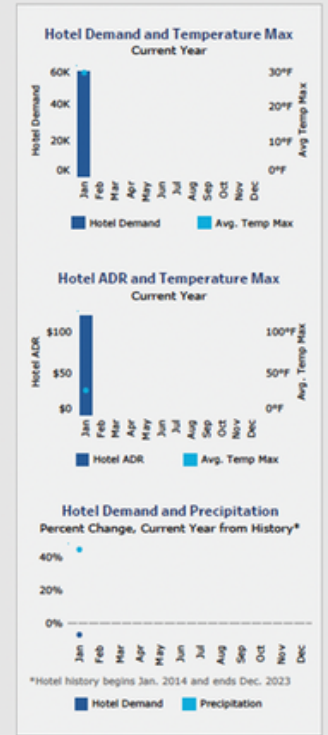
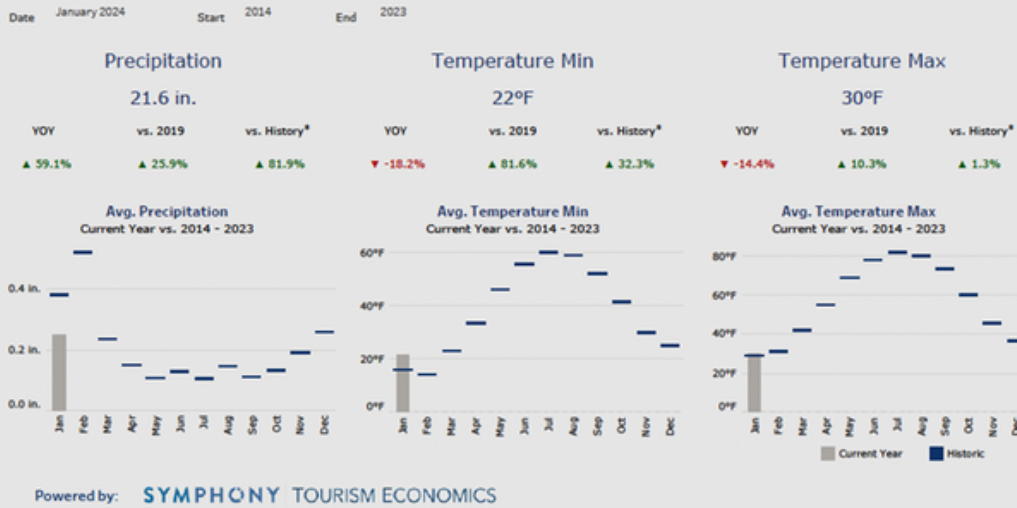


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Great Lakes Region consists of Bay City, Saginaw and Midland areas. Midland area does not report Leisure and Hospitality employment.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Powered by: SYMPHONY TOURISM ECONOMICS



Data Sources: NOAA, STR (GLBR Summary+)

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Josh Brown - Director - [jbrown@saginawcounty.com](mailto:jbrown@saginawcounty.com)

**911 Compliance Achieved** – IT has successfully completed a Federally mandated project to set up our phone system to give 911 not only a street address, but also a zone in the building. For example, if a 911 call is placed from a VoIP phone at the Commission on Aging building, in the basement, responders will now have that complete information.

Example of what responders will see:

RELOCATE	SUBSCRIBER ID	ERL INFORMATION	ERL NAME	RESPONDER TYPE	ROUTING STATUS	ADDRESS STATUS	ACCOUNT NAME
▶ ↔	(989) 558-6352	<b>2355 Schust Rd, SAGINAW, MI 48603 basement</b> ● (989) 558-6352 ERL ID: <a href="#">1F4C6EA7-5726-4893-85F5-2C0FF1EA63BD</a>	SAGINAW COUNTY COA	PSAP	Enhanced	Valid	<a href="#">SAGINAW COUNTY</a>

**Karpel/Odyssey Integration Operational** – IT, Prosecution, and District Court have now set up electronic transmission of charging warrants to District Court so that all detailed information is available at the open of a new case. Special thanks to Linda James and Trent Boyd for testing out this solution.

**Caseload Reporting for SCAO Completed** – Court Administrators, in coordination with IT, have submitted Saginaw County’s CY2023 caseload statistics to SCAO.

**Wrapping Up 2018 PC Replacements** – Kudos to Technical Service Coordinators, Nick Coughlin, Al Janetsky and Logan Hulley who have successfully brought our 5-year repair & replacement plan current for the first time in multiple years. While working tirelessly to deploy the devices, the TSC team also continued to address Saginaw County's everyday technical issues and difficulties. This all occurs while also upgrading and adding new peripherals such as monitors, scanners, and printers.

**W2s and 1095s** – The Payroll, Benefits, and IT teams worked together to successfully print W2s and 1095s for the first time using our Munis software. We learned a lot and set ourselves up for success in the years to come.

**County-Wide Managed WiFi System** – WiFi has been installed at the Animal Care and Control Resource Center, Commission on Aging, Family Court, Sheriff Admin/Jail and 618 Cass, with plans to bring the Health Department online in the near future. Plans to install WiFi at the Courthouse continue to progress.

**Quarterly IT Update (Steering) Committee** – Steps have begun to overhaul and reinstate the IT Steering Committee to discuss project updates with each department and any possible financial needs.

**On-Going Projects** – IT continues to take on new projects as frequently as old projects are closed, below is a (non-inclusive) list of some items that are currently in progress:

- Enterprise OnBase Upgrade
- The Clerk's Office Eagle software Vital Records add-on – (for constituent self-help)
- Employee travel reimbursement utilizing Tyler Munis ESS
- Mosquito Abatement, Parks & Recreation and ITSC are piloting a new Time & Attendance Tyler software that allows for integration into the payroll system. Other departments will be implemented in the future.
- Work on Odyssey conversion issues continues, and we hope to update the software to the newest version in the Fall.
- Partnering with Covenant, new hardware to support the EPIC EMR software at the Health Department is being deployed.

Many customized applications are being requested, worked on, or in the proposal stage:

- Fire Department Search Warrant Application
- Extreme Risk Protection Order
- Petition for Mental Health Services
- Park and Recreation Reservation and Payment Application (TBD)

## **MAINTENANCE (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Tony DePelsMaeker, Director - [adepelsmaeker@saginawcounty.com](mailto:adepelsmaeker@saginawcounty.com)

### **COURTHOUSE**

**Outdoor Improvements** – This Spring further attention will be given to the ground areas that are now covered with straw blankets.

**Panic Alarms** – The new system, Alertus has arrived and is being installed throughout the courthouse. This will be an upgrade for emergency service notices and securities.

**Security Upgrades** – The new video management servers have been installed with upgraded software and new capabilities for future expansion as needed.

**Electrical** – Distribution panels for lighting and outlet upgrades are being planned for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors.

**Inmate Elevator Modernization** – This modernization is needed to replace outdated internal components that are no longer available. A possible May start date for this project is being coordinated for continued Court operations.

**Fire Escape** – The south fire escape will get needed repairs to maintain this area as an emergency egress.

### **COUNTY JAIL**

**Water Over Pressurization** – All provisions are being made for the installation of the new booster pumps to solve over pressurization issues. This is on schedule for March and will take place once equipment arrives and we further communicate with the facility staff for a switch over.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

**Generator** – The new Cummins generator has arrived and has been installed, tested and is fully functional in case of a power outage.

### **CIRCUIT COURT PROBATION**

**618 Cass Street** – Upgrades are being made to this location, in anticipation of the arrival of Circuit Court Probation who are currently housed on Bagley Street.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Improvements are underway with extensive clean up efforts to rid the old Animal Control building of lingering smells. All kennels have been removed and repurposed by being donated to local rescues. Optimism is high in the department while these cleanup efforts continue, excited for our new location which will allow continued services to Saginaw County.

## MEDICAL EXAMINER (COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE)

Dr. Russell Bush MD, Chief Medical Examiner - [rbush@saginawcounty.com](mailto:rbush@saginawcounty.com)

Month	Cremation Permits	Autopsies	ME Cases	Non MEC	All Cases
Jan	46	21	70	52	122
Feb	22	16	48	58	106
Mar	16	16	51	43	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>322</b>

	Jan	Feb	March
Medical/Natural:	94	83	33
Homicide:	3	2	1
Suicide:	5	1	1
Accidental:	10	8	3
Indeterminate	2	0	0
Pending:	8	12	56
Child Deaths:	7	5	3
Still births:	4	3	3
Unsafe Sleep:	2	0	0
Drug Related:	6	3	0

## MOSQUITO ABATEMENT (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

William Stanuszek, Director - [stanuszek@scmac.org](mailto:stanuszek@scmac.org)

Plans and control products are in place as we complete our off-season work, including hiring our seasonal staff. Our first spring mosquito larvae were found in February, as warmer seasonal temperatures have accelerated into early spring. We still need spring rainfall to produce ideal woodlot pool habitat. This habitat is targeted by the yellow planes which treat over 50,000 acres of habitat as part of our Spring Aerial Program, which will likely begin in early April. The exact commencement of the aerial treatment will depend on larval development influenced by rainfall and temperatures. With warm spring temperatures adult mosquitoes may be encountered, this early nuisance is from overwintering mosquitoes such as Anopheles and Culex.

Our [2024 Program Plan](#), which serves as our community notification, is available on our [website](#). This plan outlines our services and programs for the 2024 season.



Our mission remains the same since 1977, to protect public health from mosquito-borne disease as well as provide relief from biting mosquitoes through an integrated management approach. To achieve this in an efficient and sustainable manner, while remaining accountable and mindful of the environment, we have identified the following initiatives for the 2024 Season:

- Provide information, report mosquitoes, and access services through our Public Notification App, website, and social media.
- Attend and engage public education events, including festivals, civic meetings, park programs, local schools, and collaborating with community partners.
- Utilize new GIS rainfall tracking to better determine the impact of rainfall on a local level, leading to better mosquito control services.
- Offering three, Saturday Community Scrap Tire Drives, 8:00am-2:30pm.
  - May 18 – Rosati’s Fresh Market, Hemlock
  - June 15 – St. Charles Elementary School, St. Charles
  - July 20 – Taymouth Township Hall, Birch Run
- Continue product trials for extended control and resistance management of disease-transmitting mosquitoes.
- Continue a Tick Surveillance program in coordination with local and State health departments, in turn providing residents with information relating to ticks and the diseases they transmit.
- Begin the transition of our facility to Towerline Road in Buena Vista Township.

With the start of the 2024 mosquito season, our operations will strive to meet this season’s unique challenges while providing useful information and accessible services. More information can be found on our website, [saginawmosquito.com](http://saginawmosquito.com) or calling 989-755-5751.

### **MSU EXTENSION (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Mark Rankin, District Coordinator - [rankin1@msu.edu](mailto:rankin1@msu.edu)

Please see MSU Extension quarterly report attached.

### **PARKS & RECREATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Brian Lechel, Director - [blechel@saginawcounty.com](mailto:blechel@saginawcounty.com)

Saginaw County Parks has an exciting program schedule upcoming, please see the attached newsletter for full details. Spring/Summer opening activities are underway which include setting docks, placing picnic tables, and turning on water the first week of April.

Three large-scale projects are in various levels of activity including a new trailhead in Zilwaukee Township at the southern end of the BayZil Trail, which will be located on the north side of Kochville Rd just west of Melbourne Rd. Construction should take place in late summer/fall 2024.



Imerman Memorial Park improvements including accessible pathways, renovation of the existing boat launch, adding a canoe/kayak launch, and the addition of a family-use restroom unit are in the design stage. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2024 through Spring/Summer 2025.

Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area (77 W. Center St, Saginaw 48602) will be undergoing trail development work and the addition of an observation platform this spring. A separate grant focused on habitat restoration will begin this year across a three-year cycle and will include invasive species removal and planting of native species of pollinators as well as planting one thousand trees. A fishing platform on the Saginaw River is also planned for 2025-2026.

Please see full Spring Parks & Recreation Newsletter attached.



## PLAY IN THE PARKS

### SPRING 2024

**FITNESS CLASSES:**

**Walk with Ease (WWE)**  
 Mon. Wed. & Fri. May 6th - June 14th 9:00 - 10:00 AM YMCA Pavilion R

**Yoga For All (Instructor, Kathryn Wilson)**  
 Mondays Every Mon. beginning June 3rd 9:00 - 10:00 AM Wm. H. Halthco Rec Area SR  
 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
 Register @ [www.yogabykathryn.com](http://www.yogabykathryn.com)

**PROGRAMS:**

Fri. April 19	<b>Boundless Film Adventure</b> (Featuring FREE SOLO)	7:00 PM	Court Street Theatre
Wed. May 15	<b>Soggy Doggy</b>	5:30 - 7:00 PM	Wm. H. Halthco Rec Area
Tues. May 21	<b>Pickleball</b>	10:30 - 12:00 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
Thurs. May 23 & 30	<b>Pickleball</b>	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
Sat. June 1	<b>Catch Me If You Can</b>	8:00 - 11:00 AM	Wm. H. Halthco Rec Area R
Tues. June 4, 11 & 18	<b>Pickleball</b>	10:30 - 12:00 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
June 11-13	<b>Senior Rail Trail Tours</b>	10:00 - 2:00 PM	Saginaw Valley Rail Trail R
Thurs. June 13 & 20	<b>Pickleball</b>	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park R
Tues. June 18	<b>Try it: Kayak</b>	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Wm. H. Halthco Rec Area SR
Wed. June 26	<b>Dog Days of Summer</b>	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
Wed. June 26	<b>Jolly Hammers &amp; Strings</b>	7:00 - 8:45 PM	Imerman Memorial Park

**Full Summer Playdate Schedule:**





**June Playdate schedule:**

Tues. June 18	<b>Art in the Park</b>	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Wm. H. Halthco Rec Area
Thurs. June 20	<b>Music on the Move</b>	10:00 - 11:30 AM	Imerman Memorial Park
Thurs. June 20	<b>Nature Explorers</b>	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Ringwood Forest
Tues. June 25	<b>Water Wars (Extended Time)</b>	12:00 - 3:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
Wed. June 26	<b>Art in the Park</b>	10:00 - 11:30 AM	Showboat Park-Chesaning
Thurs. June 27	<b>Puppet Show</b>	2:00 - 3:30 PM	Wm. H. Halthco Rec Area

**TAKE NOTE!**

- All events are free unless noted with a "T" symbol.
- Gate fees may be additional.
- Pre-registration is required for all events noted with the letter "R".
- Playdates are for all ages. Prepare to get messy!

**CONTACT US!**

[parks@saginawcounty.com](mailto:parks@saginawcounty.com)  
 (989) 790-5280

Like us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/saginawcountyparks](https://www.facebook.com/saginawcountyparks)



## **PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS (LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE)**

Jennifer Broadfoot, Personnel Director - [jbroadfoot@saginawcounty.com](mailto:jbroadfoot@saginawcounty.com)

All collective bargaining agreements are currently settled. Contracts with 14 of the 16 bargaining units will expire on September 30, 2024. Negotiations with these groups will begin in June.

The County has contracted with Saginaw Psychological Services, Inc. to be its Employee Assistance Plan Provider. The contract provides for an initial screening visit and up to 5 sessions for employees and their immediate family members annually. Employees can contact Saginaw Psychological Services Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at (989) 799-2100 to schedule an appointment. They are located at 2100 Hemmeter Rd. in Saginaw Township. Callers must clearly identify themselves as employees (or immediate family members of an employee) calling for EAP services through Saginaw County.

The County has continued its membership in the American Society of Employers (ASE). ASE offers its members a number of training opportunities at discounted rates. General courses of study are for Administrative Assistants, Leadership and Customer Service. Many Human Resource classes are also offered.

## **SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO - (989) 797-3400

BWell Saginaw's Comprehensive Community Health Improvement Plan & Upcoming Initiatives  
BWell Saginaw and its 13 coalition partners, including Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA), recently unveiled a comprehensive Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) based on the latest community health assessment concluded in late 2023.

Historically, healthcare organizations have worked independently to address Saginaw's biggest public health issues. COVID-19 brought them together in an unprecedented way to respond collaboratively to the community's pandemic-related needs for standards of care, testing, vaccination, and treatment. The partners are sticking together to apply a COVID-like sense of urgency to THREE health priorities revealed in a 2023 community health needs assessment: Obesity & Chronic Disease, Maternal & Child Health, and Mental Health & Substance Use.

The CHIP outlines 12 strategies – each assigned a workgroup -- to help move Saginaw County from 76th out of 83 counties for health outcomes to one of Michigan's Top 25 healthiest communities. To view the CHIP or for more information please go to: [www.BWellSaginaw.org](http://www.BWellSaginaw.org).

Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) now available 24 hours a day  
A response team on the go – now 24/7.

This is the mission of Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) at the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA).

Formerly known as the Mobile Urgent Treatment Team, MRSS is a service offered by SCCMHA to respond to mental health crises on the phone or in-person from anyone in the greater Saginaw community. The service was originally used to help only the population of youth served by the SCCMHA network and their families, but has now expanded to all Saginaw County residents of any age and they do not need to be in active treatment with any SCCMHA network provider.

MRSS is activated when someone reaches out for help during a mental health crisis, whether at home or anywhere in Saginaw County.

After a series of questions identifying any potential safety concerns, a team is dispatched to the location where the crisis is occurring to help de-escalate the situation.

24-hour phone support has been available since early November, however SCCMHA has fully staffed a team able to provide 24-hour in-person support.

Teams are staffed with master's- and bachelor's-level social workers to aid our community members and consumers in need.

Help is just a phone call away.

MRSS can be reached at (989) 272-0275, 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week, including holidays.

### **SAGINAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

Christina Harrington, Health Officer - [charrington@saginawcounty.com](mailto:charrington@saginawcounty.com)

Please see Saginaw County Health Department quarterly report attached.

### **SAGINAW FUTURE (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

JoAnn Crary - President - [jcrary@saginawfuture.com](mailto:jcrary@saginawfuture.com)

Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) celebrated its 32ND ANNUAL AWARDS Luncheon and another year of economic development in Saginaw County at Saginaw Valley State University. Nearly 450 business and community leaders attended the event.

Saginaw Future honored 36 projects from 2023 valued at nearly \$103 million. That investment led to the announcement of 549 jobs to be created or retained. The Saginaw Future APEX Accelerator, formerly the Procurement Technical Assistance Center, also awarded the Contractor of the Year to VA RE Development, LLC. These projects represent significant developments in cutting-edge technology and growth across Saginaw County.

“Economic development projects like these empower communities, enhance opportunities, and cultivate sustainable progress that make all of our lives better,” said 2024 Saginaw Future Chair Seth Perigo.

The City of Saginaw and the Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau were also recognized for working with Saginaw Future to secure a grant that supported the Canadian Hockey League’s 2024 Memorial Cup presented by Dow. Craig Goslin, President and Managing Partner of the Saginaw Spirit highlighted the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners' extraordinary leadership in upgrading the Dow Event Center. These efforts were key to Saginaw being awarded the Memorial Cup, said Craig Goslin, President and Managing Partner of the Saginaw Spirit.

“The excitement and preparation for the 2024 Memorial Cup is building for Saginaw County and the Great Lakes Bay Region,” said Saginaw Future Inc. President JoAnn Crary. “Led by the Saginaw Spirit management team, our community will be ready for an international event that will generate millions of dollars in the regional economy and make lasting memories.”

For photos, videos and more, go to <https://www.saginawfuture.com/news-&-resources/awards-luncheon-2023> or scan the qr-code.

Please follow us on social media and share the Saginaw success stories.

- <https://www.facebook.com/SaginawFuture>
- <https://twitter.com/saginawfuture>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/saginaw-future-inc->
- <https://www.instagram.com/saginawfuture/>



Unemployment Rates		
Area	23-Jan	24-Jan
City of Saginaw	11.4%	9.0%*
Saginaw Charter Township	3.5%	2.8%*
Saginaw County	6.3%	5.1%*
Great Lakes Bay Region <sup>^</sup>	7.0%	5.5%*
Michigan	4.5%	4.0%
United States	3.9%	4.1%
*Preliminary		
<sup>^</sup> Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw Counties		
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics		


# IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE Developments & Funding

## Legislative Day 2024 Reinforces Impact of GLBMW

Acting CEO Kristen Wenzel and Workforce Development Board Chair Erik Rodriguez attended Legislative Day in Lansing in mid-March, armed with numbers to demonstrate the impact of services and funding on job seekers and employers in all five counties (Saginaw as well as Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, and Midland). We engaged with:

- Representative Jerry Neyer
- Representative Timothy Beson
- Representative Matthew Bierlein
- Senator Michele Hoyenga
- Senator Kevin Daley
- Senator Roger Hauck
- Representative Amos O'Neal
- Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet

Our advocacy efforts focused around additional state funding to meet the growing demand for Going PRO training dollars, MI Skills Fund dollars for short-term training for high-demand occupations, youth career exploration programs, employer-led collaboratives for customized solutions to talent gaps in key industries, and sustainable long-term funding to remove systemic barriers to employment.



2024 Legislative Update  
**Impact By the Numbers**  
Services and Customers Increase to Pre-Pandemic Levels in Past Year

<p><b>EMPLOYER SERVICES</b></p> <p>2,371 Employers using our services</p> <p>17,804 Job openings we posted for employers in the last year</p> <p>2,573 Job openings we helped fill in the last year</p> <p>21,265 Separate employer services we provided in the last year including online job postings, resume searches, recruitment, screening, assistance with application processes, interview facilities, single company job fairs</p> <p>81 Single Company Job Fairs hosted (more than 1 per week)</p> <p>1,197 Workers trained through Going PRO Talent Fund</p> <p>104 Workers participating in apprenticeships supported through Going PRO Talent Fund</p>	<p><b>BUILDING A STRONGER REGIONAL WORKFORCE</b></p> <p>54,287 Job seeker visits to GLBMW Service Centers in the last year</p> <p>21,948 Individual job seekers using GLBMW services in the last year</p> <p>11,598 Participants registered in programs in the last year</p> <p>6,701 (79%) Participants employed after exit of programs in the last year</p> <p>2,153 Job seekers assessed and trained through Academic Centers in the last year (to help them meet qualifications for training or jobs)</p> <p>557 Job seekers funded for occupational skills training in high demand occupations in the last year</p> <p>34 Job seekers funded (using special grant funding) in training for apprenticeships in the last year.</p> <p>\$215,159 In supportive services provided to program participants last year</p>
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**BUILDING A TALENT PIPELINE FOR THE FUTURE**

4,460 Students, teachers, and counselors attended MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2023

72 Employers in advance manufacturing, agribusiness, construction, healthcare, and IT provided students with hands-on engagement in high-demand careers.

43 School districts represented from an 11-county area

Questions? Contact Kristen Wenzel at [kristenw@michiganworks.com](mailto:kristenw@michiganworks.com) or (989) 280-8031.



**Impact of Going PRO Talent Fund Awards**  
in the Great Lakes Bay Lakes Bay Region

<p><b>INDUSTRIES MOST REPRESENTED IN APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p><b>FY23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing – 22/41</li> <li>• Construction – 9/41</li> <li>• Hospitality – 4/41</li> <li>• Agribusiness – 2/41</li> <li>• Information Technology – 2/41</li> <li>• Energy – 1/41</li> <li>• Other – 1/41</li> </ul> <p><b>FY24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing – 23/34</li> <li>• Construction – 6/34</li> <li>• Hospitality – 3/34</li> <li>• Information Technology – 1/34</li> <li>• Outdoor Recreation – 1/34</li> </ul>	<p><b>EMPLOYEE RETENTION</b></p> <p>90% Registered Apprenticeships – with same employer after 12 months</p> <p>80% Others – retained after 6 months</p> <p><b>NEW AWARDEES</b></p> <p><b>FY23</b> 30/41 awardees not awarded prior year</p> <p><b>FY24</b> 17/34 awardees not awarded prior year</p> <p><b>EMPLOYER SIZE</b></p> <p><b>FY23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/41 awardees – 1-99 employees</li> <li>• 17/41 awardees – 100 or more employees</li> </ul> <p><b>FY24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22/34 awardees – 1-99 employees.</li> <li>• 12/34 awardees – 100 or more employees</li> </ul> <p><b>STATEWIDE DOLLARS REQUESTED V. DOLLARS AVAILABLE</b></p> <p><b>FY23</b> 2,241 applications requesting \$111 million – 1,093 funded for \$64.3 million</p> <p><b>FY24</b> 1,132 applications requesting \$61 million – 809 funded for \$43.9 million</p>
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**CREDENTIALS/CERTIFICATES/DEGREES EARNED**

**FY23**

- 80% Credential/Certification
- 20% College Credit
- Toward degree – 5%
- Apprenticeship – 15%

**FY24**

- 85% Credential/Certification
- 15% College Credit
- Toward degree – 5%
- Apprenticeship – 10%

**MARKETING OR OUTREACH TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME/DIVERSE EMPLOYERS** Promoted through email newsletter blasts, social media, referrals from economic development partners, direct engagement with GLBMW business services representatives

**FY23** 34/41 awardees eligible for and received scoring criteria points for DEI

**FY24** 23/34 awardees eligible for and received scoring criteria points for DEI

**AVERAGE AWARDS & CAP**

<b>FY23</b> \$46,636	Cap per fiscal year = \$500,000
<b>FY24</b> \$47,639	

Questions? Contact Kristen Wenzel at [kristenw@michiganworks.com](mailto:kristenw@michiganworks.com) or (989) 280-8031.

# HIGH IMPACT Events and Programs



## MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan Thank You Breakfast Brings Together Exhibitors and Volunteers to Recognize Excellence

Plans for MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan on October 11, 2024 are already underway. But, before we close the door on 2023's event, we gathered with exhibitors and volunteers in late January to say THANK YOU.

Our host and sponsor, Delta College, helped us welcome more than 100 people for breakfast and reflection. During the event, we shared results of event follow-up surveys from students, educators, exhibitors and volunteers. We shared ideas for improvements for 2024 and celebrated some of the exhibitor "stars" of 2023 in a highlight video including award winners:

**Vantage Plastics**  
*Advanced  
Manufacturing Sector*

**IBEW Local 692**  
*Construction Sector*

**Michigan Broadcast Association/Alpha Media/WNEM TV5**  
*– Information  
Technology Sector*

**Alma Tire**  
*Agribusiness Sector*

**Michigan State Police** – *Health  
Sciences Sector*

To watch the videos: click [here](#). Stay tuned for updates on MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2024 developments. This is a critical initiative in our efforts to build a future talent pipeline for our region.

## Jobs for Michigan Graduates Program Launches in All Five Counties

Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) is a new program administered by Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! It was previously administered by other services providers with Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! as a partner agency. Here are the benefits:

- JMG will allow us to serve a greater number of youth in the Great Lakes Bay Region.
- While some participants will be co-enrolled with our WIOA Youth programs, participation requirements for JMG are less restrictive and will allow us to serve participants we would not otherwise be able to serve.
- JMG offers career exploration and soft skills development. It focuses on supporting youth in an in-and-out of school context emphasizing dropout prevention, dropout recovery, and school-to-career transition.
- JMG not only focuses on the educational development of youth, but also on their emotional well-being.
- Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! will integrate JMG into our existing in-and-out of school programs in all five counties we serve.

# Customer **OUTREACH**

## Campaign Drives Employers to GLBMW for Going PRO Training Fund Grant Application Assistance and Hiring Services

With our continued emphasis on “growing our own” labor force to help the region’s employers meet their hiring needs, we have been strategic with our outreach to employers, including a 5-county mLive digital campaign featuring employer success stories.

The results of this campaign are above expectations. With our mLive.com banners ads, LinkedIn video, social display ads, YouTube video, sponsored content article, and remessaging efforts, we achieved 512,258 impressions and sent 1,272 qualified users to a landing page with fillable form on michiganworks.com to request our services. Most visitors spent nearly a minute on the page to learn more.

We know this campaign was successful in driving employers to us for information and assistance. Moving forward, we are initiating a similar campaign with job seeker success stories.

**Going PRO**  
IN MICHIGAN  
TALENT FUND

Midland Country Club

Amigo Mobility International

Renosol Corporation

**MICHIGAN WORKS!**  
Great Lakes Bay Region

# The Voice of the CUSTOMER

## Younger, Older and In Between



Single mother **Haley M** wanted to create a better life for her and her daughter, and she knew education would put her on that path. When she came to the Gratiot Service Center, this “mom on a mission” connected with a career coach that helped her address barriers: getting to and from GED prep classes,

getting tutoring services for math, passing her GED tests, testing/screening/clothing for phlebotomy training, and job search.

With her coach’s help, Haley worked hard and completed her GED and phlebotomy classes, passed all her tests and certifications, and got a job with McLaren Hospital in Mt. Pleasant. GLBMW even helped her purchase new uniforms for the job.

“Michigan Works! has encouraged me to do more and make all my goals,” Haley says. “I struggled with easily getting discouraged by challenges. Being an only parent to a toddler made it overwhelming at times. But my team at Michigan Works was always so confident in me and always pushed me to keep going. They knew I was capable of doing more than what I thought I could. I learned that with the right people and mindset, you can achieve any or all goals.”

Helping young people find out what they DON’T want to do for a living is as rewarding as helping them find their dream job. **Krystal M** was an introverted high school graduate with her heart set on “helping people” in healthcare when she connected with us. After career assessments and conversations with her coach, she admitted that she isn’t terribly social but loves to work with wood, tools, and machinery.



The Talent Experts engaged Krystal in a variety of activities to improve her confidence, employability and social skills. She was placed with a local HVAC company to gain work experience and found she excelled in the trade and – under the company’s guidance and mentorship – continued to gain responsibility and confidence. Michigan Works! continued to help her with supportive services to stay caught up on her monthly bills while she continued to grow her skills at GW Heating and Cooling. Upon completion of her regular work experience, she was hired full time. She’s on her way to having her first car and living self-sufficiently, saying “Those who have trouble and struggle with learning disabilities and finding a career path should take the chance with Michigan Works and try, because it helped me!”



“The WIOA out-of-school youth program at Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! helps students take responsibility for their next step after high school. I believe I’m a better overall person because of the program and the guidance I received.”

These words were shared by participant **Tayden J**, who came to Bay Arenac Community High School behind in credits after a negative experience at his prior school. He wanted to enlist in the Army but needed a high diploma to make that happen. After enrolling

in the WIOA youth program in Bay County, Tayden participated in leadership activities and was placed in work experience. He started passing his classes and making up credits. He graduated just a few months later and enlisted in the Army, where he graduated from basic training and moved on to advanced individual training. He credits the youth program for helping him overcome adversity and helping him become a more confident, responsible person.





**Diamond B.**, a single parent with two children, was living at Shelterhouse in Midland when she sought out our services. Her time was running out at the shelter, she lacked advanced education, reliable transportation and childcare and was unemployed.

Through services and activities with us, Diamond was able to obtain housing and prioritize job searching. Career assessments showed her aptitude and interest in the medical field. Ross Medical Education was very convenient and close to Diamond's new home. She was able to walk to medical assistant training and attend some sessions virtually. She enrolled one child in an early education program so that she could attend training successfully while her other child was in school.

Upon successfully completing training, Diamond was immediately hired at MidMichigan OBGYN – a job within walking distance of home. She said she is thankful that her career coach took time to work with her one step at a time so she could get back on her feet again.



**Brian C.** was a mature worker making \$26.63 an hour when the trucking company he worked for shut down. Frustrated and unsure about what to do next, he reached out to the Saginaw service center for help. We provided him with

information on how to file an unemployment claim and assisted him with creating a resume and registering for work. We helped him tailor his resume to specific postings and provided tools to assist him in looking for work. Our Mature Worker Workshop helped him find ways to prevent his age from being a barrier to employment.

During one of his visits, we discussed a job opportunity at Ryder for a truck driver. Brian applied and received a call for an interview. He applied the tips he learned at our office during the interview process and was hired at a starting wage of \$24.50/hour with plenty of growth opportunities. This job is a great fit for Brian. With 10-hour workdays, he can be with his family in the evenings -- crucial for him because he has responsibilities caring for a family member. The full-time job also offers affordable insurance and job security.

He says, "Thanks to all the staff for their patience in helping turn a sad story into a successful opportunity. If you're looking to improve your marketability, Michigan Works is a great place to start. Thank you!"



**Jay H.** was working at Consumers Energy when his position was eliminated. A decorated 25-year veteran of the United States Army, he has numerous skills to offer the workforce from both his military and civilian work experience. We helped him update his resume and reformat it to help him stand out. His career coach also helped him prepare for the Great Lakes Bay Job Fair and Coming Home Networking Event this past fall. There, he made a professional connection with Kerkau Manufacturing in Bay City and set up a more formal interview.

Jay attended the interview and was introduced to the company president. Jay was offered a position, negotiated a higher starting salary, and says, "Working with Michigan Works made all the difference. I would recommend them to be the first stop for anyone in a similar situation. They made me feel at ease and provided exceptional service."

**Winn Telecom** is headquartered in Mt. Pleasant, with additional offices in Gaylord and Alma. This boutique provider of high-speed internet and phone services to businesses prides itself on offering white glove services to every customer. Their competition from larger telecommunications companies is fierce.



One way Winn Telecom hopes to remain a leading communications provider is by investing in training programs for its 20 full-time employees to improve retention and keep skills on the cutting edge. Company leaders worked with GLBMW in 2023 to apply for Going PRO Talent Fund award to train field technician as a certified fiber optic technician with specialist certification in splicing and testing. The skills obtained provide their customers with faster connections, greater reliability, and better overall services.

HR manager Shannon Perkins says, "The Going PRO Talent Fund award has affected our company positively. The training has helped our organization fulfill our goal of delivering extraordinary service. We always want our staff to strive to be the best they can be within our company and on their career path. As a direct result of this training, our field technician will be eligible for a promotion. This has been a great experience."

**Mark Rankin, District Director**

**rankinm1@msu.edu**

723 Emerson Street  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-907-6520  
msue73@msu.edu

**Michigan 4-H Youth Development**

Stacie Gath, MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator, Saginaw County,  
[gathstac@msu.edu](mailto:gathstac@msu.edu)



**Making a Commitment to the 4-H's**



Making a commitment to the four H's helps the members commit to something bigger than themselves. Head, Heart, Hands and Health (the 4-H's) are the words that thousands of 4-H members live by.

The Frankenmuth Pacesetters 4-H Club hosted a sewing event to make pillowcases, mittens, or fleece blankets to help their local community. With the help of 4-H volunteers, the club made 80 pillowcases, 19 blankets, 7 blankets for babies, and 15 pairs of mittens that are being donated to families in need and to the pediatric department at a local hospital.

“My **H**ands to larger service,” is a promise to give the world as much as a member can. Like “heart,” giving your hands to larger service is when a member steps back from their own personal needs and gives to others what they can. Through “hands” 4-H members gain the ability to give strength to others. 4-H members have the opportunity to get out in the community and show everyone how much care their hands hold, while being able to maintain their own personal Health. Learn more about the 4-H pledge at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/head\\_heart\\_hands\\_and\\_health\\_what\\_4-h\\_means](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/head_heart_hands_and_health_what_4-h_means)

**4-H Maple Syrup Making Workshop**

A special thanks to Brady 4-H Club for hosting the 4-H Maple Syrup Making Workshop! Youth were able to walk through the woods and learn about maple trees, practiced drilling holes, running lines, and so much more! Youth and families even got to taste the sap that will be turned into syrup. Each participant was also given some basic equipment to get started on their own.



## Youth Farm Education Series



Saginaw 4-H has teamed up with Schomaker Farms to host a year-long farm education series. Each month offers a different learning topic and hands-on activity. Youth will be fully immersed in the farming experience! The first 3 topics of the year covered chickens, goats, and planning a garden. All activities take place right at the farm and families are encouraged to attend with you.

## Saginaw 4-H youth serve on the 4-H State Youth Leadership Council

Please join me in congratulating Reyna A. and Lily W. who are members of the Michigan State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. Established in 2015, the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council (SYLC) is a statewide leadership opportunity for 4-H youth. SYLC members serve as representatives of the Michigan 4-H program, promoting 4-H through state and local activities, and can provide youth voice and perspective on the development of 4-H programs and curricula.

## Health and Nutrition - SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

Maggie Dougherty, MSU Extension Community Nutrition Instructor-SNAP-Ed, Saginaw County, [dough109@msu.edu](mailto:dough109@msu.edu)



DATE	January-March 2023 PROGRAMMING
January 5-February 26, 2024	2 first grade classes - Arthur Eddy Academy Show Me Nutrition
January 17- February 21, 2024	2 Kindergarten classes-Arthur Eddy Academy - Show Me Nutrition
January 23 – February 24, 2024	Center of Hope – Eat Healthy Be Active – Adult
January 29 – March 11, 2024	Pre-K -CNI class – Arthur Eddy Academy - Show Me Nutrition
February 1 -March 13, 2024	Chesaning Senior Center – Cooking for One – Adult
March 5 – March 19, 2024	Thomas White Elem. – 2 PreK classes, 4 Kindergarten classes Show Me Nutrition
March 7 – March 21, 2024	Atkins Elementary – 5 second grade classes Show Me Nutrition
March 13, 2024	Edgewood Assisted Living – One Time Presentation – Adults

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**A message from Parks Director Brian Keenan-Lechel:**



Happy Spwringter Saginaw County! Mother Nature has teased us with a few stretches of sunshine and warmth as we head into April, but I can best describe this late winter/early spring weather as temperamental, with snaps back to below freezing and occasional snow flurries. This hasn't deterred my optimism for another beautiful Michigan Spring and Summer just around the corner, and its hard not to be excited for all that's in store for Saginaw County in 2024.

If you've driven by the courthouse lately you may have noticed the Saginaw Bunnies have returned to the lawn for the annual Egg Hunt on Saturday March 30th and will remain there until mid-April. You may have also noticed a few new faces among the fluffle (look it up, it's real). This is because of an exciting partnership with the City of Saginaw, Old Town Saginaw Association, Saginaw Future, Saginaw ISD and Saginaw County Parks dubbed the "Hare Hunt," which will take place from mid-May through early June during the Memorial Cup. The Hare Hunt is an interactive scavenger hunt which will spread the iconic Saginaw Bunnies throughout Saginaw, guiding residents and visitors



alike to some of Saginaw's keystone landmarks. Simply scan a QR code located by each bunny to be entered into a fantastic prize raffle, the more "hares" visited the more chances to win – more info and a location map to come later this Spring via the City of Saginaw.

If you haven't heard about the Saginaw Spirit hosting the Memorial Cup in late-May, or even if you have, it is worth highlighting again. "Canada's Stanley Cup," hosted by the Saginaw Spirit arrives at the county-owned Dow Event Center beginning Thursday May 24th – Sunday June 2nd, 2024. The Saginaw Spirit and three additional championship hockey programs will compete for the Memorial Cup trophy while visitors and residents are treated to activities each day across this stretch including daily concerts at the Jolt Event Park across from the Dow Event Center. This is only the second time the Memorial Cup has been hosted in the United States, and the first in Michigan. What an opportunity to showcase our region, including your Saginaw County Parks.

Our own programs are starting to ramp up, and we're excited to host introduction to pickleball again this Spring, which has grown to be one of our more popular programs. The 34th Annual Catch Me If You Can Family Fishing Festival will take place at William H. Haithco Recreation Area on Saturday June 1st. Senior golf cart rides, summer youth baseball at Hoyt Park, movies in the park, playdate programs, and more - all brought to you by Saginaw County Parks. We can't wait to see again on the trails and in the parks!

**Park Hours:**

Imerman Memorial Park and Price Nature Center, 8:00 A.M. to dusk. (Sept 5- May 23) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 24-Sept 2)

Ringwood Forest 9:00 A.M. to dusk. (Sept 5- May 23) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 24-Sept 2)

William H. Haithco Recreation Area, 9:00 A.M. to Dusk. (Sept 5- May 23) 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. (May 24-Sept 2)

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail, Veterans Memorial Park and Headwaters Rec. Area are only open during daylight hours.

Park Office: 111 S. Michigan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602. Contact us: 989-790-5280. On the web @ [www.saginawcounty.com/parks](http://www.saginawcounty.com/parks)

# 2024 Spring Programs

## Boundless Film Adventure-FREE SOLO

Fri. April 19 7:00 PM



Join Saginaw County Parks & Court Street Theatre for the Boundless Film Adventure guaranteed to leave you breathless and inspired as adventure seekers push their bodies to boundless physical and mental limits. This year's movie 'Free Solo' will profile the rock climber Alex Honnold on his quest to perform the first-ever free solo climb of a route on El Capitan, in Yosemite

National Park. **Cost: Donation at door.** Doors open @ 6:30 PM. Concessions available for purchase.

## Walk with Ease (WWE)

Mon. Wed. & Fri. May 6 - June 14 9:00-10:00 AM

Pull out your walking shoes and join us for a FREE 6 week walking experience. This class offers 3 interactive sessions per week with a certified trained leader. Each session will begin with a brief discussion on a topic important to successful walking or arthritis management. Participants will be guided through a warm up and stretching followed by walking and a cool down. This class can help improve overall health, increase flexibility, balance, strength & stamina. Other benefits include reduced pain and discomfort for those suffering with arthritis. ALL ability levels are encouraged to participate and trained leaders will help you be successful. Open to all ages. To obtain the maximum benefit from this program we highly encourage participants to attend all sessions. Location: YMCA Pavilion, 1915 Fordney Street. **Call now to register!** Cost: Free!

## Soggy Doggy

Wed. May 15 5:30 PM-7:00 PM



Your pup can have a splish-splashing good time. Usually the lake is off limits to pets but for this one evening, bring them out and let them swim to their hearts content! Dog calendars will be available on site for \$15.

Cost: Free! Location: W. H. Haithco Rec. Area.

## Pickleball Classes (Intro. & Intermediate)

Tues.	May 21	10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Thurs.	May 23 & 30	7:00 PM-8:30 PM
Tues.	June 4, 11 & 18	10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Thurs.	June 13 & 20	7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Join us and our local Pickleball instructor Rob Klaczewicz in learning and improving your skills at this fun filled paddle sport created for all ages. We now have several intermediate sessions to enhance your skills after taking the intro. class. **Pre-registration is required.** Call 989-790-5280 to register!

Equipment provided. Cost: Free!

Location: Imerman Memorial Park.

INTRO Classes-May 21 & 23. June 11 & 13.

INTERMEDIATE Classes-May 30. June 4, 18, & 20.

First 150 children registered receive a free fishing pole!

## Free Family Fishing Festival

Saturday, June 1, 2024  
Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area  
2121 Schust, Saginaw, MI  
8:00 am - 11:00 am

Register now by calling 989-790-5280

Proudly Sponsored by:



Event Schedule:	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	On-site Registration
8:00 am - 10:45 am	Fishing
10:45 am	All fish to measuring station
11:00 am	Awards and Prizes



Join us for the 34th annual 'Catch Me If You Can' Family Fishing Festival. The first 150 children registered will receive a free fishing pole. Trophies will be awarded for the family who catches the largest fish and the most legal sized fish. Additional giveaways will be given out to event participants. All State of Michigan fishing rules and regulations will apply to this tournament. Call 989-790-5280 to register! On-site registration will be available at 8 am June 1st.

## Yoga For All

Every Mon. beginning June 3rd	9:00 AM-10:00 AM
Every Mon. beginning June 3rd	6:00 PM-7:00 PM

This class is meant for everyone and anyone interested in yoga. You will learn breath, yoga poses (and modifications if necessary to fit your body) along with techniques you can take off your mat and use in your daily routine. FYI: every expert at something, was once a beginner. You don't need to be flexible & all athletic abilities are welcome. Please consult your physician if pregnant, recovering from a surgery or injury. If you can breathe... You are doing yoga!!! Location: W. H. Haithco Rec. Area. For class information, cost and sign up, please visit [www.yogabykathryn.com](http://www.yogabykathryn.com).

## Senior Rail Trail Golf Cart Tours

Tues. June 11 10-2:00 PM

Wed. June 12 10-2:00 PM

Thurs. June 13 10-2:00 PM

Trail Head Address:

2998 VanWormer Rd.

Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission believes that the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail is a treasure for all of our residents and that everyone

should be able to experience its beauty. With that in mind we have designed Rail Trail golf cart tours to showcase the trail to people with limited mobility. Tours are 45 minutes in length and start and end at the Vanwormer Rd parking lot. Tours leave on the hour and hold 10 passengers. **Reservations are required.** Call (989) 790-5280 to register for your ride today.



## Playdate-Art in the Park

Tues. June 18

2:00-3:30 PM

Who doesn't love to create fun? Come out and let your imagination go wild with create-and-take art projects. There may even be some games or shaving cream fun involved for those who aren't afraid to get their hands messy. Location: Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area at the Multi-colored building by the splash pad. Cost: Free! Snack at 3:30 PM.

## Try it: Kayak

Tues. June 18

4:00-5:00 PM

In this class, you will learn the differences between kayak styles and discover how stable and easily maneuverable kayaks can be. Class sizes are small and cozy with a maximum of eight people per class. Be sure to register early, as classes fill up fast. This is a wet class, so you should bring a change of clothing and a smile! Ages: 6 to Adult (Children 6 to 16 must be accompanied by an adult) Duration: 1 hr. Cost: \$5.00 per person. Location: Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area. **Pre-registration is required.** Call 989-790-5280 to register! July & August class times TBA.

## Playdate-Music on the Move

Thurs. June 20

10:00-11:30 AM

Don't miss this special opportunity to experience the power of rhythm. During Music on the Move, participants will learn music through African Drums in a group setting. They will also learn how to make sounds, tell stories, improvise music, reading and playing rhythm patterns. Music on the Move will be conducted by Sonja Cissell. Location: Imerman Memorial Park, Pavilion #1. Cost: Free! Lunch after.

## Playdate- Nature Explorers (Rocks & Fossils)

Thurs. June 20

2:00-3:30 PM

Join SCPRC at Ringwood Forest with the Public Libraries of Saginaw for the Rocks & Fossils Program. Cost: Free!

## Playdate-Water Wars (Extended Time)

Tues. June 25

12:00 PM-3:30 PM

Slip and slide into Summer with some wet and wild fun. Bring a towel, wear your swimsuit & come prepared to get wet. Expect laughter & excitement while participating in water relays and playing on a 20ft inflatable water slide. \*Note-potential risk for latex allergies. Location: Imerman Memorial Park Cost: Free! Snack at 3:30 PM.

## Playdate-Art in the Park

Wed. June 26

10:00-11:30 AM

Who doesn't love to create fun? Come out and let your imagination go wild with create-and-take art projects. There may even be some games or shaving cream fun involved for those who aren't afraid to get their hands messy. Location: Showboat Park located at 805 S. Front St. Chesaning. Cost: Free!

## Dog Days of Summer

Wed. June 26

5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Join Great Lakes Bay Animal Society and Saginaw County Parks at the Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Bark Park for a doggone good time. You can meet up with friends both human and canine to romp in the park and have a chance to win some cool doggie door prizes courtesy of Pets Supplies Plus! 2023 dog calendars will be available for purchase & pictures will be taken for the 2024 calendar. Cost: Free! Location: Imerman Memorial Park. Future summer dates are 7/24 & 8/21.

## Jolly Hammers and Strings

Wed. June 26

7-8:45 PM

Bring your lawn chairs and get ready for great music! A Jolly Hammers and Strings concert presents an opportunity to listen to dulcimer, autoharp, banjo, bass fiddle, guitar, harmonica, mandolin, and many other acoustic instrument players. This concert is free for your listening pleasure! The vehicle entry fee for out of county residents will remain in effect until 6:30 PM) Location: Imerman Memorial Park, Pavilion #2. Future summer dates: 7/24 & 8/28.

## Playdate- Puppet Show

Thurs. June 27

2:00-3:30 PM

Join us in this partnership with the Public Libraries of Saginaw for a puppet show that will engage the whole family! Once the show is over, there will be a craft activity for your child to enjoy. There will also be an opportunity to touch the puppets and interact with library staff. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and be ready to be entertained. Location: Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area, Pavilion # 1. Cost: Free! Snack at 3:30 PM.

Playdate Schedule:



First 150 children registered receive a free fishing pole!



# Free Family Fishing Festival

## Saturday, June 1, 2024

Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area  
2121 Schust, Saginaw, MI

### 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Register now by calling 989-790-5280

Proudly Sponsored by:



Hammond Drives & Equipment



### Event Schedule:

8:00 am- 9:00 am	On-site Registration
8:00 am -10:45 am	Fishing
10:45 am	All fish to measuring station
11:00 am	Awards and Prizes



### Awards & Prizes!

Must be present to win

## Rules

This Family Catch and Release Fishing Festival begins at 8:00 am and ends at 11:00 am on June 1, 2024. Registration deadline is 9:00 am on June 1, 2024. **FISH MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE MEASURING STATION BY 10:45AM TO COUNT.**

Adults with a valid Michigan fishing license and children can fish and have fish counted in the festival. Trophies will be awarded for the family who catches the largest fish and the most legal sized fish. Additional giveaways will be given out to event participants.

**All State of Michigan fishing rules and regulations will apply to this tournament.** MAX 25 BLUEGILLS. ONLY LEGAL SIZE FISH WILL COUNT. Pike under 24 inches, Catfish under 12 inches, and Bass under 14 inches can not be counted in the tournament (DNR FISHING REGULATIONS). All fishing is to be done from shore or dock on the main lake. Boats are not allowed.

If you can't get the hook out without damaging the fish, cut the line and leave the hook in the fish.

Transport fish to measuring station in a bucket with water. **FISH MUST BE ALIVE WHEN BROUGHT TO THE MEASURING STATION.** The fish will be released back into the lake as soon as they are measured.




# Walk With Ease

Join us for a **FREE 6 week OUTDOOR walking experience!**



**Benefits to Participants Include:**

- Interactive sessions with certified trained leader
- Increase confidence in your ability to be physical
- Improve flexibility, balance, strength and stamina
- Reduce pain and discomfort for those suffering with arthritis
- Improve overall health

**Open to all adults!**

**Must pre-register by calling SCPRC at: 989-790-5280**

**Monday, Wednesday & Fridays**

**May 6 - June 14, 2024**

Time: 9:00-10:00 AM

Location: YMCA Pavilion  
1915 Fordney St. Saginaw



National Recreation and Park Association



# Hey Batter Batter!

**WHO:**

All Saginaw County

**BOYS & GIRLS**

Age 5-6 (T-ball)

Age 7-8 (Coach Pitch)

Division teams:

Hybrid 10U & 12U

**WHEN:**

10 Game Season

July 9th - Aug 8th, 2024

Tuesday & Thursday  
Evenings

**WHERE:**

Hoyt Park

1574 S. Washington Ave

Saginaw, MI

Division Teams (10U & 12U) require a team sponsor fee in addition to the individual player fee. Please have sponsor send the \$300 fee wrote out to:

**Friends of Hoyt Park**

and mail to:

Saginaw County Parks

111. S. Michigan Ave.

Saginaw, MI 48602.

Questions? 989-790-5283

**REGISTRATION:**

[www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com](http://www.hoytparkyouthbaseball.com)



**COST:**

**\$25 per player**

Plus \$3 transaction fee

**Registration Deadline:**

**June 28, 2024**

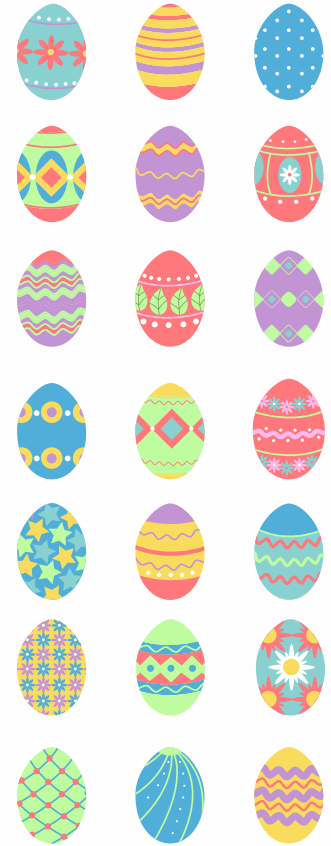
**NEED A TEAM?**

T-Ball & Coach Pitch teams will be formed by the League. Division Players needing a team may sign up and will be placed on the waitlist.





## HELP THE RABBIT FIND 21 EGGS



Are you looking for a location for your special outing? We have the perfect place for any occasion! Pavilion reservations are ideal for company picnics, family or school reunions, graduation parties, birthday parties, church groups, clubs and any group that would appreciate having their outing in a beautiful Saginaw County Park. The William H. Haithco Recreation Area provides modern bathrooms, playgrounds, fishing docks, volleyball courts and five picnic pavilions. Imerman Memorial Park provides modern bathrooms, a fishing dock, a volleyball court, a playground, horseshoe pits, basketball and tennis courts, an in-line hockey rink, Bark Park and four picnic pavilions. Call to reserve your pavilion today. We will begin accepting pavilion reservations for the 2024 season for the William

H. Haithco Recreation Area, Imerman Memorial Park, and Price Nature Center on January 2, 2024.

Rental fees for the pavilions are \$60.00 per day. Entry for Saginaw County Residents is free. Non Residents Memorial Day thru Labor Day pay \$2.00 per vehicle entry fee to Imerman Memorial Park and a \$5.00 per vehicle entry fee to the William H. Haithco Recreation Area.










Rentals must be made in person at the Parks office in the Saginaw County Governmental Center. Methods of payment accepted include cash, check, credit and money order.



To get free entry to our parks, Saginaw County Residents can pick up a free Recreate Pass at Imerman Memorial Park, Wm. Haithco Recreation Area or the Parks office. Out of county resident pass is only \$30 for a whole summer of fun!

# PARK Locations



-  William H. Haithco Rec. Area  
2121 Schust Road
-  Imerman Memorial Park  
3495 Midland Road
-  Ringwood Forest  
13710 Ring Rd, St. Charles
-  Veterans Memorial Park  
1543 - 1701 M-13  
North of Zilwaukee
-  Saginaw River Headwaters  
Rec. Area  
77 W. Center St, Saginaw
-  Price Nature Center  
6685 Sheridan Road
-  Saginaw Valley Rail Trail  
Water St Trail Head  
401 E. Water St, St. Charles
-  Saginaw Valley Rail Trail  
Van Wormer Rd. Trail Head  
2998 VanWormer Rd, Saginaw
-  Saginaw Valley Rail Trail  
Stroebe Rd. Trail Head  
6225 Stroebe Rd, Saginaw



Just a friendly reminder that dogs are permitted on a 6 ft leash at all of our county parks except the Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area\*. Imerman Memorial Park has a Dog Park where dogs are allowed off leash to romp and play with their friends. Thank you for your cooperation.

\*Dogs are allowed at Haithco during our Saginaw County Parks sanctioned Soggy Doggy events in the spring and fall.

The Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. We will provide reasonable accommodations to assist people with disabilities to access and participate in our recreation programs, facilities, and services. For program registration information, please call the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission at (989) 790-5280.

## Commission Members

**Ruth Averill - Chairman, Tim Courtney - Vice Chairman, Brian J. Wendling - Secretary  
Delena Spates-Allen, Darwin Baranski, Rob Brown, Deb Kestner, Sheldon Matthews  
David Sommers, Demond Tibbs**

## Staff Members

**Brian Keenan-Lechel - Director Jordan Beal - Operations Supervisor  
Mary Williams - Office Manager Jeanette Fiers - Outdoor Recreation & Event Coordinator  
Tom Kowalski - Parks Foreman Fred Raymond - Parks Specialist**



# PLAY IN THE PARKS

## FITNESS CLASSES:

**Walk with Ease (WWE)**  
Mon. Wed. & Fri. May 6th - June 14th  
9:00 - 10:00 AM  
YMCA Pavilion R

**Yoga For All (Instructor, Kathryn Wilson)**  
Mondays Every Mon. beginning June 3rd  
9:00 - 10:00 AM  
6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area SR  
Register @ [www.yogabykathryn.com](http://www.yogabykathryn.com)

## PROGRAMS:

**Fri. April 19**  
Boundless Film Adventure 7:00 PM  
(Featuring FREE SOLO) Court Street Theatre

**Wed. May 15**  
Soggy Doggy 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area

**Tues. May 21**  
Pickleball 10:30 - 12:00 PM  
Imerman Memorial Park R

**Thurs. May 23 & 30**  
Pickleball 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Imerman Memorial Park R

**Sat. June 1**  
Catch Me if You Can 8:00 - 11:00 AM  
Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area R

**Tues. June 4, 11 & 18**  
Pickleball 10:30 - 12:00 PM  
Imerman Memorial Park R

**June 11-13**  
Senior Rail Trail Tours 10:00 - 2:00 PM  
Saginaw Valley Rail Trail R

**Thurs. June 13 & 20**  
Pickleball 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Imerman Memorial Park R

**Tues. June 18**  
Try it: Kayak 4:00 - 5:00 PM  
Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area SR

**Wed. June 26**  
Dog Days of Summer 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
Imerman Memorial Park

**Wed. June 26**  
Jolly Hammers & Strings 7:00 - 8:45 PM  
Imerman Memorial Park



**Full Summer Playdate Schedule:**



## June Playdate schedule:

**Tues. June 18**  
Art in the Park 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area

**Thurs. June 20**  
Music on the Move 10:00 - 11:30 AM  
Imerman Memorial Park

**Thurs. June 20**  
Nature Explorers 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
Ringwood Forest

**Tues. June 25**  
Water Wars (Extended Time) 12:00 - 3:30 PM  
Imerman Memorial Park

**Wed. June 26**  
Art in the Park 10:00 - 11:30 AM  
Showboat Park-Chesaning

**Thurs. June 27**  
Puppet Show 2:00 - 3:30 PM  
Wm. H. Haithco Rec Area

**TAKE NOTE!**

- All events are free unless noted with a "\$" symbol.
- Gate fees may be additional.
- Pre-registration is required for all events noted with the letter "R".
- Playdates are for all ages. Prepare to get messy!

**CONTACT US!**

[parks@saginawcounty.com](mailto:parks@saginawcounty.com)  
(989) 790-5280

**Like us on Facebook!**  
[www.facebook.com/saginawcountyparks](http://www.facebook.com/saginawcountyparks)



## LEADING BWell Saginaw



### Community Health Improvement Plan Unveiled at Joint Press Conference

Saginaw’s Comprehensive Community Health Improvement Plan was introduced at a joint press conference on January 23 at Andersen Enrichment Center. This was a significant announcement coordinated by Saginaw County Health Department (SCHD) and made collaboratively with our BWell Saginaw partners including Ascension St. Mary’s, Covenant HealthCare, CMU Medical Education Partners, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, HealthSource Saginaw, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, MiHIA, Saginaw Community Foundation, Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority, Saginaw County Intermediate School District, Saginaw Valley State University, and United Way of Saginaw County.

The collective energy created by 13 organizations and other BWell supporters at the press event was inspiring and served as a monumental kick-off for efforts to move Saginaw County of one of Michigan’s least health communities to one of the Top 25 healthiest.

### Obesity Summit Scheduled for April 12

The workgroups assigned to the Community Health Improvement Plan’s 12 strategies are well underway, particularly the groups charged with creating “healthy body status” measures and provider “toolkits” for the upcoming Obesity Summit on April 12 at SVSU’s Ott Auditorium. This event is a large undertaking targeted toward healthcare providers, with free CME credits through Central Michigan University College of Medicine for physicians.

SCHD medical director Delicia Pruitt, MD, will kick off the event to introduce our prescription for improving health body status in Saginaw County. The keynote speaker is Rebecca Hasson, PhD, FACS, a professor of kinesiology and nutritional services at the University of Michigan School of Public Health who created the *InPACT* program to get kids moving in schools and the *InPACT at Home* video series on the PBS Michigan Learning Channel. Dafina Allen, MD, of Saginaw’s Wise Weight Management will provide an update about obesity medicine. Attendees will also choose one of four breakout sessions: Exercise is Medicine, Obesity & Mental Health, Body Scan – Beyond BMI, and Nutrition 201.

For more information about the summit, please visit <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7708317/2024-obesity-summit>

## Obesity Summit 2024

It's Time to Have Healthy Conversations with Patients About How Weight Impacts Health

April 12, 8:30am-1pm

Saginaw Valley State University, Ott Auditorium

3.5 FREE CME (and other continuing education) credits

REGISTER HERE

(Free Event)



Scan the QR code or visit <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7708317/2024-obesity-summit>

DESCRIPTION:

Obesity Summit 2024 is focused on uniting Saginaw County healthcare providers around an understanding of the prevalence of obesity and urgency of action, introducing a more uniform standard of care for overweight and obese patients, and opening new local resources to help providers educate and support patients.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Patient-facing provider community including physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, dietitians, therapists, medical assistants.

AGENDA:

8am-8:30am	Registration, continental breakfast
8:30am-9am	Saginaw’s Prescription for Improving Healthy Body Status, presented by Delicia Pruitt, MD, Medical Director, Saginaw County Health Department
9am-10am	InPACT to Get Children and Families Moving, Rebecca E. Hasson, PhD, FACS, Associate Professor, Kinesiology, Assistant Professor, Nutritional Sciences, University of Michigan School of Public Health
10am-11am	Obesity Medicine Update & Having Healthy Conversations with Patients, presented by Dafina Allen, MD, Wise Weight Management
11am-12 noon	Breakout sessions (Choose one)
Exercise is Medicine	Obesity & Mental Health – Adrian Allen, MD, Wise Weight Management
Body Scan – Dafina Allen, MD, Wise Weight Management	Nutrition 201: Beyond the Basics – Susan Olgun, RD, Saginaw County Health Department
12 noon-1pm	Box lunch (takeout or stay to network with colleagues)

## Health Officer Addresses Saginaw Chamber Members about Obesity and its Impact on Individuals, Productivity, and the Bottom Line



SCHD Health officer Christina Harrington, MPH, spoke with a packed room at the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce Perc Breakfast in February. The topic was Saginaw’s obesity crisis and its impact on individuals and the cost of doing business.

In addition to data showing that nearly three out of every four people in this county are overweight or obese, Chris educated the business leaders in attendance that productivity loss due to obesity is estimated at \$3.38 billion nationwide each year annually. The overall economic impact of obesity is \$1.4 trillion – 10x more than all workplace injuries. This means employers with obese/overweight employees are “paying” more than workers compensation policy payouts.

After her presentation, she challenged the audience to help SCHD and BWell Saginaw work on system-level improvements and be a partner in envisioning and improving a healthier Saginaw.

## St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Hemlock Brings BWell to Soup Supper

Chris Harrington was the only thing standing between St. Mary’s parishioners and their dinner one February evening! She was invited to talk about BWell Saginaw to a warm and welcoming group that was hungry to learn more about why Saginaw County ranks so low for health outcomes.

We thank Father Mike for the invitation and look forward to more opportunities to engage with our Hemlock community!

## Shock & Saves Game Benefits HeartSAFE Work of SCHD Health Resource Advocates in Schools and Celebrates Step Up Quarterly Winners

Detroit Red Wings legend Jiri Fischer was joined by his NHL friends and local health care providers for the annual Shocks & Saves charity hockey event prior to the Saginaw Spirit game at The Dow on January 27. BWell Saginaw was a proud partner in the event, hosted by the Pulse 3 Endowment at CMU, which raised close to \$1 million to provide more than 380 automated external defibrillators in Saginaw-area businesses and schools.

SCHD health resource advocates are working with Saginaw County school districts to achieve HeartSAFE certifications, the cost of which will be supported by proceeds from Shocks & Saves. HRAs provided volunteer support at the charity game while recognizing quarterly winners of SCHD’s Step Up & BWell program in Saginaw County schools – a program that encourages students and families to exercise more and eat healthier.

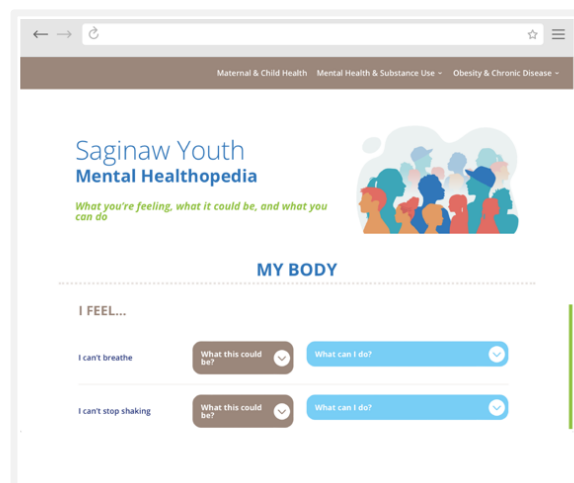


## Adult Mental Healthopedia Under Development

If you haven't already checked it out, SCHED led efforts to create a self-help mental health tool for students ages 12 and up. The Youth Mental Healthopedia is available at [bwell.saginaw.org](http://bwell.saginaw.org).

The tool, created with the help of Catherine Macomber, PhD, LMSW, assistant dean, SVSU College of Health and Human Services and other local mental health providers, does not replace professional help. However, it is being praised as a "starting point" to help teens understand their feelings and find tips for what these feelings might mean and what to do next.

Now, Dr. Macomber is working with us again to develop a version for adults 18+. SCHED is grateful for BWell partners who are joining us in addressing Mental Health & Substance Use – one of the Top 3 priorities in our Community Health Improvement Plan.



## Community Information Exchange Promises to More Effectively Link Saginaw Residents with Local Health Resources

SCHED is working with Bay County to join a robust IT "community information exchange" (CIE) platform that will enable community health workers at BWell partner organizations to better link residents with services designed to improve health throughout the county. If ever there was a "dream" of SCHED, this is it!

It is becoming a reality thanks to new funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield through the Covenant Provider Health Organization (PHO) and the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services. Saginaw-based PartnerShift will also be grant funded by MDHHS to work alongside us in the training and navigation of this project.

Stay tuned for more details as they unfold. Meanwhile, please join us in celebrating this major opportunity to collaborate, better utilize services, connect our community with ways to be healthier, follow-up with people who need added support, and close the loop to monitor results.

## Trusted Health Guidance to the Community

### SCHD Shares Updated Respiratory Illness Guidance from CDC

On March 1, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated their guidance for respiratory illness – including COVID-19, RSV and influenza. We quickly shared this information with staff, school administrators, businesses, and the community via emails and our social media channels, because the new guidance removes the 5-day isolation for COVID-19 and aligns it with influenza.

It now states that people should isolate at home until their symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours (without using fever reducing medications).

## Health Promotions & Services Making an Impact

- Demand is great, so SCHD continues to go mobile offering free glucose and cholesterol screening around the county.
- Room 202 harm reduction services went “on the road” in January to help prevent HIV and hepatitis.
- SCHD immunization experts held walk-in clinics at St. Charles Library, Faith Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, and Disability Network of Mid-Michigan in Saginaw in addition to regular appointments and walk-in clinics at the health department.
- We celebrated our WIC staff on Registered Dietitian Day. These experts will be playing an important role in helping county residents adopt a healthier diet, eat well on a budget, and make smarter choices at restaurants.
- Did you know that we have a 211 representative in our building every Tuesday in Room 213 to help with navigating services within the community?
- SCHD staff continue to work with EPIC on the spring launch of our new EMR system.
- Our employee engagement have grand plans to celebrate National Public Health Week in early April.