



August 2019 Edition

On Point Policy

New, full-size Caro Center is best investment for region, state

At a time of heated debate across the country about the urgent need for more and better mental health services that could help prevent tragic incidents like El Paso and Dayton, now is the time to invest in mental health. In Michigan alone, more than 4 million residents reside in areas identified by The Kaiser Family Foundation as a Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA), with the number of mental health professionals meeting the needs of fewer than 25 percent of the population in those areas.

But, Michigan's new proposal to update the Caro Center mental health unit in neighboring Tuscola County has all the appearances of a "split the loaf" decision; one the state may think will spark relief for those families and people with mental illness around the Great Lakes Bay Region and Northern Michigan.

This plan, in reality, will only exacerbate the already critical shortage of beds to treat people with mental illnesses in Michigan, with the Great Lakes Bay Region and Northern Michigan being hurt the most.

To read the full letter published by the *Detroit Free Press*...

[Click here](#)

LOCAL UPDATES

BAY AREA

Bay City Bridges

On Monday, August 5, the Bay City Commission voted to select the United Bridge Partners proposal to privatize Independence and Liberty Bridges. The approved resolution directs City Manager Dana Muscott to work with United Bridge Partners on a development agreement for final approval.

To read the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's full statement on the Bay City Commission vote featured by *NBC 25*...

SAGINAW COUNTY

Road To Progress: Recap

The Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce hosted a legislative event at Apple Mountain, bringing in experts to discuss what's really going on with road funding. Included in the event were Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Transportation Association and County Road Association of Michigan. Panelists expressed to members how critical infrastructure funding is to the future of Michigan's economy.

Michigan State Senator Ken Horn and State Representative Rondey Wakeman were present to hear their message, we are confident they will take this

STATE GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Michigan Reconnect

Michigan Reconnect is a bipartisan proposal before the Legislature designed to close Michigan's talent gap – giving adults 25+ the opportunity to obtain a professional skills certificate and/or associates degree from a community college. The goal is to begin to enroll Michiganders in this training by August of 2020. To supply last-dollar tuition (amount due after financial aid), money must be allocated in the Fiscal Year 20 budget which is currently being negotiated by the Governor & legislature.

Michigan Research and Development Tax Credit

Michigan R&D Tax Credit is designed to create a research and development tax credit that businesses could claim under Michigan's Corporate Income Tax. To be eligible for the credit, businesses must be conducting research and development related to designing, engineering and testing of automated driving systems for automated motor vehicles or advanced automotive technology.

Additionally, if a business doing this R&D is located in an Opportunity Zone (OZs), they will receive enhanced tax credit. Opportunity Zones were established by the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 as an opportunity to encourage private investment and create job opportunities to revitalize communities.

SB 378 will help Michigan attain its goals of attracting investment and world class talent, help to close the talent gap through job upgrade and new hiring, strengthen competitiveness in automotive and technology focuses and use Opportunity Zone designation to its maximum potential.

To learn more about autonomous vehicles from the experts and their future in our region--join us at our upcoming **Public Policy Bites Legislative Series Breakfast: Who's Driving? Advanced Vehicle Technology** on Friday, September 20th at Saginaw Valley State University.

Who's Driving?

ADVANCED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY

*A Leading the Way and Public Policy Bites Cooperative Event
from the Bay Area and Saginaw County Chambers of Commerce*

September 20, 2019



Join the Bay Area and Saginaw County Chambers of Commerce as we take a look at what's coming down the road with Advanced Vehicle Technology. How did we get where we are? What will it take to move us along? Where are we going? Come find out in this fast-moving, performance-inspired event.

Senator Ken Horn will moderate a panel including:

- Mike Kowall, Former State Senator
- Greg McGuire, Associate Director, MCity - Leading the Transformation to Connected & Automated Vehicles
- Robin Milavec, Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer & Chief Strategy Officer, Nexteer Automotive
- Gavin Goetz, Director of Government Affairs, AT&T

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

7:30 - 10:00 a.m.

\$35/members \$45/non-members

Sponsorship Tables of 6 with Recognition Signage Available - \$400

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY - CURTISS HALL

Full Breakfast - Displays - Information - Networking

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

[REGISTER](#)

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Bay Future Inc.	Saginaw Future Inc.
Dow	Saginaw Valley State University
DoubleTree by Hilton Bay City-Riverfront	Thumb Bank & Trust

[Register here!](#)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In what has become an annual, bipartisan effort that directly impacts Michigan's Great Lakes and state economy, Michigan's delegation in Washington, D.C. are fighting to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI funds projects that directly impact the fight against threats to our Great Lakes, including invasive species, beach cleanup and improving fish and wildlife resources. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D) and Gary Peters (D) have announced legislation to reauthorize this vital funding through 2026. Likewise, eleven Michigan Representatives are cosponsors of companion legislation in the U.S. House, including Representatives Dan Kildee (D) and John Moolenaar (R), who represent the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Since 2010, the GLRI has funded 880 projects in Michigan at a cost of more than \$750 million, including several directly impacting the Saginaw Bay Watershed and Great Lakes Bay Region. To learn more about the economic impact of the GLRI on Michigan...

[Click here](#)

On behalf of our members, the Bay Area and Saginaw County Chambers of Commerce will continue to monitor public policy that impact our region, our communities and most importantly--your business!

Any questions or concerns contact Director of Government Affairs Madison Clements: madison@thesaginawbay.com

