

# GENESEE COUNTY CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURTS E-NEWSLETTER

a quarterly publication

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## GENESEE COUNTY MAKING PUSH FOR STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

On May 15, 2019, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to advocate for the construction of a new state psychiatric hospital in Genesee County.

The venture, the product of joint support from Probate Judge Jen-  
nie Barkey, was formed upon Governor Gretchen Whitmer's announcement that her administration was re-examining plans to construct a new \$115 million facility in Caro.

The Caro Center is a state hospital for treating individuals with mental illness. However it suffers from poor location, infrastructure and staffing issues.

These concerns were cited by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in pausing the facility's reconstruction, with location being a major concern. "Based on these issues, we have decided to seek outside consultants to review the proposed Caro Center project to determine what is in the best interest of Michiganders who need critical state hospital services," said Robert Gordon, MDHHS Director. "Bed capacity, access to trained staff and proximity to family and

community services will be a part of the reexamination."

The State has enlisted Myers and Stauffer to reexamine the project. The consultants are expected to provide recommendations in the coming weeks.



Artist renderings of the \$115 million, 225,000 square-foot Caro facility recently put on hold by Governor Gretchen Whitmer's administration pending re-examination of the project.

In the interim, the Board of Commissioners has created an ad-hoc committee to advocate for its location in Genesee County and develop a proposal for a new facility in the area.

The committee is working with county delegation in the Michigan State Legislature to put forth a proposal should the Governor's office explore alternative locations.

"We know that our location, our infrastructure, and our highly-skilled labor force will save the

taxpayers of the State of Michigan money, said Board Chairman Ted Henry. "With such high demand for existing bed space, Genesee County offers a rare opportunity to increase capacity at a lower cost than building at the isolated Caro location."

Judge Barkey, an advocate for the mentally ill who as probate judge hears cases regarding mental health proceedings, said "it just makes sense that the hospital would be centrally located in Genesee County. The vast majority of patients that are currently in Caro are from this area or our neighboring counties of Macomb and Oakland. For their families, access is important. It is important to have strong community support for those in need of treatment."

She continued, "In my more than ten years on the bench, strong community and family support can often be the key to stability and improvement. Building this new facility in Genesee County and making it accessible along major transportation corridors is the right thing to do." -so

# THE CHIEF SPEAKS

The Michigan Supreme Court has a very informative website which can be found [HERE](#).

Beyond case, opinion and order look up, the administrative arm of the court known as the *State Court Administrative Office (SCAO)* offers a great deal of assistance to local trial courts, attorneys and members of the public about court related topics.

Each week, “*recent communications*” are posted and available for review. Matters related to court rule revisions, proposed or adopted, can be found on this page.

Administrative memos related to court operations, job opportunities around the state, updates on pending statewide projects, court collections, statistical information, court form

revisions and many other informative topics are covered.

There are even special resources gathered for chief judges, as SCAO fulfills its mission as an active resource to assist with local trial court management.



There are three proposed court rule revisions which you may want to review. They are attached as a link within this article. The comment periods are still open, should you decide to share your views. This will provide you with an opportunity to check out other sections of the website.

Special thanks to Jodi Latuszek, SCAO, Region II Court Administrator, and her staff for their assistance to the courts of Genesee County. There is always a well-informed answer and quick response to any questions.

## ADM File No. 2017-02

Proposed Amendment of Rule [6.508](#) of the Michigan Court Rules

The proposed amendment would enable a defendant to show actual prejudice in a motion for relief from judgment where the defendant rejected a plea based on incorrect information from the trial court or ineffective assistance of counsel and it was reasonably likely the defendant and court would have accepted the plea but for the improper advice.

## ADM File No. 2018-23

Proposed Amendment of Rule [6.610](#) of the Michigan Court Rules

The proposed alternative amendments would allow discovery in misdemeanor proceedings in the district court. Alternative A would create a structure similar to the federal rules. Alternative B is a proposal recommend by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

## ADM File No. 2018-30

Proposed Amendment of Rule [8.115](#) of the Michigan Court Rules

The proposed amendments relate to the use of cellular phones in courthouses. —cjrby

# THE 4TH OF JULY

## -LESSER KNOWN AND RELATED FACTS-



Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. It was not until 1938 that it was changed by Congress to a paid federal holiday.



The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies. Ben Franklin was the oldest the age of 70. Thomas Jefferson, the lead drafter, was 33.



The only two signers to later serve as President were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.



The stars in the original flag were in a circle so that all of the colonies would appear equal.



The first Independence Day celebration was in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was the first day that the Declaration of Independence was read in public and the Liberty Bell rung.



John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July 4<sup>th</sup> in 1826, within hours of each other.



Ben Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird. Adams and Jefferson overruled him and recommended the bald eagle.



Every 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the Liberty Bell is tapped (not rung) 13 times in honor of the original colonies.



Yankee Doodle was a pre-revolutionary song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled “Yankees” with whom they served during the French and Indian War.

The Yankee deportment was not up to the British standards. “Stuck a feather in his cap and called it macaroni” was a mocking comment about the lack of uniforms, wigs and style. —bam

# COURT ADMINISTRATOR CORNER

On March 13, 2019, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) issued Administrative Order 2019-1 requiring the chief judge to establish a courthouse security committee to develop policies and procedures concerning the safety of the public, litigants and the judicial employees.

With the prevalence of shootings in recent years, public safety is of paramount importance to ensure the security of court patrons.

The mandate to create a court security committee comes less



than two years after an incident in Berrien County resulted in the deaths of two court bailiffs.

On July 11, 2016, an inmate trying to escape from the St.

Joseph courthouse opened fire on the third floor of the building, killing two bailiffs and injuring others before he was fatally shot.

Courthouse security for the Genesee County Courts is provided by the Office of the Genesee County Sheriff. In March of 2018, the Sheriff's office presented A.L.I.C.E. (Alert. Lockdown. Inform. Counter. Evacuate.) active-shooter trainings to county employees.

The courthouse security committee is to be comprised of

members of law enforcement, the county clerk's office, and other county representatives, with the chief judge or his/her designee serving as chair.-so



• For three years the circuit court has pursued state income tax garnishments with the Michigan Department of Treasury (MDOT). A garnishment is a post-judgment court process that allows a creditor to collect money from a garnishee.

Only delinquent accounts are referred to garnishment. The cases are reviewed to make certain that the garnishees have not filed for bankruptcy, are not in prison and are not deceased. The SCAO form requires that the court identi-

fy a social security number, last known address and the final amount owed.

With the assistance of the Tech Team, the garnishments are e-signed by the court and filed electronically with MDOT. There is a \$5.00 filing fee for each request and writ for garnishment. A copy is saved in the court file and a proof of service is mailed to the garnishee.

This year, the court decided to increase the volume of state income tax garnish-

ments. In total, \$72,000 was collected.

Once the Department of Treasury processes the garnishment, if there is money to be garnished, a Garnishment Disclosure will be sent to the court. Payment typically follows 28 days after the disclosure. If the judgment is paid in full a Satisfaction of Debt form is prepared and filed with the clerk.

The following table details the garnishment activity over the past 3 years. -ml

	2017	2018	2019
Cases referred for state income tax garnishment	100	200	850
# of cases with a payment	23	48	231
Revenue returned to General Fund	\$8,780	\$15,387	\$44,000





# JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION ON COURTHOUSE SQUARE



Michigan Historical Marker: Resisting Slavery

On June 18, 2019 a celebration commemorating the end of Slavery was held on the grounds of the Courthouse Square. “Juneteenth” is widely recognized as a national day of reconciliation and healing.

You might ask why the event was held on the Genesee County Courthouse Square. A review of our history discloses that many national anti-slavery speakers and even a debate was held in the Courthouse.

I was pleased to speak at the local event, providing history about the Genesee County Courthouse and our most recent historical marker, “*Resisting Slavery*.” This marker was dedicated in 2005 through the efforts of many of the attendees at the local event.

A two acre parcel of land originally owned by early settler John Todd, was deeded to Genesee County by Wait Beach. The land included use restrictions and was deeded when Michigan was a Territory. The first courthouse was

built in 1838 and was no more than a log structure. The second courthouse was built in 1839 and destroyed by fire in 1866. The third courthouse was constructed in 1867 and razed to build the fourth courthouse 1904. This courthouse was also destroyed by fire in 1920.

The fifth, and existing courthouse, was built in 1926. It is on the national and state registers of historic places.

The Courthouse is home to another historical marker for Sarah Edmonds, who posed as a male to fight in the Civil War. When wounded she deserted to avoid detection. Twenty years after the war ended, she fought again to be awarded a combat Army pension. She won. Edmonds was not born in Flint and little is known as to why she settled here.

A local leader with close ties to the location of the Courthouse Square was *Governor Josiah Begole*. Originally

born in New York (1815), he came to Genesee County and built a house across the street (between 1830-1840) on the corner of Beach and Court Streets.

It was moved in approximately 1930 to Woodcroft Estates. Begole’s home was the local headquarters for the Underground Railroad in Flint. He was an ardent abolitionist and is credited with saying, “Let no man suffer, while I have money.”

The *Court Street United Methodist Church* is the oldest congregation in the City of Flint. It started in 1836 when nine people met for a service on the second floor of the Stage and Wright

The present church facility is the third that has stood on the space and was constructed in 1894.

Also in 1841, the *Genesee County Anti-Slavery Society* was formed and meetings held at the Courthouse, which became the location for national figures to speak out against slavery.

Henry Bibb and James Birney were among those who came to Flint during this period. Birney, originally from the south, migrated north, first to New York, Ohio and then to Michigan. He died in Bay City in 1845 from injuries sustained during a horse riding accident.

Birney aligned himself against slavery in all respects and was often in harmony with many religious institutions that were prominent in their opposition. He was an attorney, politician and mostly a humanitarian with a strong belief in equality and justice, concepts that were inconsistent with the institution of slavery.

And so, it was fitting to have the *Juneteenth* event on the Genesee County Courthouse Square. City of Flint Mayor, Karen Weaver, placed a wreath at the base of the *Resistance to Slavery* historical marker as part of the ceremony.

Vivian Kelly, Vice-President, Flint Branch, NAACP was the hostess for the event. Bishop Bernadel Jefferson, Kathryn Hunter Williams and Ella Green Moton were also speakers. -bam



Juneteenth Wreath

store. In 1841, the Genesee County Board of Supervisors deeded part of the *Beach* parcel for church construction. The original land grant to Genesee County required that it be used for a courthouse, a church, a school and public square.

# FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Genesee County is experiencing the same widespread problem as every other county in the United States: opioid addiction. The opioid epidemic is crippling our nation, with 70,237 overdose deaths in 2017.

The Genesee County Specialty Court (Drug Court) is trying to do something about it.

In April 2019 Genesee County Adult Felony Specialty Court received a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant for \$400,000 with continuation funding for 5 years.

The money will be used to fund additional services for opiate addicts. Research has proven that the longer someone stays in a Specialty Court the better chance they have for long term recovery.

Genesee County is adding a 4<sup>th</sup> phase to our entire Adult Felony Specialty Court Program, making the program longer. The program is going to provide specific group counseling to address issues that are unique to opiate addicts.

For many, getting addicted to opiates started with opiate medication prescribed by doctors for pain, leaving

them angry about now being an addict.

Many are dealing with grief and loss issues related to an overdose death of someone they know. Others struggle with the use of Medication Assisted Treatment such as methadone.

These are just a few unique issues that will be addressed in the opiate track. With transportation being a major issue for our participants, we will also be able to provide more bus passes. Recovery coaches offering peer support are playing a major role in specialty courts across the nation.

Now Genesee County will be able to pay for an additional recovery coach at our outpatient provider so every participant will have weekly contact.

The grant will also pay for drug testing and an independent outside evaluation team, evaluating our program to offer feedback and suggestions for improvement. -sj



## PLANS TO BUILD THE NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER ARE MOVING FORWARD...

The County Board of Commissioners is “fully committed” to building the Juvenile Justice Center and will move forward immediately with designing the new facility.

Some of the existing buildings on the grounds of the Genesee Valley Regional Center (GVRC) are nearly 100 years old and county officials have long talked about the need for a replacement like the approximately 48,500 square foot building that is planned.

The board voted unanimously in March 2019 to support what is expected to be a major investment in the county, with the entire project estimated to be around \$25 million.

Redstone Architects, Inc., the Bloomfield Hills company that developed conceptual plans for a new Juvenile Justice Center, will handle architectural and engineering services now that the county has voted to move forward with the project.

Commissioner Chairman Ted Henry explains, “We expect this project, to be built on the current grounds of the GVRC, will take about 2.5 years from design to finish.”

“The Board is excited that we are finally moving forward with the construction of a new Juvenile Justice Center. Now that we have an architect on board, we’ll

start gathering input from all of our stakeholders to ensure we have a state-of-the-art facility that is going to meet the needs of our youth.”

The County Judges are also showing their full commitment and support for the project. Eleven circuit and probate court judges signed a joint statement earlier this year strongly supporting the replacement of the GVRC with a consolidated facility that lends itself as much to day treatment as secure detention.

The Judges’ statement read in part, “While acknowledging that family division judges retain discretion to enter orders based upon the needs

of individual youth, the family division judges recognize the value of retaining youth in the community while appropriate services are ordered and in reducing the number of youth who are detained and ordered into more restrictive residential placement outside of Genesee County.”

Judge John A. Gadola, Presiding Judge of the Family Division, is excited about what the facility means for the youth of Genesee County and the community. “The creation of the new Juvenile Justice Center has been a need in this County since my dad was a judge (Thomas L. Gadola). To have it finally be realistic is exciting for the court and the community. This means better outcomes for youth, improving public safety, while keeping youth close to home.” -ri



## LEAVING CHILDREN IN UNATTENDED VEHICLES



67th District Court Judge Mark C. McCabe writes "Ask the Judge" for the *Tri-County Times*.

Leaving Children in Unattended Vehicles appeared in the June 7th, 2019 edition.

One of the goals of society has always been to keep children out of harm's way.

Now that summer is upon us, one way of doing this is to remind parents and other caregivers about the importance of not leaving a child or children in an unattended vehicle.

The reason for this is quite simple — cars can heat up in a hurry. The interior temperature of a vehicle can increase 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and a car's interior can reach 110 degrees when the temperatures are only in the 60s.

An average of 38 children have died in "hot" cars each year since 1998 with 52 deaths being reported in 2018 — the highest total ever. Approximately 70 percent of these deaths are attributable to children being left in cars accidentally or intentionally.

The law has long recognized the importance of child safety and all states have various child protection laws.

In Michigan, we have a specific statute, which went into effect Jan. 12, 2009 making it a criminal offense to leave a child less than 6 years old in an unattended vehicle. The statute provides that this is illegal if the child is left for a period of time that poses an unreasonable risk of harm or injury to the child or under circumstances that pose such risk.

If there is no harm or injury it is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail and/or up to a \$500 fine.

If harm or injury does occur the penalties increase accordingly. When there is a death, it is a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison and/or up to a \$10,000 fine.

Michigan is one of 19 states that have such a law and the list is growing.

On May 30, 2019 the Michigan Court of Appeals released its opinion in *People v Haveman* clarifying the criminal intent necessary to sustain a conviction under the statute.

The court held that this is a "general intent" crime, which means it is necessary to prove that a defendant knowingly intended to commit the prohibited act. A defendant can claim it was an accident.

Children are precious and we all must be vigilant to see that they are protected.



## geneseeLIVING

Fredricka Savage is the columnist for geneseeLIVING.

Brandi Bohn collaborated with Fredricka for this 4<sup>th</sup> of July edition.

Summer is finally here! Ready for a challenge? Get out and do something this summer you have never done before. It might be as easy as taking a stroll on your lunch break through Downtown. Have you noticed the upgrades being made to Downtown Flint? There are plenty of summer events happening that will give you a reason to view

them. It's time to get out and explore Genesee County and everything it has to offer.

These are just a few of the many events and activities throughout Genesee County. Check with your local city or township for other events in your area!

### **CELEBRATING FREEDOM:**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivals and Fireworks:**

• **Clio Family Fun Day & Fireworks:** Downtown Entertainment District, Vienna Road, Clio on July 4th.

• **Davison Festival of Flags:** Abernathy Park, 402 Dayton Street, Davison on July 4th.

• **Fenton Annual Freedom Festival:** Silver Lake Park, 16000 Jennings Road, Fenton on July 4th.

• **Flint July 4th Festival:** Atwood Stadium, 701 University Avenue, Flint on July 4th. A live performance by the Flint Symphony Orchestra featuring the Beatles' classic hits and patriotic favorites. For more information visit <https://thefso.org/>.

• **Montrose Township Fireworks:** Barber Park, 11410 Seymour Road Montrose on July 4th.

### **EVENTS:**

#### **Heritage & Harmony Festival**

**Date:** July 2-4, 2019  
**Time:** 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Flint Civic Park Neighborhood (Along the Dayton Street Corridor; Across the street from Civic Park School) 1402 W. Dayton Street, Flint  
**Description:** "Enjoy this three-day music, marketplace and resource festival with food and art & craft vendors. Organized by the Civic Park Historic Business District Association, the festival is held to bring Flint residents together in peace and unity through music and fellowship. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/heritageharmonyfestival/>"

### **Concerts at the Valley**

**Date:** Thursday, July 11, 2019  
**Time:** 7-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Genesee Valley Center Outdoor Village 3341 S. Linden Road, Flint

**Description:** "Relax and enjoy

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## MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

*John Nevin, Communications Director*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Michigan Supreme Court Highlights Women's History Month**

LANSING, MI, March 1, 2019 – The Michigan Supreme Court today highlighted the beginning of Women's History Month by noting that 38 percent of judges statewide are women. This compares to 34 percent in 2017 after the 2016 election and only 5 percent (26 judges) in 1979. Including appointments and the 2018 election, the number of female judges grew by 12.5 percent (200 to 225 judges) from 2017 to 2019 – the biggest increase on record.

“Women in leadership positions are working together to solve problems,” said Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack. “In the judiciary, our perspectives, life experiences, and skillsets help us focus on our core principles of independence, accessibility, engagement, and efficiency.”

Michigan is the only state in the nation with women serving in the top four leadership positions: Governor Gretchen Whitmer; Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson; Attorney General Dana Nessel; and Chief Justice McCormack. Justice Elizabeth T. Clement and Justice Megan K. Cavanagh are also currently serving on the Court. Chief Justice McCormack is the 6th woman to serve as the Chief Justice.

In 2018, women judges in Michigan made history as all the leaders of the major judicial groups in Michigan were led by women for the first time (Michigan Judges Association, Michigan District Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, and the Judicial Section Council of the State Bar of Michigan). Also in 2018, women outnumbered men in law school for the third year in a row nationally, according to the American Bar Association.

Looking at women in other fields:

- 22 percent of C-Suite executives are women ([McKinsey & Company, Women in the Workplace 2018](#))
- 23.7 percent of the U.S. Congress are women ([Center for American Women & Politics at Rutgers University, CAWP](#))
- 35.8 percent of the Michigan Legislature are women (compared to 28.7 percent nationwide, [CAWP](#))

To learn about the pioneering women on the Michigan Supreme Court, visit the [Learning Center](#) in the Michigan Hall of Justice and experience the “First Women on the Court” interactive exhibit. The new display is aimed at elementary-aged students to encourage girls at a young age to learn more about important women that have been historic leaders in the legal profession.



## MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **State Court Administrator Milt Mack to Co-Chair Initiative to Improve Justice System Response to Mental Illness**

LANSING, MI, April 4, 2019 – State Court Administrator Milton L. Mack, Jr., has been asked to co-chair a national initiative to improve the justice system response to mental illness. A former Chief Judge of the Wayne County Probate Court, Mack has long been an advocate for mental health reform, promoting early intervention and treatment instead of incarceration. Funded by the State Justice Institute (SJI), the initiative is based on a policy [paper](#) by Mack that was published by the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA).

“We know how to solve the problem – treatment not jail. The challenge is coordinating all levels of government to implement the solution,” said State Court Administrator Milton L. Mack, Jr. “Creating a more sensible path to mental health treatment will improve quality of life for people with mental illness, reduce homelessness, and save lives.”

Judge Mack noted several key statistics:

- 2,000,000 persons with mental illness will spend time in our nation’s jails and prisons this year.
- 1 in 10 police calls across the nation now involve mental health situations.
- People with mental illness are 16 times more likely to be killed than other civilians when approached or stopped by law enforcement.
- In 44 states, a jail or prison holds more prisoners with mental illness than the largest state psychiatric hospital.

The SJI grant will facilitate efforts by the National Center for State Courts to work with the Conference of Chief Justices and COSCA in addressing these key areas:

- developing resources, best practices, and recommended standards for mental health issues in state courts;
- helping courts implement a common-sense model for responding to mental health issues before a person is in crisis;
- improving case flow management by examining civil commitment and criminal cases involving individuals with mental illness;
- providing education for judges and court personnel; and
- building the capacity of state and local court leaders to implement reforms.

Mack further explained that a better approach involves implementing an “outpatient model” of care so the persons with severe mental illness can regain control of their lives. This model requires early intervention at key stages, including training for law enforcement, and screening to divert individuals to treatment rather than jail.

-MSC-





## MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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### **Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack, Governor Gretchen Whitmer Announce Major Task Force to Study Data-Driven Justice Solutions**

*Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration will evaluate Michigan's justice system, make recommendations to protect rights, reduce jail admissions, and improve efficiency*

LANSING, MI, April 17, 2019 – Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack today announced the creation of a bipartisan, interbranch “Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration.” The task force was created by an Executive Order from Governor Whitmer with a directive to examine the factors affecting jail populations and make recommendations that reduce incarceration trends, promote public safety, and safeguard civil rights.

“The number of people in Michigan jails has nearly tripled over the past 40 years—more than half of which are pretrial defendants” said Chief Justice McCormack. “By collecting data and cooperating across the aisle and across all levels of government, I am confident this task force can identify common-sense recommendations that save money, secure our rights, and keep neighborhoods safe. Thank you to Governor Whitmer, Speaker Chatfield, and Senate Majority Leader Shirkey for making justice reform and data-driven solutions a top priority.”

The creation of the task force stemmed from The Pew Charitable Trusts’ acceptance of a [joint request](#) from county and state leaders for significant technical assistance related to the drivers of Michigan’s jail populations. In addition to being supported by data and policy specialists from Pew, the task force will be comprised of Michigan leaders that include judges, legislators, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, county commissioners, and community corrections and victim advocates. The task force will analyze jail data throughout 2019 and craft research-based proposals for legislative and administrative reforms in 2020 that include:

- expanding jail alternatives for those that can be managed in the community;
- safely reducing jail admissions, length of stay, and associated costs;
- supporting consistent, objective, and evidence-based pretrial decision making;
- providing services and support to crime victims;
- improving the efficiency and effectiveness of justice and public safety systems; and,
- aligning practices with current research and constitutional mandates.

Chief Justice McCormack also noted the potential savings are substantial, given that the average cost to detain a pretrial defendant is nearly \$75 per day. More than half of Michigan’s 15,000 jail inmates were pretrial defendants, and based on national data, three-quarters of the pretrial detained population are charged with nonviolent offenses.

-MSC-



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SUCCESS STORIES: How Court Administrators Are Opening the Doors of Engagement to Michigan's Courts**

LANSING, MI, May 16, 2019 – The Michigan Supreme Court today released a report highlighting the efforts of Michigan court administrators, who work with judges and staff to manage the daily operations of trial courts to ensure accessibility, efficiency, and engagement. The report, “How Court Administrators Are Opening the Doors of Engagement to Michigan’s Courts,” features 13 court administrators from around the state who ensure that their court staff are prepared to provide the best possible service to the public.

“Working behind the scenes, court administrators work hard to ensure that courthouse doors are open to all and our customers are treated with dignity and respect,” said Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack, who announced the report during the 2019 Court Managers Conference. “Efficient courts that are engaged with their local communities always have a common denominator – a dedicated and passionate court administrator. And my colleagues and I are especially grateful to court administrators who step up and try new technology to improve service to the public.”

Featured court administrators:

- Alexandra Black, 52-1 District Court, Novi
- Todd Borders, Saginaw County Circuit Court, Family Division
- Kevin Bowling, Ottawa County Circuit and Probate Courts
- Zenell Brown, Wayne County Circuit Court
- Emily DeSalvo, 94th District Court, Escanaba
- Kelly Dostal, 84th District Court, Cadillac
- Daniel Dwyer, Washtenaw County Trial Court
- Linda Lenahan, 57th District Court, Allegan
- Paula McGlown, Saginaw County Circuit Court
- Barbara Menear, Genesee County Circuit Court
- Sandra Vanderhyde, Muskegon County Circuit Court
- David Walsh, 47th District Court, Farmington Hills
- Lynette Ward, 50th District Court, Pontiac

Find additional MSC judicial success stories [here](#).

The Court Managers Conference is a joint project of the Michigan Court Administrators Association and the Michigan Association of the Circuit Court Administrators, in conjunction with the Supreme Court’s Michigan Judicial Institute.



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Families Celebrated at Statewide Michigan Reunification Day**

LANSING, MI, June 20, 2019 – The pathway from foster care back to a reunified family is not easy, and families who have been reunified were celebrated today at a Michigan Hall of Justice ceremony. Eleven children, representing five families from Clinton, Gratiot, and Mason counties, joined Justice Elizabeth T. Clement, Justice Megan K. Cavanagh, Chief Judge Jeffrey Nellis, from Mason County Probate Court, and Judge Michelle Rick from the 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court at the fourth annual statewide Family Reunification Day.

“We are honored to highlight parents and professionals who demonstrate the compassion and perseverance to keep families together,” said Justice Clement. “The families present today have worked incredibly hard to accomplish the goals required for reunification with their children, and I am very proud that Michigan has stepped up as one of 27 states to hold Reunification Day events. We hope courts statewide will follow our lead in the years to come.”

In a typical year, more than 8,000 children leave foster care. Almost half are reunited with their families, a quarter are adopted, and a quarter either age out of foster care or enter adult foster care. Michigan’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) offers intensive services to help families address problems such as substance abuse.

“I am proud to honor parents across the state who have made the commitment to work toward reunification with their children,” said Justice Cavanagh. “These parents, despite obstacles, didn’t stop working on what they had to do to show their children what it means to be a family. My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone involved in reuniting these children with their parents.”

[Michigan Reunification Day](#), which is part of the [American Bar Association’s annual Reunification Month celebrations](#), recognizes the important accomplishments of parents, and the many professionals who support them, in having their children safely and successfully returned home from foster care. The goal of Michigan Reunification Day is to reunite children with families and recognize the vital role that community partners such as mental health and substance abuse professionals play in making it possible for families to stay together. Reunification Day is also intended to encourage courts to hold similar events statewide.

Tracie Kress, MDHHS Family Preservation and Reunification Program Manager, JooYeun Chang, MDHHS Executive Director of Children’s Services Agency, and Sean de Four, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Office, Wellspring Lutheran Services attended the event and presented the MDHHS Guy Thompson Worker Achievement and MDHHS Guy Thompson Champion for Reunification awards.

-MSC-



# geneseeLIVING (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 6)

live music by "MamaSol" at Genesee Valley Center's Outdoor Village. MamaSol performs Hip-Hop/Neo-Soul music. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. and have fun with DJ Psycho before the concert. There is limited seating so, you may want to bring a chair. No outside food or beverages allowed, but food and drinks are available for purchase. For more information and a schedule of upcoming concerts visit [https://www.facebook.com/events/375239559867808/?event\\_time\\_id=375239586534472](https://www.facebook.com/events/375239559867808/?event_time_id=375239586534472)

## **Tunes at Noon**

**Date:** Weekdays from July 8, 2019 to August 16, 2019

**Time:** 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

**Location:** Willson Park University of Michigan-Flint Campus 549 Wallenberg Street, Flint

**Rain Location:** Greater Flint Arts Council 816 S. Saginaw Street, Flint

**Description:** Bring your lunch and experience some of Michigan's most talented musicians in a relaxing, family-friendly Flint city park on the grounds of the University of Michigan-Flint (next to the Flint Farmers' Market). For more information visit <https://festivalnet.com/42479/Flint-Michigan/Festival-Concerts/Tunes-at-Noon>

## **Back to the Bricks Cruise and Car Show**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 – Saturday, August 17, 2019

**Location:** Flint's Downtown Entertainment District on Saginaw Street, Flint

**Description:** "Be part of one of the biggest car events

that attracts more than 500,000 car enthusiasts yearly. This five-day extravaganza begins Tuesday with a family-friendly evening at US-23 Drive-In Theater. Wednesday through Friday, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., crowds line Saginaw Street, from downtown Flint to Grand Blanc, for rolling cruises. Enjoy a free Motown concert Friday evening in downtown Flint along with dancing and a car show. Then Saturday, stroll the bricks downtown Flint, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admire vehicles of every age and description. For more information and a schedule of activities visit <https://backtothebricks.org/>

## **ACTIVITIES:**

### **Applewood**

Built in 1916 as a gentleman's farm for the Charles Stewart Mott family and is now part of the Ruth Mott Foundation, open to the public from May through October for tours. They also have a variety of other events and programs on the property. Open Thurs-Sun 11am-5pm

-July 13 at 12PM: Wet Paint Day with the Flint Symphony Orchestra  
-July 25 at 5:30 PM: Savor the Summer with the Flint Symphony Orchestra

1400 E. Kearsley Street, Flint

810.233.3835

<http://www.ruthmottfoundation.org/visit-applewood-2/visit-applewood/>

### **Flint Farmers' Market**

Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays with multiple vendors selling an array of different products from plants and produce to jewel-

ry and clothing. The Flint Farmers' Market also has a number of restaurants and food trucks as well!

300 E First Street, Flint  
810.232.1399

<http://flintfarmersmarket.com/>

### **Genesee County Parks**

Genesee County Parks have multiple parks with an array of different activities for all ages. Bluebell Beach & Splash Pad, Buttercup Beach & Picnic Area, Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad, Elba Equestrian Complex, Goldenrod Disc Golf Course, Linden County Park, Stepping Stone Falls and Picnic Area, The Mounds Off-Road Vehicle Area, and Wolverine Campground are just a few of the parks Genesee County has to offer!

Multiple locations

<http://geneseecountyparks.org/explore/>

### **Flint Institute of Arts (FIA)**

75 years ago the FIA became a part of the Flint Cultural Center Campus and focuses on collecting, preserving and presenting art from around the world.

They offer classes and demonstrations. The gallery is home to one of Pablo Picasso's paintings until January of 2020! Free admission for residents of Genesee County! Open Mon-Fri 12pm-5pm Sat 10am-5pm Sun 1pm-5pm

1120 E Kearsley Street, Flint  
810.234.1695

<https://flintarts.org/>

### **Longway Planetarium**

Another feature of the Flint Cultural Center Campus is Michigan's largest planetarium with 130 seats under a 60 foot dome. The planetari-

um is a popular place for public shows, family science workshops and a variety of other community events. Call or visit their website for upcoming event dates and details! Open Mon-Wed Thur & Fri 10am-9pm Sat 11:30am-9pm Sun 11:30am-5pm  
1310 E Kearsley Street, Flint  
810.237.3400

<http://sloanlongway.org/longway-planetarium/>

### **Genesee Belle Paddlewheel Riverboat**

A 45 minute scenic cruise around Mott Lake. The Genesee Belle departs from Crossroads Village and Stepping Stone Falls running during the summer and on October weekends during Halloween Ghosts and Goodies!

5161 Branch Road, Flint  
810.736.7100

<http://geneseecountyparks.org/explore/>

### **Flint Bike Share**

Bikes can be found by downloading the free Zagster Mobile App or online at

[www.zagster.com/flint](http://www.zagster.com/flint). Each bike has its own number that the rider enters into the app to obtain a single use code to gain access to the bike. When finished with the bike, simply return it to any of the designated bike stations: *Flint Cultural Center, Flint Farmers' Market, Genesee County Parks, Mass Transportation Authority (MTA), University of Michigan-Flint, University Pavilion, and University of Michigan-Flint Recreation Center.*

## SUMMER WORD SEARCH

P	O	P	S	I	C	L	E	A	X	N	I	P	C	D
I	T	E	B	W	E	E	T	G	J	O	I	D	X	U
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AUGUST  
BEACH  
HOT DOGS  
OUTSIDE  
SUN  
VACATION

BARBECUE  
CAMPING  
ICE CREAM  
PICNIC  
SWIMSUIT  
WATERMELON

BASEBALL  
GARDEN  
JULY  
POPSICLE  
TRAVEL



*Read All About It*



Hearsay is now available on the Circuit Court website [www.7thCircuitCourt.com/hearsay-newsletter](http://www.7thCircuitCourt.com/hearsay-newsletter)

We want to hear from you! Send us an email letting us know what you would like to see in the newsletter and feedback on the current edition. You can also submit ideas and information about activity in your department. [hearsay@7thcircuitcourt.com](mailto:hearsay@7thcircuitcourt.com)