



COUNTY OF SAGINAW QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY 2024

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2023 Chairman's Message



I was glad to see the large attendance at this year's County Christmas party and it appeared that everyone had a great time. If you liked the format, please let us know and we can plan a repeat for next year.

As most of you know, Saginaw County has now hired a new County Administrator, Mary Catherine Hannah. She is currently the Alpena County Administrator and hopes to join us in late January, 2024. She is a U of M grad, for all of you who are pulling for your team in the college football playoffs. Her husband is from Montreal, and they are both Montreal Canadiens fans. We hope to convert them to Saginaw Spirit fans, with the likelihood that they will be active with the Memorial Cup.

She also has a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and although she no longer actively practices law, she represented juveniles in Chicago for several years and has a pretty good understanding of the court system.

She is attempting to quickly acquaint herself with Saginaw County and your assistance will help in her transition. Please give her a warm welcome when she joins our team!

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, thank you for another outstanding year as employees of this great county. We are proud of our staff and appreciate the stellar effort that you make to keep our county operating in an effective and efficient manner. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you, your friends, and your family. Happy Holidays to all!

*On behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Christopher Boyd, Chairman*

Please use the link below to share the report with residents and/or other elected officials.

<https://www.saginawcounty.com/departments/county-administrator-finance/>

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10TH CIRCUIT SAGINAW RECOVERY COURT

Susan Smith, Coordinator - ssmith@saginawcounty.com

Words Can Make a Difference for Those in Recovery

By: Judge Julie A. Gafkay

On May 22, 2023, during National Treatment Court month, the Saginaw County Drug Treatment Court formally announced it was changing its name after over a decade as the Saginaw County Drug Treatment Court. The new name is the Saginaw County Adult Felony Recovery Treatment Court (AFRTC), or more commonly referred to as Saginaw Recovery Court (SRC). While the change in name may seem insignificant, its focus on recovery, instead of drugs, matters. Words can make the difference for those in recovery. It can be as simple as changing the word “hopeless” to “hopeful”.

As a legal community, we can choose to use words in a more positive way to address those in the legal system because of substance use (as opposed to substance abuse). The National Institute on Drug Abuse has published a handout with recommendations on language to use related to substance use. Below are a few examples:

Instead of...	Use...	Because...
Addict, user, substance abuser, drug abuser, junkie, alcoholic, drunk	Person with a substance use disorder, person with an opioid use disorder, person with an alcohol use disorder	Use of person-first language is ideal; person experiences a problem rather than “is” the problem
Former addict, reformed addict	Person in recovery, person who previously used drugs, person not actively using drugs/alcohol	Avoids eliciting negative associations, punitive attitudes, individual blame
Substance abuse Prescription drug abuse	Substance use Drug use other than as prescribed	“abuse” (and to some extent, “misuse”) is associated with negative judgements
Clean/dirty	Testing positive/negative for a particular substance (toxicology screening test)	Uses clinically accurate, non-stigmatizing terminology as for other medical conditions

Using the person-first language followed by the person’s behavior tells the listener you respect that person regardless of their behavior. For instance, saying, “a person who engaged in injection drug use,” instead of saying, “injection user.” Showing individuals respect, not just a person experiencing a substance use disorder, can make a big difference in that individual ultimately being receptive and successful.

Referrals to the SRC can be made online at saginawcounty.com. Referrals should be made as soon as possible after a defendant’s arrest but can be made anytime during the criminal proceeding before sentencing. Referrals can be made by almost anyone including defense counsel, pretrial services, district and circuit judges, probation officers, and defendants can make a self-referral. Qualifications for SRC include: an adult non-violent offender, residing in Saginaw County, with a high-high or high-medium risk/needs assessment, and a substance use disorder. Any questions regarding SRC can be directed to the SRC coordinator Sue Smith at ssmith@saginawcounty.com.

This quarter has been marked by significant achievements and developments in Saginaw County 911 Central Dispatch. Our efforts have focused on community engagement, technological advancements, employee training, facility enhancements, and procedural improvements.

Community Engagement

Presentations & Visits: Conducted multiple presentations to community groups, fostering a deeper understanding of our services. Organized insightful visits to the 9-1-1 Central Dispatch center, enhancing public awareness and transparency.

Recognition

APCO Annual Awards Banquet: Our Dispatch Team was honored for their exemplary response to a complex incident in June 2024. While we did not win the Team of the Year, the recognition is a testament to our team's commitment and professionalism.

Technological Advancements

Backup Center Monitors: Installed new, advanced monitors at the Backup Center to enhance operational efficiency.

Conference Room Upgrade: Upgraded with a Display Wall consisting of four 55-inch flat-screen TVs, facilitating better communication and presentation capabilities.

Social Media: Established a Facebook page, to enhance community engagement.

Continuing Education

Communication Training Officer Training: Several employees have completed this comprehensive week-long class, elevating our standards in training.

Training

Current Trainees: We have four trainees in our ongoing training program.

Dispatch Introduction Course: Developed a new 40-hour course to provide a robust foundation for new dispatchers.

Apprenticeship Program: Implemented in collaboration with the Saginaw Career Complex High School, this program is designed to nurture future talent in emergency communications.

Facility Enhancements

Common Areas: Installed new flooring and applied fresh paint in several common areas, improving the working environment.

Kitchen and Conference Room: Remodeled to better serve our staff and visitors, enhancing both functionality and comfort.

9-1-1

Chris Izworski, Director - cizworski@saginawcounty.com

Procedure Development

Updated Procedures: Significantly revised our call-taking and dispatch procedures, ensuring they align with current best practices and technological advancements.

Network Improvements

Peninsula Fiber Network: Enhanced our Geo-routing capabilities, significantly improving 911 caller location accuracy, a critical factor in emergency response.

Call Statistics

911 Calls: 126,692 to date

10 Digit Calls: 69,304 to date

H.W BROWNE AIRPORT (AIRPORT COMMITTEE)

Alan Kaufman, Airport Manager - (989) 295-0675

Happy Holidays from the staff and pilots at HW Browne Airport! Winter is back, and snow season is upon us!

Fuel prices are stable from the last report, with 100 Low Lead fuel at \$5.65 per gallon (self-serve), Jet A fuel at \$5.90 (self-serve, per gallon), and \$7 per gallon full-serve from the fuel truck. The county hangars remain at 99% capacity.



Transient Business Plane

US Army Veteran Travis Mills and family, in the terminal building, flying to Maine to support his Travis Mills Foundation for disabled veterans. "Never Give Up, Never Quit" (used with permission)



Taxiway Charlie with the first heavy snow



Old advertisement, c1940s, to fly at our airport, note the \$3 price tag!

Biz jet taking on self-serve Jet-A



ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Jaime Ceja, Executive Assistant to the Administrator- jceja@saginawcounty.com

The administrator's office is happy to share the below press release with you!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 19, 2023



NEWS RELEASE

*Christopher S. Boyd, Chairman
Saginaw County Board of Commissioners
(989) 790-5267*

Saginaw County Press Release

Over the past six months, the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners has conducted a thorough and comprehensive recruitment for our next County Administrator. After two rounds of interviews, and feedback from our team which included elected officials, community leaders and employees, we are pleased to announce that current Alpena County Administrator Mary Catherine Hannah has accepted our offer to serve Saginaw County. We have entered into a three-year contract which we hope begins a long-term relationship.

"I am so thrilled for the opportunity to work with the Commissioners in Saginaw - I have learned so much about the great projects such as the Memorial Cup and Medical Diamond that are coming up. I am really looking forward to helping make them successful. Having had the chance to meet some of the leadership and other elected officials - I think we will have a wonderful and productive relationship. I am very excited to be stepping up to this role," stated Hannah.

Saginaw County Board Chairman Christopher Boyd added "The Board of Commissioners is thrilled to have Mary Catherine join Saginaw. We believe she is the perfect fit for our county and will foster an environment conducive to teamwork across all county departments."

Mary Catherine has spent the last two years as Alpena County Administrator. She is a University of Michigan grad and has a law degree from University of Wisconsin Law School. She grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Mary Catherine is expected to begin her tenure in Saginaw County on January 22, 2024.

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL RESOURCE CENTER

Bonnie Kanicki, Director - bkanicki@saginawcounty.com

Current Population:

97 dogs; 19 over capacity

63 cats

Staffing:

- Director: Vacant via retirement January 31, 2024.
- ACO: filled; 4 total (3 in-service, 1 in training until Dec. 31).
- Kennel Manager: filled.
- Kennel Technician: re-posted, two were selected but failed to respond.
- Kennel Aides: 13 staff hired via APS Employment Service and onboarded as county employees after 30-60 days. Two remain APS Employees.
- Office Assistants: fully staffed at two.
- Search for New Director: Interviews for prospective applicants on-going.
- We are operational with MSU College of Veterinary Medicine for a Cadaver Donation Program.
- The MSU College of Veterinary Medicine free spay and neuter program is ongoing.
- Electronic PayPal donation link is operational for injured animals.
- Heartworm + dogs are treated solely with donations.
- We continue to investigate animal cruelty cases as we are able.
- Pursuing several dangerous dogs incidents involving owned loose dogs attacking.
- Adoption Events:
 - Empty the Shelters is on-going
- Marketing:
 - We showcase dogs on Wet Nose Wednesday, in Saginaw Township Living Magazine, on our SCACCRC Facebook Page and now TV 12 Fuzzy Friday.
- Volunteers:
 - AKS Peerless Environment
 - Valley Lutheran High School
 - Saginaw ISD
- Rescue Organizations:
 - Working with several rescues to transfer animals.
- Building Issues:
 - Lawn
 - Painting
 - Floors
 - Crates
 - Dishwasher
 - Surgical Clininc
- \$10K grant awarded to SCACCRC for Surgical Clinic equipment from Two Seven Oh Inc. To date they have awarded us \$50K for equipment.

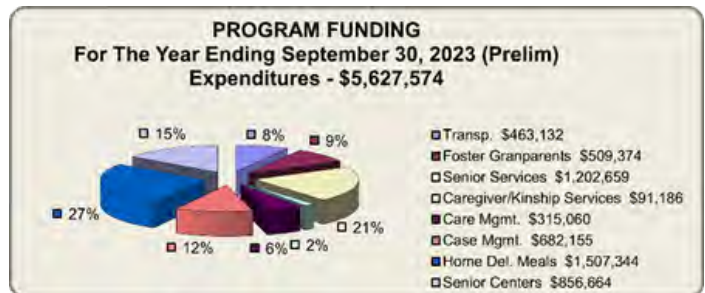
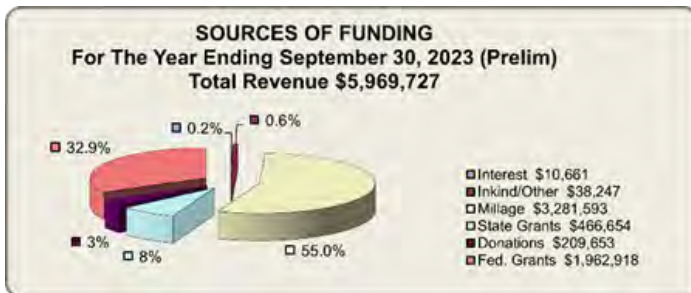
BUILDING AUTHORITY

Timothy M. Novak, Building Authority Chairman - tnovak@saginawcounty.com

The building authority meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Courthouse in the Board of Commissioners Boardroom. All are welcome to attend. Currently projects on the Building Authority agenda are the Memorial Cup, The Dow Event Center operations and capital improvements, and Saginaw County Animal Care and Control Resource Center. Agendas and meeting notes are made available on the www.saginawcounty.com website.

COMMISSION ON AGING (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Jessica Sargent, Director - jsargent@saginawcounty.com



It is the MISSION of the Saginaw County Commission on Aging to develop and provide a comprehensive array of services, programs, and opportunities to enhance the quality of life for older adults.

Current Staffing: 62 Employees (22 full-time, 22 part-time, 19 temp/on-call)	
Transportation	Provided 7,362 one-way trips to medical appointments and grocery shopping to 343 clients. Logging 150,621 miles and 9,899 calls.
Meals on Wheels	Prepared and delivered 155,474 meals to 1,301 homebound older adults.
Congregate (Senior Center) or Carry-out Meals (COM)	Served 700 participants 49,388 meals in the senior center and 1,555 meals served carry-out. <i>*COM meals were not required to be counted separate from congregate until May of 2023</i>
Information & Referral (I&R)	Assisted 8,505 callers with requests for I & R.
Volunteer Support	172 volunteers gave 14,815 hours of service (that's the comparable equivalent of 7 full-time employees).
Case Coordination & Support	Served 1,089 clients with 5,873 consumer hours.
Care Management	Assisted 94 clients.
In-Home Support (Homemaking, Personal Care, Respite)	Assisted 219 clients with 1,384 consumer hours.
Caregiver & Kinship Support	Served 64 individuals with 1,218 consumer hours.
Foster Grandparent Program	Partnered with 27 sites/schools with 51 grandparents (including new schools in Saginaw, Bay & Midland Counties)
Minority Outreach	Provided 401 hours to 256 individuals. Distributed 484 Senior Project Fresh \$25 coupon books.

AGENCY PROGRAMS & SERVICES OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT DEDICATED STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND VALUED PARTNERSHIPS.

COMMISSION ON AGING (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Jessica Sargent, Director - jsargent@saginawcounty.com

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The agency celebrated its 50th Anniversary providing services to the public. Thank you to the taxpayers of Saginaw County for continuing to support the Commission in our mission to meet the needs of older adults in our community.
- Energy Smart Seniors with Consumers Energy Program generated \$250 to \$500 for each senior center to utilize at their center. Participants received a energy saving kit if they signed up for the program.
- Freeland Senior Center re-opened in September 2023. This was the last center to re-open post covid. Staffing availability was the primary reason for the delay. Additionally, the senior center is in the process of applying to the state to the move the senior center to the Freeland Memorial Park Building in early 2023.
- The Board of Commissioners approved \$1,699,837 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support specific projects and lost revenue at the agency. This support will address several critical capital improvements needed at the main office and Marie Davis Senior Center, and support equipment needs at other senior center locations for the operation of the Meals on Wheels and Congregate Dining programming. Bids have been received for Marie Davis and it is anticipated that renovations will start in early 2024. Eleanor Frank is also scheduled for upgraded flooring, paint, tables and chairs in early 2024.
- COA was awarded additional funding under the Older American Act funding for specific programming for FY23 and FY24 which will aid in supporting increased costs of food and fuel for the nutrition program and also allow the agency to expand the Case Coordination and Support program.
- Received project authorization for the Transportation program to expand the fleet for two electric vehicles and all facilities necessary to house electric model vehicles and replace one lift accessible vehicle through the regular rotation.
- 484 Senior Project Fresh Coupons distributed to Saginaw County older adults. Each person received a \$25 coupon book to use on Michigan fruits/vegetables at local farmers markets.
- Kinship Program, in partnership with Region VIII AAA, distributed backpack and school supplies to older adults raising related minors.
- Saginaw County Public Works volunteered their time as a department to package meals on wheels cold bags.
- Addition of two new schools in Bay and two new schools in Midland County for the Foster Grandparent program.

CHALLENGES:

- Staffing in the nutrition program (specifically Kitchen Assistant's and Meals on Wheels Delivery Driver) continue to be a challenge. The hourly rate is not competitive and has been difficult to recruit/retain. These key positions are necessary to carry out the congregate (senior center) and meals on wheels grants. Maintaining current operations has been a challenge and has required the agency to continue with modified meal delivery/limited menu options.

COMMISSION ON AGING (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Jessica Sargent, Director - jsargent@saginawcounty.com

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS:

Region VII Area Agency on Aging:

- Hosted four (4) employees through the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Staff assist at the Marie Davis, Friendship and Eleanor Frank Center. There is no local cost (only in-kind for supervision) to support these positions and it greatly assists with agency special projects/programming.
- Medicare Open Enrollment offered office space so Saginaw residents could receive assistance locally instead of driving to Bay County.
- Kinship Care Program backpack giveaway and back to school shopping.

Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD):

- This is the fifth year COA has partnered with Saginaw Intermediate School District (ISD)'s Work Based Learning program. Students assisted with packaging of home delivered and congregate meals.

Parkinson's Support Group:

- Partnered with the Parkinson's Support Group to offer space and equipment needed to hold monthly meetings with residents.

YMCA of Saginaw:

- Senior Healthy Living Expo.
- Added strength and stretch classes at Friendship and Marie Davis.

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.

a. Currently there are 31 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. Additional routes can be created if a wait list is maintained in specific areas. Volunteer interest to deliver meals on wheels and ability to staff routes are the current challenges on already established routes.

a. Currently, there are 33 individuals on the wait list.

b. Of the 47 routes delivered weekly, 14 currently have a wait list.



EQUALIZATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Denise Joseph, Director - djoseph@saginawcounty.com

The Equalization staff has had a very busy year. We were able to complete tax roll printing for 28 of the 30 taxing jurisdictions in Saginaw County for both Summer and Winter seasons; as well as processing and preparing all of the personal property statements and assessment change notices.

The Department has finalized the equalization studies in the various classes of property in Saginaw County. These studies are used to determine the ratios and multipliers to be applied to the various classifications of property in all the cities and townships for the 2024 assessment year. We visited over 1200 parcels this year from all classes. Studies were completed and distributed to the Assessors by December 1st. The State Tax Commission (STC) has determined that a two year sales study be used in the residential class in all cases. Preliminary residential studies were mailed to assessors at the end of September. We are now required to download all studies and reports onto the MEG system for the STC by January 1st.

The State Tax Commission has set a 7.9% inflation rate to be used in calculating the 2024 property tax Headlee millage rollbacks. However, Proposal A limits the increase in taxable value to inflation rate or 5%, whichever is less, until the property is sold. So that means that property owners can expect a 5% increase in taxable values for 2024 but this cannot exceed the 2024 state equalized value.

GREAT LAKES BAY CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU

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

Challenges:

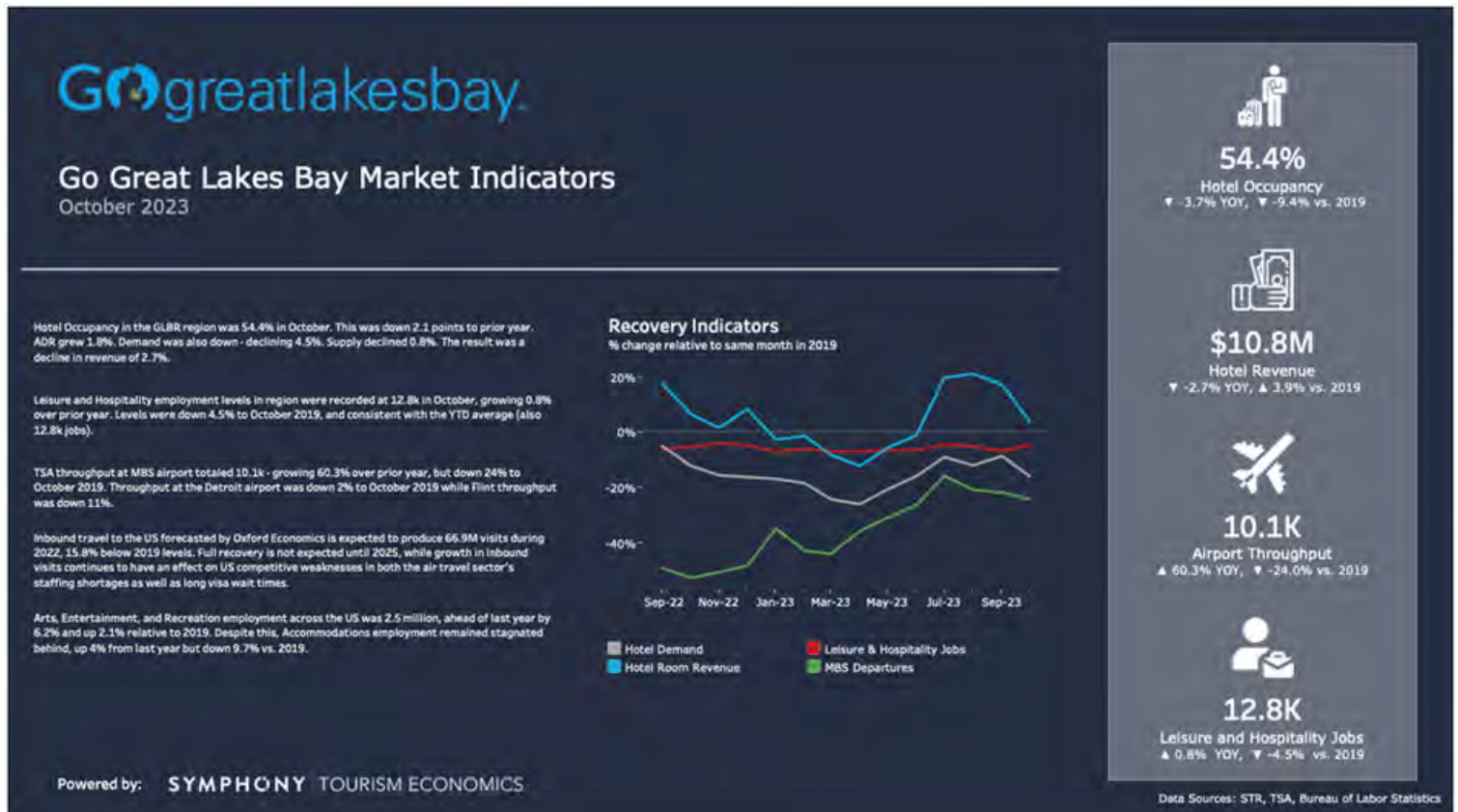
Ongoing:

- 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. These plans will guide the organizational programming in 2024, 2025, 2026 and beyond.

Hotel Occupancy in October was 55.2%, the average daily rate reached \$127. Leisure and hospitality jobs were measured at 12.8K in October, growing 0.8% over last year at the same time. TSA numbers at MBS Airport totaled 10.1K growing 60.3% over the prior year but still down 24% as compared to 2019. Hotel room sales through October reached \$62,309,734 a 3.8% increase over 2022. The census of properties reporting is 39, with 3,040 rooms in their inventory. This represents 77.3 of the properties in Saginaw County.

GREAT LAKES BAY CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU

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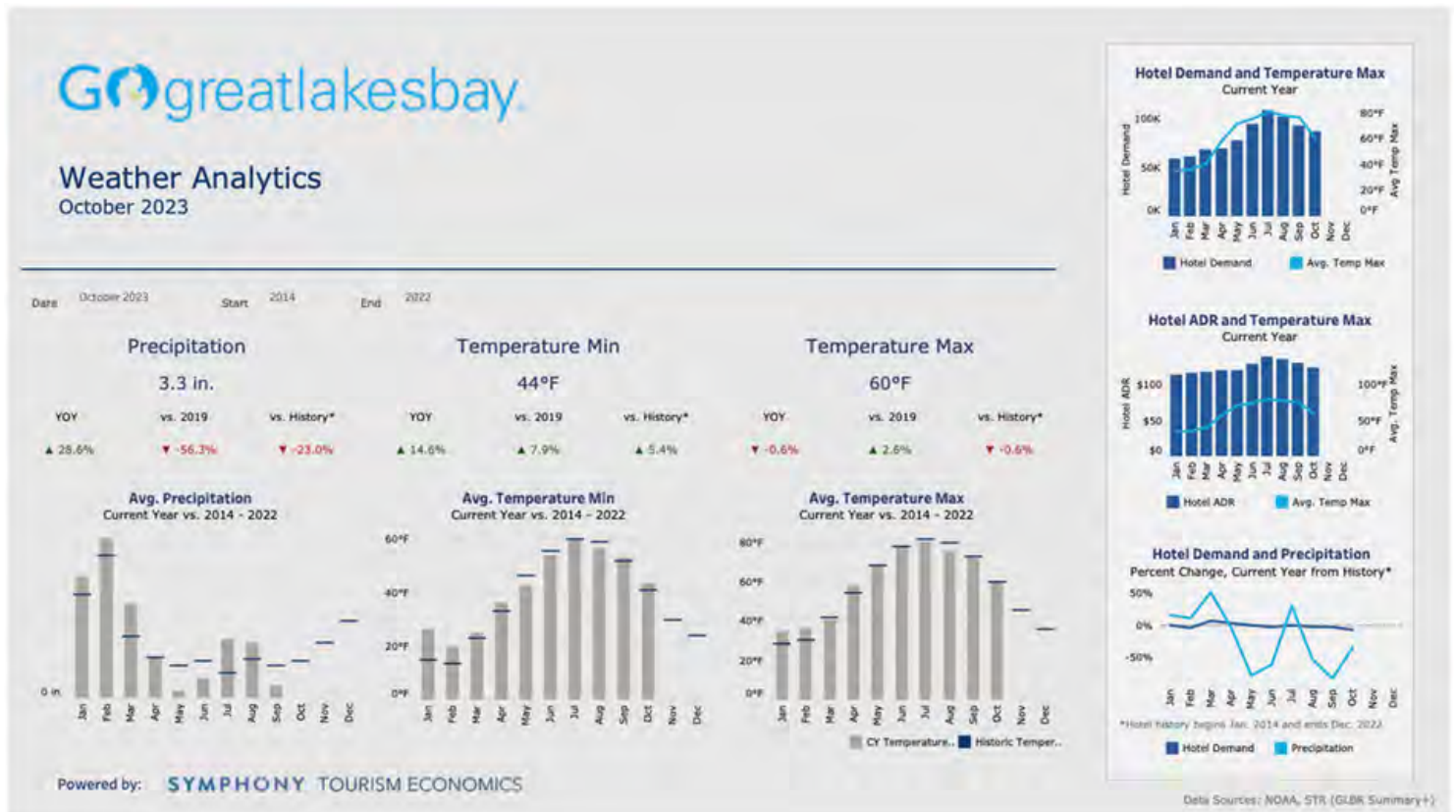


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GREAT LAKES BAY CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU

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GREAT LAKES BAY MICHIGAN WORKS!

Kristen C. Wenzel, Interim Director - kristenw@michiganworks.com

Please see GLBMW! report attached.

MAINTENANCE (COUNTY SERVICES)

Tony DePelsMaeker, Director - adepelsmaeker@saginawcounty.com

The Maintenance Department would like to wish all of Saginaw County Happy Holidays and best of health moving into 2024. Maintenance was awarded the previous animal control building as its new future location. Some renovations and upgrades will need to take place and will be starting after the new year. The office spaces will remain, and the main kennel will serve as our new shop area once renovations are completed.

Courthouse Irrigation System:

The irrigation system has been installed to maintain the health of the lawn and landscaping. The system has been tested and is ready for use next season.

Water Meter Upgrades:

The investment of replacing the oversized meter at the Courthouse has resulted in monthly metering fees that have provided substantial savings.

MAINTENANCE (COUNTY SERVICES)

Tony DePelsMaeker, Director - adepelsmaeker@saginawcounty.com

Carpet & Paint Projects:

The month of December has provided opportunities for carpet and paint projects in multiple areas of the Courthouse.

Courthouse Security Upgrades:

New Video Management servers are onsite and being installed to provide up to date services.

Saginaw County Badge Access Cards:

Hardware upgrades are taking place in preparation of a new platform.

Fire Escape:

The upgrade to the south end area of the Courthouse for egress has been awarded and will take place in the Spring.

Courthouse Distribution Panels:

Last year the basement and first floor electrical panels were changed, we are targeting the second, third and fourth floors for replacement in 2024.

Courthouse Panic Alarms:

Once received, maintenance will be installing a new panic alarm system for upgraded securities.

Animal Control:

Maintenance is working with Granger Construction to address issues and concerns that arise with a new building.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dr. Russell Bush MD, Chief Medical Examiner - rbush@saginawcounty.com

Child Death	59
Stillbirths:	35
Violence:	4
Pending:	5
Medical/Natural:	5
Unsafe Sleep:	10

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dr. Russell Bush MD, Chief Medical Examiner - rbush@saginawcounty.com

Month	Cremation Permits	Autopsies	ME Cases	Non MEC	All Cases
Jan	155	6	65	28	93
Feb	128	9	65	23	88
Mar	122	13	56	39	95
Apr	110	9	54	30	84
May	130	12	70	38	108
Jun	132	5	52	38	90
Jul	136	12	55	45	100
Aug	131	13	48	34	82
Sep	127	15	64	23	87
Oct	126	16	56	44	100
Nov	145	21	59	43	102
Dec	72	11	33	20	53
Total	1514	142	677	405	1082

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

William Stanuszek, Director - stanuszek@scmac.org

The following highlights Mosquito Abatement's 2023 Accomplishments as well as a few goals for the upcoming 2024 season. What started out as a normal control season with over 52,000 acres of woodland habitat treated by plane in the spring, became very dry which limited mosquito nuisance in May and June. A noticeable increase in mosquito biting activity was realized after the 4th of July and peaked in September with the return of consistent large rainfall events. Recall, that the more rain we get the more mosquitoes we will have, as the resultant floodwater habitat hatches out countless mosquitoes. This was also the first season in which control operations continued into October as a result of a warm early fall.

Our 2023 Annual Report offers a full account of this past season and is available on our website, saginawmosquito.com.

2023 Highlights

- Continued community control operations into October due to mild early fall temperatures and mosquito biting activity.
- Expanded larval control using long-lasting control products that target both nuisance and disease-carrying mosquitoes, thus increasing control coverage.

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

William Stanuszek, Director - stanuszek@scmac.org

- Increased public access to treatment notifications and services through our downloadable public notification app and website, where residents can report mosquitoes and request service.
- Started baseline tick surveillance, establishing a process and general accounting of established tick species.
- Started collaborative research initiative with Saginaw Valley State University's Biology Department.
- Collected over 5,000 scrap tires through our Scrap Tire Collection program, which included Saturday tire drives held in St. Charles and Taymouth Townships.
- Scanned and digitized thousands of historical documents related to source reduction projects encompassing over 40 years.

2024 Goals

- Continue to plan for and meet challenges of extended control operations into October. Including expansion of seasonal employee pool and creating employee recruitment video.
- Hire field technology coordinator and begin establishment of drones for mosquito control and monitoring.
- Increase collaborative opportunities with Saginaw County Health Department with regard to neglected swimming pools, mosquito-borne disease testing, and tick reporting and monitoring.
- Begin construction of mosquito abatement facility.
- Continue to expand strategies and effectiveness of control operations and services.

MSU EXTENSION (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Mark Rankin, District Coordinator - rankini@msu.edu

Please see MSU Extension report attached.

PARKS & RECREATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Brian Lechel, Director - blechel@saginawcounty.com

Saginaw County Parks and trails continue to be busy with a milder start to winter and we are excited to share the winter programming activities (flyer attached) available in addition to our daily park hours. We also groom our park trails for cross country skiing once a 6" base is established. We hope to see you in the parks this winter for a hike, ski or program!

PARKS & RECREATION (COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE)

Brian Lechel, Director - blechel@saginawcounty.com

Saginaw County Parks finalized a Five Year Saginaw County Area Recreation Plan at the November 2023 Saginaw County Board of Commissioners meeting. Partner communities included Bridgeport, Carrollton, Maple Grove, Spaulding, Taymouth, and Zilwaukee Townships. We plan to continue with the joint plan model in the future and welcome additional partner municipalities to join us. Please consider reviewing/aligning your municipality's 5 Year Recreation Plan cycle or joining us to create your first one when we begin the renewal process in 2027/2028. The five year recreation plan is a requirement of recreation acquisition/development grant resource applicants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources including the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Speaking of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund program, Saginaw County received notification in December of a \$300,000 grant award for rehabilitation projects along the oldest sections of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail. Funding will be finalized in 2024 with the project likely taking place in late 2024/early 2025.

Planned projects in 2024 include the long-anticipated construction of a trailhead on the south end of the BayZil Trail in Zilwaukee Township and kicking off a large-scale habitat restoration project at Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area with funding through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. We will also be preparing for continued capital improvements at Imerman Memorial Park in Saginaw Township including a boat launch restoration, addition of a canoe/kayak launch and other accessibility upgrades.

Play in the Parks

January			
Wed. 1/17	Winter Romp	5:00 - 6:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
Sat. 1/20	Bringing Back the Ice (Night Skate)	4:00 - 7:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Thurs. 1/25	Full Moon Hike	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Price Nature Center R
Sat. 1/27	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park
February			
Sat. 2/3	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Sat. 2/3	Broomball	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Sat. 2/10	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Thurs. 2/15	Guided Nature Hike	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Ringwood Forest R
Sat. 2/17	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Sat. 2/17	Outhouse Races	1:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Wed. 2/21	Winter Romp	5:00 - 6:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
March			
Wed. 3/6	TrAIL Waggies Nature Hike	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Price Nature Center R
Fri. 3/15	Guided Nature Hike	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Headwaters Rec Area R
Sat. 3/16	The Amazing Clark (2 sessions)	11:00 AM & 12:00 PM	Mid-Michigan Children's Museum R
Wed. 3/20	Winter Romp	5:00 - 6:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park

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. Halthco 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.

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".

CONTACT US!
www.saginawcounty.com/parks
(989) 790-5280
parks@saginawcounty.com
Like us on Facebook!

SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE)

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

- Tim Ninemire, the Officer of Recipient Rights and Dir of Customer Services and Security, retired on October 31, 2023, after more than 30 years of service to SCCMHA. The scope of Mr. Ninemire's responsibilities has been reorganized, with Kentera Patterson now serving as the Recipient Rights and Compliance Officer, and Melissa Gutzwiller moving with her current responsibilities as Supervisor of Environmental Services, to a Director Position and taking on the additional responsibilities for Customer Services and Security.
- SCCMHA has completed the new security camera project at Hancock and Albert & Woods Buildings. Our antiquated camera system was replaced with a "state of the art" system to support our 24/7 operations where cameras are now programable to record or view only. This new technology supports our operational changes and space renovations over time supporting service expansion.
- 200+ existing cameras are being returned to SCCMHA by the vendor, for repurposing to other smaller SCCMHA facilities as a Phase II Security Camera Plan. The project cost which utilized county bond dollars included:
 - \$168,529 New Camera Equipment
 - 57,000 Kibbe Design and Project Management
 - 37,816 New IT Switches
 - \$263,345 Project Total
- Ryan Mulder was promoted from Executive Assistant to the CEO to the Manager of the CEO Office in October. His job description now reflects all his responsibilities to the CEO, her office, the committees that the CEO chairs and the SCCMHA board. He is also supervising the new Public Relations Specialist, Andrew Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson started in his new position with SCCMHA in November.
- SCCMHA was invited by MDHHS to make a grant application to become an expansion site for an Early Childhood Specialty Court in partnership with the local MDHHS Child Welfare Office, led by Dir. Jennifer Shores and Judge Barbara Meter and Todd Borders of the Family Division of the Saginaw 10th Circuit Court.
- SCCMHA will receive \$106,172 in grant funding from MDHHS to support our hiring of a highly credentialled clinician with Infant Mental Health certification to serve as the Court Coordinator for a new Early Childhood Specialty Court docket. The specialty court docket will provide service to families of young children in the child welfare system through collaboration between child welfare, the family court and SCCMHA specialty clinical practice, to promote child safety, family preservation and permanency. The SCCMHA lead for the project is Erin Nostrandt, Dir. of SCCMHA Children's Services. Development planning for the new specialty court docket will begin in calendar 2024 with our Saginaw Family Court and local MDHHS Child Welfare partners.

SAGINAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Christina Harrington, Health Officer - charrington@saginawcounty.com

Please see Saginaw County Health Department quarterly report attached.



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.**

High Impact Events and Programs



MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan Brings Quality AND Quantity to Talent Pipeline Creation Process

The numbers are in. And the surveys are overwhelmingly positive! MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2023 was a success on multiple levels, bringing both quality and quantity to the talent pipeline creation process here in our region!

Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! and Michigan Works! Region 7B again co-hosted the event, drawing close to 5,000 10th graders from nearly 40 schools in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Iosco, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon and Saginaw counties to SVSU's Ryder Center on September 29.



Nearly 75 employers and 500 of their employees were on hand with heavy equipment, simulators, tools, and hands-on exhibits for what most called "next-level" talent pipeline creation – assisted by nearly 150 volunteers to keep the day running smoothly.



This year's MCQMM was also livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube, allowing 2,400 parents and curious partners or non-participating employers to get a bird's eye view of what students were experiencing.

These numbers are simply unmatched, say our top sponsors! And while quantity is good – quality is the top goal. Event surveys with students, educators, exhibitors and volunteers are overwhelmingly positive, with many rating 2023's event the best ever in terms of energy, hands-on activities, interactions between students and employers, and organization.



GLBMW staff team did an outstanding job planning and executing the event, forging new relationships with employers and educators along the way. We deeply appreciate sponsors who helped make this annual event such a resounding success, including premier sponsor UA Local 85, platinum sponsor Dow, and gold sponsors Nexteer, Covenant, HSC, and McLaren. In addition, the livestream video is still available on the MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan Facebook and on YouTube.

Mark your calendar for October 11, 2024 for the next MCQMM.

Our Business Services Team knocked it out of the park again, recently submitting Going Pro Talent Fund applications on behalf of 40 of the region's employers for Cycle 1 2024...while also closing out awards for 2023. Mid December we learned 34 of the 40 applications have been approved for FY 2024 Cycle 1 awards – a total of \$1.6 million with individual awards ranging from \$5,200-\$219,000 for employers representing all five counties.

The Voice of the Customer

LEAP Program Testimonial Underscores the Value of GLBMW Services

While "success stories" are an everyday occurrence in our organization, it's not every day that we receive a testimonial like this one. These words come directly from Brian K., a customer who was referred to us from the Bay County Friend of the Court for the pilot LEAP program.



Our staff not only helped change Brian's life, we helped his employer find a qualified candidate and removed barriers to his success as an employee. In addition, this man's family received the child support payments they were awarded, ensuring they have the financial resources they need.

Dear Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works:

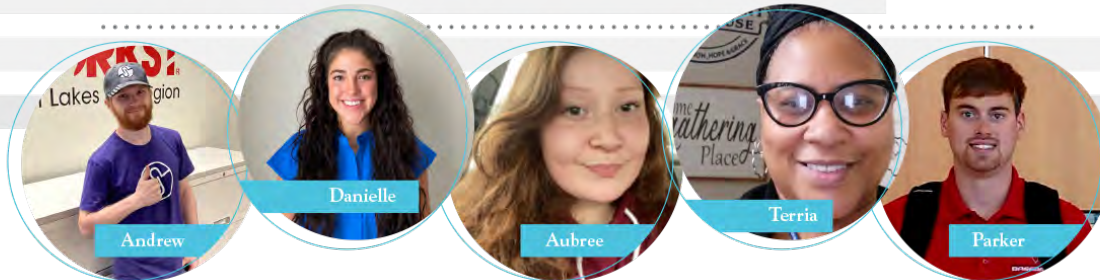
You have been an absolute lifeline for me during a challenging period in my life. After the loss of my job in Arizona, I made the decision to return to Michigan and, shortly after, I connected with Michigan Works. I can't express enough how instrumental you have been in helping me regain my footing and get back on the path to employment and stability while also catching up on my child support payments.

With your guidance and support, I began participating in the LEAP program, which became an essential part of my journey toward financial stability. From the moment I reached out to Michigan Works, I was met with a wealth of tools and services that proved indispensable. One of the most immediate and crucial was getting my car registered in Michigan.

You ensured that I had the necessary resources to secure the new tires my vehicle desperately needed. Thanks to your assistance, I could safely commute to and from my new job (a drill operator earning \$1,000 a week at Team Fick Underground), a game-changer for me.

What truly sets Michigan Works apart is the dedication and kindness of staff. They aren't just there to do a job – they genuinely care about the success and well-being of those they serve. Their eagerness to see customers succeed is obvious, and their unwavering support has been a beacon of hope during a challenging time in my life.

Other Success Stories Demonstrate How a Little Help From GLBMW Goes a Long Way Toward Strengthening the Region's Workforce for Employers



Flight school and piloting airplanes are now an attainable goal for Andrew F. Career coaches at GLBMW helped him gain confidence and energize his job search toolkit to land a better job earning \$20 an hour (up from a part-time job paying \$12.50 an hour). Andrew participated in online workshops and worked with his coach to determine his future goals. With the greater financial freedom offered with his new job, Andrew is saving money for school. He has been invited to interview for flight school with Republic Airways.

Danielle B. went from being a financially struggling SVSU nursing student to a full-time intensive care clinician with the help of GLBMW. During the three clinical semesters of her training, she was unable to work enough to support herself, and her career goals were in jeopardy. GLBMW helped with coaching, nursing school tuition for her remaining semesters, and fees related to state testing, background checks, fingerprinting. Upon completion of her bachelor's degree in nursing, Danielle successfully passed her state boards and accepted a job making \$32.55 an hour.

Like many young adults in our region, Aubree C. found herself stuck -- three years post high school -- without reliable transportation, job experience, or career direction. GLBMW staff helped Aubree gain job experience working at The Salvation Army and Alma Public Library. She participated in life skill classes, job seeker workshops, talent tours, and career exploration activities. She discovered she loves helping people.

Now working full-time as a home health care worker at Bay Human Services, Aubree earns \$16.85 an hour. "Michigan Works! provided me with bus passes that helped me get to work, along with opportunities to explore different careers, gain work experience, and learn new skills that I can use at work and in everyday life," she notes. "One of the lessons I learned is to keep working hard toward my goals, even if something doesn't work out how I planned.

As a single mother with a teenage son, Terria S. was having difficulty finding a job that would allow her to be at home during the daytime to monitor her son's activities and schooling. Though she holds a bachelor's degree in business, her heart was leading her to working with underprivileged individuals in a community service setting.

While working with her GLBMW career coach, Terria volunteered as a caregiver and became acquainted with people and programs available in the area. Her dedication and persistence led her to a new role as a shelter advocate for the Hope House, a local homeless shelter. Her supervisors are extremely impressed with her abilities and work ethic.

Parker J. was a student athlete at SVSU with just three semesters left before completing his bachelor's of business administration in accounting. Accustomed to working hard for every dollar to pay for schooling, he found himself facing medical issues disrupting his baseball career and athletic scholarship. A GLBMW career coach worked with Parker help him get paid internships at Knight's Facility Management and Dow -- time well spent both financially and professionally. The Dow internship continues through May 2024 while Parker works on his master's degree and completes the four-part CPA exam. He has already accepted a full-time job with the global company starting June 2024 as an associate accounting specialist making nearly double his internship salary.

Spot-lighting Valued Partners

PFLAG and CAN Council

Before the end of this month, nearly all of us will have participated in training with PFLAG Great Lakes Bay.

PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. Our local chapter was recently recognized nationally for the work they are doing in our region. With this training, we hope to improve as an organization in facilitating conversations, coaching, and creating safe spaces for our LGBTQ+ customers here at Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!

Another new partner is CAN (Child Abuse and Neglect) Council of Saginaw County. We are excited to work with them on a new venture to deliver their Mobile Family Resource Center – a vehicle that takes high impact services to wherever people are in the region. Our services will center around job search and coaching. We will be hosting the first committee meeting at our Saginaw Service Center this week.

CAN Council was just recently awarded this grant, so we expect the process of “outfitting” the mobile center to take some months before it hits the road. I will keep you updated!

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



Saginaw 4-H Archery

Saginaw 4-H Michigan State University Extension hosted the third county wide session of archery in partnership with the Saginaw Field and Stream Club. Youth from across Saginaw County learned about the safe and responsible use of archery equipment, the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and conservation. Taught by 4-H certified archery instructors youth also learned target scoring, marksmanship and developed self-confidence, discipline, and patience.

Your Thoughts Matter – High School Youth Explore Mental Health

Mental health matters to all of us. Saginaw 4-H joined 30 high school students from the Saginaw Career Complex to offer the mental health program called, **Your Thoughts Matter: Navigating Mental Health program**. Your Thoughts Matter is an advanced, multi-week program that helps participants learn about mental health, why it is important, and specific strategies to improve overall well-being. The program is aligned to educational standards from the National Health Education Standards (NHES) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's School Health Education Resources (SHER).

Saginaw 4-H volunteer wins prestigious sportsmanship award



[Specht named 2023 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Adult Sportsperson of the Year - 4-H Animal Science \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/4-H/AnimalScience/AdultSportspersonoftheYear)

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

Maggie Dougherty, MSU Extension Community Nutrition Instructor-SNAP-Ed, Saginaw County, dough109@msu.edu



DATE	OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2023 PROGRAMMING
10/4/23	South Colony Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active - Series
10/5/23	Frankenmuth Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active - Series
10/9/23	Human Services Meeting – Programming presentation
10/10/23	Michigan Department of Corrections-Saginaw County Probation- Agent Toni Narvais-Cooklin - In person meeting to discuss programming
10/11/23	South Colony Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
10/12/23	Frankenmuth Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
10/12/23	Carrollton Elementary School – Community Resource Event – Promoting programming
10/12/23	The Ezekiel Project, Education Taskforce Meeting – Promoting programming for teens
10/18/23	South Colony Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
10/23/23	Healthy Choices for Every Body Training
10/25/23	South Colony Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
10/26/23	Frankenmuth Senior Congregate Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
10/26/23	Great Lakes Bay Health Center – Trunk or Treat Community Event
11/1/23	South Colony Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
11/2/23	Frankenmuth Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
11/4/23	First Ward Community Center – Job Fair promoting jobs at MSUE and programming for youth
11/8/23	South Colony Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active - Series
11/8/23	Herig Elementary School – Community Resource Fair – promoting MSUE promoting programming
11/9/23	Frankenmuth Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
11/15/23	Bayside Clubhouse – Mental Health Services – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
11/15/23	ISD Presentation - Clayton HeadStart Parent Club's - One Time Presentation – Start Simple With My Plate
11/16/23	Frankenmuth Senior Congregate Meal Site – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
11/17/23	COH Pantry PSE Dewey Burke/Chuck Reed
11/22/23	Bayside Clubhouse – Mental Health Services – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
11/27/23	D 9/10 In-person Meeting – Frankenmuth
11/29/23	Bayside Clubhouse – Mental Health Services – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
12/6/23	Bayside Clubhouse – Mental Health Services – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
12/7/23	District 9 Annual All Staff Meeting - Saginaw
12/13/23	Bayside Clubhouse – Mental Health Services – Eat Healthy Be Active – Series
12/20/23	Bayside Clubhouse – Mental Health Services – Eat Healthy Be Active - Series

Health and Nutrition - EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)

Sheila Salo, MSU Extension Community Nutrition Instructor-EFNEP, Saginaw County,
salo@msu.edu



In October, I started a partnership and nutrition education series with the Saginaw Odessey House. 14 participants were enrolled in MSU Extension's Healthy Foods, Healthy Families curriculum. The 6-week series focuses on food budgeting, food safety, label reading and how to increase the amount of fruit and vegetables in your meals. Participants also get an opportunity to taste test a variety of different foods.

I also started four youth classroom series with our continued partnership with Martin Atkins Elementary School. The 4th grade classroom will learn more about MyPlate, fruits and vegetables, how to increase their physical activity and make healthier choices through the Show Me Nutrition curriculum. Close to 100 4th graders will have the chance to test taste a variety of different foods.

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Recreation Station Newsletter

A Message from Parks Director Brian Keenan-Lechel

2023 was another exciting year in your Saginaw County Parks. It was the second consecutive season with over 100,000 patrons at William H. Haithco Recreation Area and Imerman Memorial Park between Memorial Day and Labor Day. One hundred thousand people in two parks in fifteen weeks, up from twenty-five thousand patrons a decade ago across that same span. The physical and mental health benefits of being outdoors continue to be prioritized in our community, and we work every day to preserve and expand accessibility to these vital public spaces.

Large-scale capital improvements began at Imerman last summer by replacing the park drive, with more accessibility-based improvements coming later in 2024 including a kayak launch and a renovated boat launch. 2023 also marked the opening of our 7th county-operated park, Saginaw River Headwaters Rec Area, with a formal grand opening coming in summer 2024. 2024 will also see a long-awaited trailhead construction begin along the BayZil Trail in Zilwaukee, along with a series or continued improvements in the other county parks.

While we await another fantastic Michigan summer, I hope you can find the time to enjoy some winter recreation activities and spend time outdoors. Whether it is cross-country skiing on one of our county park system's groomed trails, joining us for a winter hike, skating and sledding

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at Hoyt Park, or ice fishing (personal favorite!), there is plenty to keep us active and refreshed this season. I even asked Santa for a pickleball paddle this winter; so maybe I'll see you on the courts sometime soon :). Wishing you and yours a peaceful holiday season and a very happy new year!



Saginaw County Parks showing off the new program truck in the 2023 PRIDE Christmas Parade.

**photo credit - Ann Marie Batkoski*

Looking Ahead:

May 6 -Walk with Ease 6-week walking class begins
May 15 -Soggy Doggy @ Wm. H. Haithco Recreation Area

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

Apply online at:
www.saginawcounty.com/parks

Applications accepted through March 1, 2024

2024 Summer Employment Opportunities

Booth Attendant (6) - \$14/hour. Greets public upon entering the parks, collects fees, answers questions and maintains financial data. Requires good mathematical skills and strong customer service skills. (20-40 hours per week).

Lifeguard (12) - \$14.50/hour (LGI - \$15/hour). Provides a safe and clean aquatic facility. Enforces rules, assists park patrons, operates boat rental and responds to emergency situations. Applicants must be a certified American Red Cross Lifeguard. (20-40 hours per week).

Office Clerk (1) - \$14/hour. Performs general office duties including typing, making copies, answering telephones, filing, etc. Also interacts with customers and conducts cash transactions for reservations and programs. Must be familiar with computer word processing and be able to operate common office equipment. Requires high school diploma or its equivalent (20-40 hours per week).

Park Ranger (8) - \$15/hour. Provides safety, comfort, and convenience for park users. Enforces rules, cleans parks and performs light maintenance duties. Must be 18 or older and requires a valid Michigan driver's license with good driving record. (30-40 hours per week).

Park Supervisor (2) - \$19/hour (Rate negotiable). Supervises staff and assists with the management of county parks. Interacts with the public on a daily basis, enforcing rules and policies. Requires valid Michigan driver's license with good driving record, high school diploma (or equivalent). College graduate preferred with supervisory and aquatics experience. Applicants must be a certified American Red Cross Lifeguard. (30-50 hours per week).

Program Coordinator (2) - \$15/hour (Rate negotiable). Facilitate, promote and evaluate summer Playdate programs as well as leagues, tournaments, youth, and family events at Hoyt Park. Program experience and high school diploma (or equivalent) required. Flexible schedule (15-30 hours per week).

Grounds Maintenance Worker (3) - \$14.50/hour. Performs routine grounds maintenance - mowing grass, trimming shrubs, etc. Operates power equipment - tractors, riding mowers, lawn mowers, trimmers, blowers, etc. May perform minor construction tasks. Must be 18 or older and requires a valid Michigan driver's license with good driving record. Typical work week M-F, 7am - 3:30pm.

All individuals selected for positions are subject to, and must successfully pass a post offer pre-employment physical, criminal background check and drug screening. All applicants will be required to attend training sessions before working, including American Red Cross First Aid and CPR courses.

Work Season:
May 13 through Sept. 2

2024 Winter Programs

Dog Days Winter Romps

Wednesday, January 17, February 21 & March 20

Who's ready for some extended-time of wintry romping in the snow & pure dog-playing bliss in the Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Dog Park? We are keeping the front of the park open longer on these special dates to allow you and your furry friend some extra time to romp. This event is bound to be cold so dress for the weather. Patio heaters will be lit to help take off the chill. The 2024 Dog Calendars will be available on site for \$15. The Park will close for the night immediately following the event. **Cost: Free**

Imerman Memorial Park

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Friends of Hoyt Park – Bringing Back the Ice!

Hoyt Park

Saturday, January 20 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Night Skate)

Saturday, January 27 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Saturday, February 3 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Broomball from 1-3 pm)

February 10 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

February 17 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

February 17 1:00 pm Outhouse Races & Sled Decorating Competition

Hoyt Park is the place to be in Saginaw for outdoor winter fun. The Friends of Hoyt Park transform the park into a winter wonderland with a skating surface the size of three hockey rinks and hills for sledding. A warming house complete with skate rentals and hot chocolate is open during skate times. \$2 skate rental.

More information about Friends of Hoyt Park can be found here: <http://friendsofhoytparksaginaw.weebly.com/>

Full Moon Hike

Thursday, January 25

Price Nature Center

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Join Saginaw County Parks staff for a wintry jaunt through the beautiful trails at Price Nature Center as the moonlight guides the way. Make sure to dress warm for this event. **Pre-registration is required. Call 989-790-5280 to register. Cost: Free**

Guided Nature Hike

Thursday, February 15

Ringwood Forest

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Join Saginaw County Parks staff for a wintry jaunt through the beautiful trails at Ringwood Forest. Snowshoes will be available for up to 12 participants if conditions permit. Make sure to dress warm for this event. **Pre-registration is required. Call 989-790-5280 to register. Cost: Free**

TrAIL Waggers Nature Hike

Wednesday, March 6

Price Nature Center

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Hey dogs! Grab your human, your leash and your do-do bags too! We are doing something new. Saginaw County Parks staff will guide you and your humans through the amazing trails at Price Nature Center. Lots of things for you to sniff and new friends to make. We will get some great new photos for the next dog calendar too. Tell your human to bring \$15 to purchase the 2024 calendar. Please let your humans know that **pre-registration is required. Call 989-790-5280 to register. Cost: Free**

Guided Nature Hike

Friday, March 15

Saginaw River Headwaters Rec. Area

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Join Saginaw County Parks staff for a wintry jaunt through the trails of our newest park. Snowshoes will be available for up to 12 participants if conditions permit. Make sure to dress warm for this event. **Pre-registration is required. Call 989-790-5280 to register. Cost: Free**

The Amazing Clark-Magic Impossible Show

Saturday, March 16 (2 sessions)

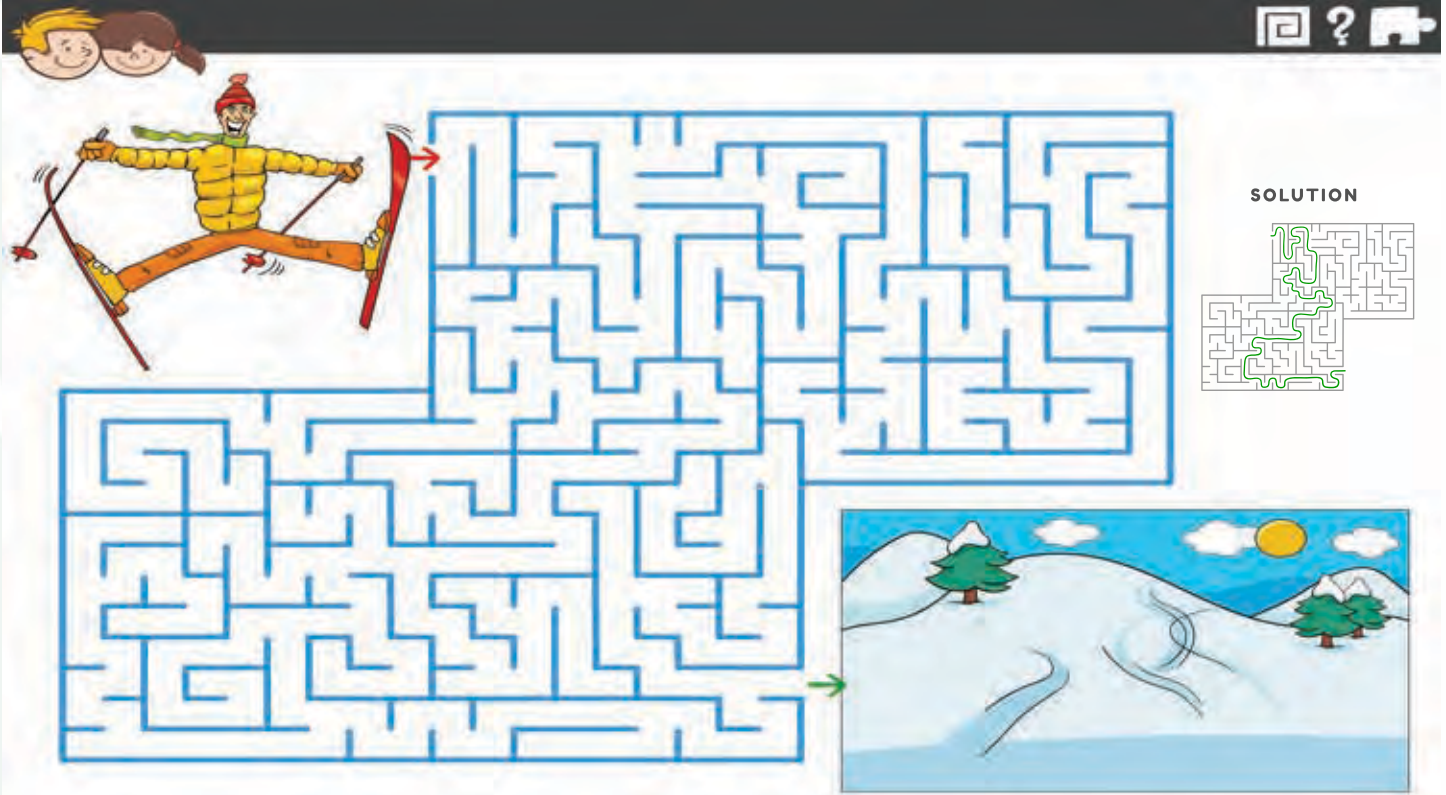
Mid-Michigan Children's Museum

11:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Join Saginaw County Parks at the museum as The Amazing Clark presents a magic spectacular with the perfect amount of magic and suspense, allowing the audience to join him on a magical mission filled with excitement and wonder from the rope penetration to the linking rings, everyone will be astounded by this incredible display of magic and wonder. After the 45 minute session, you and your family may enjoy the museum at your leisure for the remainder of the day. **Pre-registration is required. Call 989-790-5280 to register. Cost: Free**



Happy New Year!



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!



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

January

Wed. 1/17	Winter Romp	5:00 - 6:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park
Sat. 1/20	Bringing Back the Ice (Night Skate)	4:00 - 7:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Thurs. 1/25	Full Moon Hike	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Price Nature Center R
Sat. 1/27	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park

February

Sat. 2/3	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Sat. 2/3	Broomball	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Sat. 2/10	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Thurs. 2/15	Guided Nature Hike	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Ringwood Forest R
Sat. 2/17	Bringing Back the Ice	12:00 - 4:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Sat. 2/17	Outhouse Races	1:00 PM	Hoyt Park
Wed. 2/21	Winter Romp	5:00 - 6:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park

March

Wed. 3/6	Trail Waggers Nature Hike	5:30 - 6:30 PM	Price Nature Center R
Fri. 3/15	Guided Nature Hike	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Headwaters Rec Area R
Sat. 3/16	The Amazing Clark (2 sessions)	11:00 AM & 12:00 PM	Mid-Michigan Children's Museum R
Wed. 3/20	Winter Romp	5:00 - 6:30 PM	Imerman Memorial Park

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. Haitheco 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.

TAKE NOTE!

- ★ All events are free unless noted with a "S" symbol.
- ★ Gate fees may be additional.
- ★ Pre-registration is required for all events noted with the letter "R".

CONTACT US!

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Quarterly Report Q4 2023

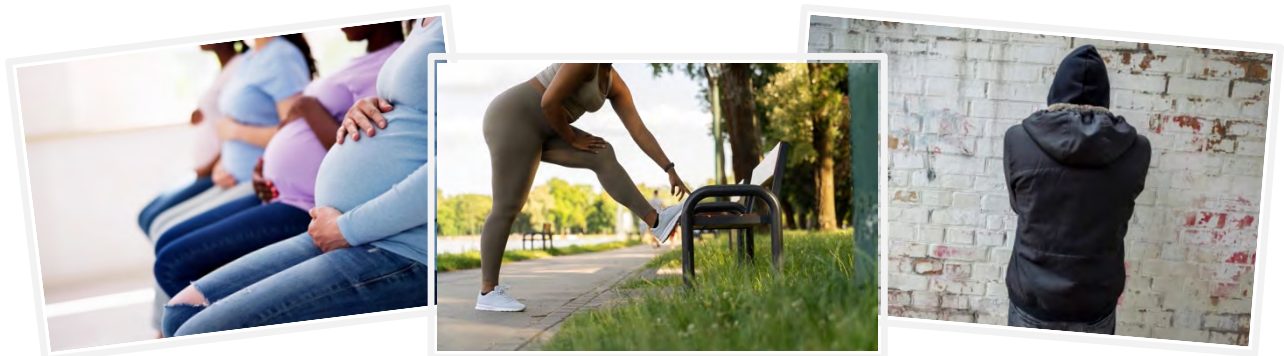
Public Health: (Human Services Committee)
Christina Harrington, MPH, Health Officer (989) 758-3818

Community Health Improvement Plan Goes into Motion

Saginaw County Health Department (SCHD) has been leading the BWell Saginaw Partner Coalition through the Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan process, lead by Tracy Metcalfe, community health improvement coordinator. The result is a series of 12 strategies with corresponding work groups that are beginning to meet to complete tasks aimed at improving Saginaw County's health outcomes related to obesity & chronic disease, mental health & substance use, and maternal & child health.

The plan will be introduced broadly after a press conference on January 23, 2024, 10am-11am at Andersen Enrichment Center. This will be a significant announcement 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, United Way of Saginaw County.

SCHD is reorganizing to fulfill our strategic plan and better align with the Top 3 Health Priorities established within the BWell Saginaw Community Health Improvement Plan. Highlights include a Community Health Resource Program, more mobile services, community health navigators, and implicit bias training for health professionals.



Top 3 Health Priorities – With Equity Lens – Drive SCHD Work

Saginaw's Health Equity Council (HEC), one of 11 throughout the state, has given us vital data to help drive our efforts at tackling Saginaw's Top 3 health priorities. This year, the HEC hosted facilitated listening sessions with the community to help BWell Partners better understand the cultural disconnects that impact inequities in both mental and physical healthcare delivery.

Highlights of the HEC's study include the need for more:

- Targeted support for at-risk mothers whose infants are 2.5 times more likely to die before their first birthdays.
- Cultural competency training for healthcare professionals.
- Health literacy to help marginalized populations demystify and navigate the healthcare system.
- Right messages from the right messengers to engage those who are disconnected from or distrusting of healthcare.
- Access to wellness programs and resources.
- Minority healthcare providers.

Obesity/Chronic Disease

Our medical director, Dr. Delicia Pruitt is planning an Obesity Summit on Friday, April 12, 8:30 am – 1 pm at SVSU. The event is primarily designed for healthcare providers to accept and utilize universal standards of care for Saginaw's overweight and obese population. There will be much more to report in the coming months as this innovative event comes together.

In addition, 4 more work obesity-related work groups are being formed to tackle goals specified in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Maternal & child health:

To address Saginaw County's high infant mortality rate, we worked with key partners to launch "Parenting Street Smarts – 'The Newbies' Guide to Raising Tiny Bosses" learning series. FB Live events are hosted twice a month on BWell Saginaw's Facebook page. Monthly topics range from safe sleep, infant loss, child development, respiratory concerns, coping with an infant, and swaddling to services available for parents and families.

In October, SCHD officially "sounded the alarm" on safe sleep with a press release and FB live event shared widely by our partners in BWell and beyond. The reason? In the first 8 months of 2023, 10 Saginaw County infants lost their lives due to unsafe sleep practices that were preventable. We are eagerly seeking assistance from the public to spread the word about the importance of infant safe sleep – especially to parents disconnected from traditional support systems and mainstream media messaging.

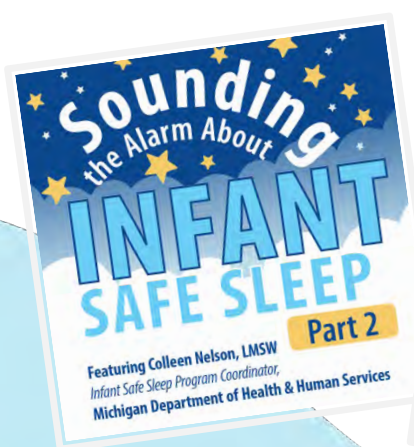
Here are the guidelines we need people to share:

- **BABY SLEEPS ALONE** in a **SAFE** place for every sleep.
- That means preferably a crib, bassinet, or pack 'n play with no pillows, blankets, toys, stuffed animals or bumper pads.

- Resist the temptation – no matter how tired you are – of feeding or calming your baby and letting them fall asleep with YOU in bed, on the couch, or in a lazyboy-style chair.
- Don't let babies sleep unattended in a car seat.
- Baby and young siblings should not sleep in the same crib.
- Keep baby's sleep space where you can see and hear them. Share your room, not your bed!
- Use a wearable blanket or footed sleeper to keep baby warm. Weighted blankets/sleepers/swaddles should not be used.
- Stop swaddling the baby when they exhibit signs of attempting to roll (typically occurs around 3-4 months, but may occur earlier).
- Remind *everyone* who cares for your baby how to keep baby safe while sleeping.

We need parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, churches, social service agencies, doctors, first responders, hospitals and the health department – everyone – working together to promote awareness of safer sleep practices so we can help prevent a tragedy for a family.

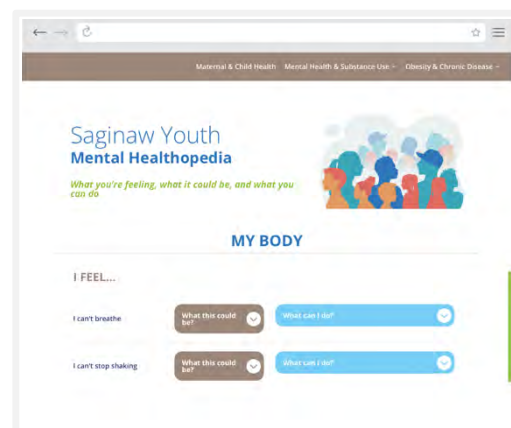
In the soon-to-be released Community Health Improvement Plan, there are 3 strategies and work groups working to improve maternal & child health.



Mental Health & Substance Use

SCHD launched the “Saginaw Youth Mental Healthlopedia” – an online self-help resource for adolescents 12 and up. The tool was developed in partnership with Saginaw County high school students who are seeking tools to help understand their feelings about their brains, bodies, and relationships. We partnered with SVSU mental health professionals to develop the content. Check it out at: <https://bwellsaginaw.org/saginaw-youth-mental-healthlopedia/>

In addition, the Community Health Improvement Plan calls for four strategies and work groups dedicated to improving Saginaw County’s mental health and reduce accidental opioid deaths.



SCHD Health Resource Advocates Making K-12 Schools Focal Points for Better Health

Step Up & BWell launched for the school year in October. SCHD health resource advocates (HRAs) are actively working to engage students and staff in more minutes of daily exercise and healthier eating. Currently, a 13 Days of Fitmas challenge – created by HRAs – is available for all of us to participate in! Step Up & BWell results are part of a research initiative in collaboration with CMU College of Medicine.

In addition, SCHD staff are partnering with Pulse3 Foundation to support HeartSafe school certification for our county Schools. Already, Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy and Swan Valley are HeartSafe school certified – with SASA having a lifesaving win just hours after celebrating the new designation. To help support the costs of this certification, SCHD is supporting the January 27 Shocks and Save hockey game – proceeds of which will fund the HeartSafe Schools programs. The game pits local first responders and healthcare providers against retired NHL hockey players in a pre-game exhibition before the regular Saginaw Spirit game.

Please help support this event!



Health Promotions & Services Making an Impact

Our free glucose and cholesterol screenings are a hit! SCHD has gone mobile to offer free glucose and cholesterol screening over the past few months. The demand is great, so SCHD staff have 8 more locations planned before the end of the year.



WIC staff continue to work hard to see improvements in various measures including increasing number of women who enroll in WIC within their first trimester of pregnancy. The state goal is 32.9% and Saginaw has enrolled 34.7% of mothers within their first trimester. WIC staff are also doing incredible work to support breastfeeding moms. Watch the BWell Saginaw FB page for more details.

Our Environmental Health Division has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from State EGLE for a watershed protection project to assist Saginaw County Public Works in eliminating human E.coli contamination from a drain in Saginaw Township.

Thanks to SCHD, Saginaw has continued to exceed state rates for vaccination. Since March 31, milestone percentages for Saginaw have continued to grow by an average of 3.5%. While these are countywide rates, SCHD still has a very relevant role in increasing and maintaining these rates. As other counties have seen drastic reductions in childhood immunizations our efforts remain stable and promising!

To keep the momentum going, immunization team has hosted clinics in Merrill/Hemlock, Thomas Township, Maple Grove, and at the Catholic Diocese since mid-October.

Other Highlights

SCHD continues to work with Covenant's EPIC staff to set up an electronic medical records function for SCHD. Federal reporting required for family planning services needs customization which won't be fully available in EPIC until May 2023. SCHD staff worked hard with MDHHS staff to request a waiver on the new reporting requirements – which was granted from the state. This will allow for reprieve as we implement EPIC.

Guidance for Respiratory Season

We have posted guidance for respiratory season at www.saginawpublichealth.org for individuals/households, businesses, and schools. We encourage everyone to get their seasonal flu and COVID shots. If you don't feel well, here's our mantra for the holiday season:

He sees you when you're coughing.

He knows that you might ache.

He hears you can't stop sneezing.

So, stay home for goodness sake!

Happy holidays from all of us at SCHD!

