THIS IS **SAGINAV**[NEWSLETTER]



Happy Holidays, Saginaw! We hope you are enjoying this beautiful season in our city. It's a season of spreading joy and cheer, giving to others, and bringing a message of hope. In this edition, we highlight stories and events that are bringing hope and making a positive difference in our community.

In this issue, you'll see how we are using federal funds awarded to our city to build a brighter Saginaw. We also highlight the way we are working to support small businesses in Saginaw, and as always, we shine the spotlight on a few of the city employees that are going above and beyond for our residents.

We want to wish you and your family the very best this holiday season. As we look back on 2022, we have many exciting accomplishments to celebrate. We've celebrated grand openings, anniversaries, and other monumental milestones. But the greatest moments were the times we came together as a community to support one another, lend a hand, and make our community stronger. Thank you, Saginaw, for making 2022 so special. We wish you and your family a very blessed holiday season and a TERRIFIC 2023!!!

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American Rescue Plan Act and the Future of Saginaw ARPA Funds Allocated to Address Key Issues Affecting our City

At the September 26 City Council meeting, City Council approved the allocation of \$11.6 million in ARPA funds for housing and blight related categories. On September 12, City Council approved the allocation of \$1.2 million to demolish the remaining buildings, excluding the Fairgrounds gate, from the Saginaw County Fairgrounds, currently owned by the Saginaw County Housing Commission. We are now working to move those items forward, taking the following steps:



- \$1.2 million allocated for the Saginaw Fairgrounds Demolition -- The City is working with the Saginaw Housing Commission to finalize the agreement to demolish the buildings and prepare the site for any possible development.
- \$3.8 million allocated to Saginaw owner occupied home rehabilitation programs. City staff will continue to work with Guidehouse to develop an application process and program guidelines. (See page 3 for more details on this program.)
- \$5 million allocated for a revolving loan fund for residential and commercial properties. City staff is working with Guidehouse to develop an application process and guidelines. The City hopes to have a proposed concept and process in place in the near future. We will announce when that program is open for applications.
- \$2 million to address food insecurities and food desert challenges by the rehabilitation of an existing vacant or blighted structure. The city is seeking a firm to conduct a feasibility study on a location, the viability of a food co-op, and other options. The city will reach out to other cities in Michigan who are conducting a similar project for ideas on the feasibility study and analysis.
- \$800,000 for environmental investigation cleanup and blight elimination. This includes both personnel and equipment. At the October 10 meeting, City Council approved the hiring of an individual dedicated to perform investigations on any illegal dumping in neighborhoods and throughout the city, and assist with cleanup efforts. This individual will also review any equipment requirements, such as packer trucks and other needed equipment, for future cleanup efforts.

Brenda F. Mayor Moore commented on the meeting, "We are working hard to address the key issues that negatively affect our city. We took steps to provide housing rehabilitation programs that will have a positive impact on the stability of our community, address the ongoing blight in the city and the need for environmental cleanup, and provide residents easy access to healthier food options. The actions taken by council will help revitalize to our neighborhoods, attract new residents, promote and protect home ownership, and enhance the health and quality of life for our citizens."

\$3.8 Million \$1.2 Million Allocated to Saginaw Allocated for Saginaw Home Rehabilitation Fairgrounds Demolition Program \$5 Million S2 million To address food desert Allocated for a revolving challenges by the loan fund for residential rehabilitation of an and commercial existing vacant or blighted properties structure. \$800,000 Allocated for Environmental Investigation Cleanup and Blight Elimination

American Rescue Plan Act and the Future of Saginaw

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Home Rehabilitation Program Begins

The City recently presented the details for the Saginaw Home Rehabilitation Program. City Council approved the allocation of \$3.8 million in ARPA funds to improve residential properties on owner occupied dwellings, which would include furnaces, roofs and windows.

The Home Rehabilitation program will be laid out in three phases:

- Phase I Furnaces (December 2022 February 2023)
- Phase II -Roofs (Spring 2023)
- Phase III Windows (Spring 2023 and Summer 2023)

The City hosted two Open Application Events for Phase I-Furnaces on Saturday, December 3 and December 10. The City was able to process over 200 applicants at each event. Yolanda M. Bland, Director of the Office of Management and Budget/Community Services, commented on the program, "This is a very exciting time for the residents of Saginaw as we rollout the Home Rehabilitation Program. The Saginaw Home Rehabilitation Team has a wide range of experience working with residents and administering basic needs assistance programs. We're very pleased with the turnout for Phase I and look forward to continuing this rehabilitation program for our residents throughout 2023."



Open Application events were held at City Hall on December 3 and December 10 to assist citizens with Phase I-Furnaces





Additional ARPA Funds Allocated to Address Public Health and Youth & Development

City Council continued their discussions on ARPA funding throughout November and December. At the November 28 Special meeting, the following allocations were approved by City Council:

- Allocate \$2.5 million of ARPA Revenue Loss funds and \$2.5 million ARPA funds to assist with funding a Behavioral Health Clinic, located in the City of Saginaw, in cooperation with the Saginaw County Health Department.
- Approve to direct the City Manager and staff to review previously submitted ARPA proposals regarding public and mental health and bring back recommendations for further public health allocations.

Mayor Pro Tem Annie Boensch commented on the meeting, "Whether it is physical or mental health treatment, there is a huge need in our city and these needs have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. We believe this Behavioral Health Clinic will begin to fill the void in our community for mental health care. But we know there has to be more, which is why we've asked city staff to review and bring back additional recommendations for further allocation."

At the December 12 Special meeting, City Council approved additional allocations to address Youth and Development. Approved allocations include \$10 million of ARPA funding for Youth & Development with a review by city staff in six months on the status of the projects. City Council will continue discussions on ARPA funding at their Strategic Planning Session scheduled for Friday, January 13 at 10 a.m. at City Hall Council Chambers Room 205.

Federal Funds Awarded for Water Tower Project

Improving Water Infrastructure and Drinking Water Safety

On October 14, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hosted a press conference at our Water Treatment Plant to announce some very exciting news for Saginaw. The press conference was an opportunity to announce \$212 million in Federal funding to the State of Michigan for water and infrastructure improvements. Included in the funding is \$15 million to the City of Saginaw to fund an elevated water storage project. EPA Regional Administrator Debra Shore joined Senior Advisor to President Biden and White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu, Congressman Dan Kildee, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Director Liesl Clark, and local officials at the City of Saginaw Water Treatment Plant to announce the funding.

Currently the city has no elevated water storage to maintain the system pressure. After 2 to 5 minutes without power to the high service pumps, the system pressure drops to a level of concern. A loss in pressure below 20psi results in the requirement to issue a boil water notice for health and safety concerns. Constructing an elevated storage tower will ensure that the City is able to maintain future compliance and greatly increase reliability of the City's overall water system.

"The City of Saginaw is dedicated to providing safe, clean, reliable, drinking water to city residents, as well as to our 20 wholesale customer communities located in Saginaw County and portions of Bay and Tuscola Counties," said Tim Morales, City Manager. "Our system is benefiting from federal investment and we are pleased that the infrastructure dollars will support other projects throughout Michigan for years to come, greatly improving the reliability and integrity of our state's water supply systems."

The City is developing site surveys to finalize the site for the new elevated storage tower with an estimated timeline of 2 to 3 years for construction.

"The City of Saginaw is dedicated to providing safe, clean, reliable, drinking water to city residents, as well as to our 20 wholesale customer communities located in Saginaw County and portions of Bay and Tuscola Counties."

City Manager Tim Morales



Saginaw Welcomes a New Team

Advancing Saginaw Forward



Brenda F. Moore Mayor



Annie Boensch Mayor Pro Tem

At the Monday, November 21, 2022 City Council meeting, City Council unanimously voted Brenda F. Moore to continue in her role as Saginaw's mayor. Council Members also selected Annie Boensch to serve as mayor pro tem. They will serve in these roles until November 2024.

Mayor Brenda F. Moore was elected to City Council in 2013. She served as the Mayor Pro Tem from 2018 to 2020, and has served as Mayor since 2020. After her election to council in 2013, Brenda became actively involved in the Michigan Municipal League. Brenda currently serves as President of the Michigan Black Caucus and is a member of the Michigan Association of Mayors and MML's Women in Municipal Government. Mayor Moore is currently a member of the Saginaw Planning Commission, Saginaw Future Board of Directors and serves as President of the 911 Authority Board.

"I am very excited to continue working with Mayor Moore and also with Mayor Pro Tem Boensch in her new role... I am confident they will make a great team and their leadership will continue to advance Saginaw forward."

City Manager Tim Morales

Mayor Pro Tem Annie Boensch has served on City Council since 2011. Annie has served on the Downtown Development Authority and has a dedicated interest in the continued reinvention of Saginaw. Annie currently serves as a member of the City County School Liaison Committee, where she collaborates with representatives from Saginaw County and Saginaw Public Schools to discuss education initiatives impacting the future of our public schools and other key issues affecting the Saginaw community.

The November 21 City Council meeting also welcomed newly elected Council Member Priscilla Garcia and returning Council Member Michael Balls. Both will serve on City Council until 2026.

City Manager Tim Morales commented on the new council and the selection of Mayor Moore and Mayor Pro Tem Boensch, "I think we have an outstanding group of leaders serving on our council. I am very excited to continue working with Mayor Moore and also with Mayor Pro Tem Boensch in her new role. They are both outstanding leaders, hardworking, and committed to this community. I am confident they will make a great team and their leadership will continue to advance Saginaw forward."

City Receives Distinguished Budget Award

Honor awarded for the 15th year in a row

The Government Finance Officers Association has announced that the City of Saginaw has once again received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual budget document for Fiscal Year 2023. This is the 15th year the City of Saginaw has received this honor. The award represents a significant achievement by the City and reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. These guidelines are designed to assess how well a City's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. "I am excited and honored that the City has earned this award for the 15th year in a row. Our intent is to create a budget that is easily understood, one that reflects the city's commitment to transparency and accountability. We will continue to produce a superior document, and hopefully continue to receive this award for many years to come." Yolanda M. Bland, Director of the Office of Management and **Budget/Community Services.**



"Our intent is to create a budget that is easily understood, one that reflects the city's commitment to transparency and accountability. We will continue to produce a superior document, and hopefully continue to receive this award for many years to come."

Yolanda M. Bland
Director of the Office of Management
and Budget/Community Services

View the FY 2023 Budget Document on our website at

https://www.saginaw-mi.com/council

Sign Up and Stay Informed

Get the latest updates delivered directly to your email

The City of Saginaw is working hard to keep our community connected and up-to-date on the latest news and events happening at the City. Residents and business owners now have the option to **Sign Up and Stay Informed!**

Complete the online form at <u>www.saginaw-mi.com/newslettersignup</u> to receive any of our various newsletters and press releases sent right to your email.

- "This is Saginaw". The City of Saginaw newsletter with updates from City Departments and the latest news on upcoming events, public meetings, and city services.
- Saginaw Police Newsletter. Monthly newsletter from the Saginaw Police Department with the latest reports, activities and events happening at the Police Department.
- SEDC Newsletter. Timely updates and reminders on available resources from the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation. Perfect for business owners and entrepreneurs to help build and strengthen your business.
- City Press Releases. Get the most important news and notifications on city programs and services, public meetings, project updates, and much more.

City of Saginaw, MI Mailing Lists

Sign Up and Stay informed The City of Saginaw offers residents and business owners many ways to stay up to date and informed. Complete the form below to receive any of our various newsletters or Press Releases sent right to your email.

* Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Last Name

Last Name

Signaw Police Department Corporation (SEDC) Newsletter

Saginaw Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) Newsletter

Saginaw Police Department Newsletter

Signaw Police Department Newsletter

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Complete the online form at

www.saginaw-mi.com/newslettersignup

to receive any of our various

newsletters and news releases sent directly to your email.

Stay connected with YOUR city!!!

Grand Prize Winner of the SCENIC Award

Announced

The Saginaw Neighborhood Recognition Award program continued for another successful season in 2022. The grand prize winner was announced at the Neighborhood Association Action Group meeting held on October 18 at the Castle Museum.

Maggie Crumpton was selected for the magnificient yardwork at her home on Webber Street. The grand prize winner was chosen from the monthly neighborhood quadrant winners from June, July, and August. The grand prize winner won a recognition certificate and a grand prize gift basket with prizes donated from local sponsors. The awards recognize exceptional yard work and acknowledge those residents who take pride in their properties and care about the look of their neighborhood.



2022 Grand Prize Winner Maggie Crumpton

Congratulations to all our 2022 winners!





Increasing our Fight on Blight

Environmental Blight Investigator Begins Work in the City

Earlier in October, City Council approved the allocation of a portion of ARPA funds address blight elimination environmental investigation in the City, including the hiring of an individual dedicated to investigate any illegal dumping throughout the city and assist with cleanup efforts. Allen Rabideau, our new Environmental Blight Investigator, has been on the job for a few weeks and has already begun his cleanup efforts and investigating illegal dumping throughout the City. We want to welcome Allen to our team. We're excited to begin this program and to address blight and illegal dumping in the City.





AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Call (989) 759-1697 to report any illegal dumping activity in the City of Saginaw

Trunk or Treat Highlights Small Business Connecting with the Community

In October, the City of Saginaw, the Saginaw Downtown Development Authority, and the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation hosted the "We Love Saginaw Businesses" trunk or treat event in the Public Works parking lot across from City Hall.

This special trunk-or-treat event was an opportunity for local business owners to promote their business, show their support of the community, and put a smile on the face of hundreds of trick-or-treaters of all ages.

The event also featured a Community Tent area and a Touch-a-Truck area with Police and Fire vehicles available to sit in and explore, as well as the Fire Department's Safety House.

Kisha Smith, SEDC Coordinator, commented on the event, "We wanted to host an entertaining event that celebrates our small businesses and all that we have to offer in our community. Our goal was that every resident who attended would discover a local business they want to support and promote, and our local business owners will feel a deeper connection with the community."

















Supporting Small Business Dreams

Saginaw Soup continues to boost small business growth and development

The fall Saginaw Soup was held earlier in November at the CMURC Offices in the SVRC Marketplace. Saginaw Soup's purpose is to support local entrepreneurs that have a dream and vision for their bushiness but need help to bring it to fruition, or to spread awareness about their start-up business.

Saginaw Soup is a collaborative effort between Saginaw Economic Development Corporation, Saginaw Future, Small Business Development Center, Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, CMURC, City of Saginaw, Saginaw Township, Frankenmuth, and Chesaning.

Saginaw Soup is more than the pitch competition. Over a series of weeks, participants meet with the committee members and are provided with the tools to help build and expand their business in Saginaw. The Saginaw Soup committee provides in-depth personalized training opportunities to all participants in the hope that they will compete in the pitch competition.

Congratulations to our 1st Place winner: Shawndrika Pulliam--Ultimate Massage and Wellness and 2nd Place Winner: Brandi Bates--Shangri'La Candle Co. We want to thank all our participants. We wish them great success in all their future endeavors.





2nd Place: Brandi Bates--Shangri'La Candle Co.









Police Department Enhances Efforts in Saginaw Schools

POLICE

The Saginaw Police Department recently received \$350,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant. The Police Department partnered with the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Saginaw Public Schools, and the County Prosecutor's Office to apply for and secure the funding. The purpose of the grant is to aid in the reduction of violent crime, reduce gang related violence, and address gun violence in our community.

Funds from this grant will be used to expand the role of School Resource Officers (SROs) within the Saginaw Public Schools. The SROs will work in conjunction with school administration and leadership to help address issues of bullying, truancy, drug abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and other forms of emotional trauma that could predispose children to drop out of school and commit violent offenses. SROs will also work closely with partner agencies to link students and their families with appropriate support channels.

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The Police Department's Victim Services Unit has added a new Crime Victim Guidebook to the City's website. This informational tool can be found at:

https://www.saginaw-mi.com/vicitimsguide



Brittany Jeffers, Victim Services Coordinator



The Police Department participated in the Saginaw High School's Community Service Career Fair this year.

Fire Department Hosts Awards Ceremony

The Saginaw Fire Department Awards Ceremony was held on October 11 at the Central Fire Station. Congratulations to Fire Engineer Shaun Girard who was named the 2022 Firefighter of the Year. This award is presented to the Officer and Firefighter who has exhibited an attitude of unselfish cooperation, a willingness to go the extra mile, and always set a good example to others both on and off duty. Fire Chief Tom Raines commented on the award, "Shaun has stood out this year for his willingness to jump in and help wherever he is needed. He has a unique set of skills when it comes to mechanics and he has used those skills to benefit the fire department and the City of Saginaw." Before joining the Fire Department, Shaun was a firefighter with the Air Force and served 8 years in active duty. Congratulations to Officer Girard for this well deserved honor.

We also want to say CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU to all the fire personnel who were recognized at the ceremony.





During Fire Prevention Month, the Fire Department visited many schools to talk about the importance of Fire Safety





Shaun Girard
Firefighter of the Year







Department Spotlight Water/Sewer Customer Accounting



The Customer Accounting Division is responsible for the billing of all water and sewer revenue from users of the system. This involves initiating new accounts; insuring that accounts are read edited and billed in a timely manner; as well as closing accounts when requested. The staff has a huge responsibility assisting with over 16,000 residential accounts and 1,300 commercial properties, handling all payment arrangements, initiation of meter checks, and discontinuance for collection.

The Customer Accounting staff goes above and beyond to assist our residents. Here are a few recent comments from satisfied citizens:

"A few months ago I was having problems paying my water bill. I emailed the water billing department to inquire about financial assistance. I received a response from a very kind person named Cheryl. She recommended the MIHAF program through the State of Michigan. Today I received notification I have qualified for a grant to assist with my water bill and my back taxes. If she had not told me about this program I would never have known it existed. Throughout the process Cheryl has been kind and very helpful. ... I just wanted to make you aware of what a wonderful experience it was and you should be thankful to have such an employee."

"I recently moved back to Saginaw and needed to get my water turned on. Two employees in the Water Billing Department, Anna and Mercedes assisted me in this task. I required assistance completing the necessary forms, they were very patient and helped me through the entire process. They are two outstanding individuals who deserve to be recognized for their kindness and assistance."







Customer Accounting Team:
(front row)Julie Olgine, Anna Marquez, Tara Glover
(back row) Gail Irish, Jennifer Hight, Cheryl Hilbrandt,
Mercedes Steele

Over the past two years, our Customer Accounting staff have all gone above and beyond to communicate with customers and provide information on available assistance options to help avoid water shutoffs. Through the extra efforts of this team, many citizens have also received assistance for other items such as tax assistance and rental and mortgage payment assistance.

Thank you to Julie, Cheryl, Anna, Mercedes, Jen, Gail and Tara for their hard work and extra efforts to assist the citizens of Saginaw!!

Our Employees Have Beautifying our City

Recently, a team of employees from our Parks and Facilities Division assisted the Historical Society of Saginaw County with a cleanup event at our Jeffers Memorial Plaza. Their efforts definitely made a difference!





"Thank you to Jay Gustin and everyone who made it possible yesterday. This crew from the City was great!"

Historical Society of Saginaw County

Making the Season Bright







The lights at our Water Treatment Plant are a "must see" sight during the holiday season. Visitors travel from around the region to view the magnificent display of lights along Rust Avenue. The team of employees at our Water Treatment Plant begin several weeks before the Holidays in the Heart of the City festivities to plan and prepare the holiday display. An annual display of holiday lights includes testing nearly 12,000 bulbs, displaying approximately 480 strings of lights, and hanging a wreath that's 14-feet wide. Water Treatment Plant historians say the lighting of the plant began in the early 1930's by a few WTP employees who just wanted to add a little holiday cheer to the building for the holidays. This has now grown into a holiday tradition.

We want to thank the hard-working team of Water Treatment Plant employees for keeping this holiday tradition alive and bringing so much beauty to our City each and every holiday season.

Human Resources Update

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Nicholas Bierlein, Utilities Person I Nathan Blue, Utilities Person I Christine Bryden, Office Assistant III Kristine Martinez, Purchasing Assistant Michael Keenan, Code Enforcement Inspector Scott Thomas, Code Enforcement Inspector Brian Wicker, Code Enforcement Inspector Jacob Demeter, Utilities Person I Rocco Jaime, Public Service Worker Allen West, Public Service Worker Alysha Boyde, Office Assistant III Jack Chosay, Laborer I Timothy Fowler, Plant Operator A Justin Reinbold, Laborer II Collin Taylor, Utilities Person I Thomas Brubaker, Director of Marketing-AEC Anthony Bender, Brush Collector John Stricklin, Laborer II Michael Novak, Laborer II Jenny Bouliew-Medel, Laborer I Michael Leddy, Laborer I Terese Knoll, Custodial Worker B Zachary Roberts, Laborer II Alejando Vasquez, Engineering Assistant Kelly Fisher, Treasury Clerk Leslie Eschenbacher, Office Assistant III

Kenyama Collins, Environmental Enforcement Officer Cassandra Zimmerman, Director of Planning & Economic Development

Retirees

Kelly Schmidt, Police Department
Peggy Sutter, Water/Wastewater Services
Joseph Jackson, Cemeteries
Matthew Ward, Police Department
James Fourman, Fire Department
Darrin Jerome, Inspections



Why we Saginaw

It's the most magical time of the year















On November 18 and 19, thousands of citizens filled the streets of Saginaw for Holidays in the Heart of the City. This one celebration kicks off the holiday season for the entire Great Lakes Bay Region. Thank you Positive Results Downtown Saginaw and to all the volunteers and sponsors for making this one of the most magical and memorable events in our city.





Changes to Curbside Trash Collection

Priority Waste selected as service provider for weekly trash collection





On January 1, 2023, the City of Saginaw will see new trucks and faces providing their residential curbside trash collection service. Mid Michigan Waste Authority's (MMWA) current vendor agreements will expire on December 31, 2022. Through MMWA, the City of Saginaw has chosen a new vendor, Priority Waste, for the next five years as its service provider for weekly trash collection and disposal and recyclables processing.

Priority Waste is the largest independent waste hauler in southeastern Michigan. In addition to serving over 140,000 municipal residential accounts, Priority Waste provides subscription residential services, front-load dumpster services, and roll-off dumpster services to thousands of Michigan homes and businesses.

Residents will have their same service day and will be provided with the same services. A new addition for residents is unlimited, properly prepared trash. Residents can use plastic trash bags up to 55 gallons in size or cans (rigid plastic container with handles) between 20-35 gallons in size. Contents and containers should weigh less than 50 pounds. MMWA's current bulk program will remain in place, allowing residents two bulk items per week. Bulk items are objects that are too large to fit into your trash bag or trash can. Examples include appliances, mattresses and boxsprings, large electronics, chairs, couches, and other large furniture.

Residents are reminded to have all properly prepared materials placed at the curb no later than 7 am on their regular service day. For any service issues, please call MMWA at (989) 781-9555 within one business day of your service day.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 19 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 4:00 PM

SINGLE SUBJECT SPECIAL MEETING 6:00 PM

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 23-26 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY—OFFICES CLOSED

DEC. 30- JAN. 2 NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY—OFFICES CLOSED

JANUARY 13 CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

COUNCIL CHAMBERS-10:00 AM

JANUARY 14 CONVENIENCE STATION 8 AM-12 PM

JANUARY 16 MLK HOLIDAY—OFFICES CLOSED





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NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

VICKI DAVIS, EXECUTIVE MARKETING COORDINATOR
RACHEL HOZESKA, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CLERK
MATTHEW SCHUKNECHT, SGTV PROGRAM COORDINATOR
KAYLENE VANWAGNER, HUMAN RESOURCE BENEFITS ANALYST