



SFI Good News Snapshot

Highlighting Good News in Saginaw County

Saginaw Future Inc. ■ 515 N. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor ■ Saginaw, MI 48607 ■ Ph: 989-754-8222
Fx: 989-754-1715 ■ E-mail: info@saginawfuture.com ■ www.saginawfuture.com

Broadband Loan Benefits Saginaw



The Michigan Broadband Development Authority announced a \$1.5 million loan to SpeedNet L.L.C. of Saginaw to bring what's described as the first large-scale operation of a new wireless broadband service in Mid-Michigan.

The funding will provide a new broadband service option to the cities and surrounding areas of Saginaw, Bay City, Midland and Mount Pleasant, which are home to approximately 175,000 residential households and businesses. The company states that the service is different than traditional wireless broadband service, which can be interrupted by trees, buildings and other obstacles.

SpeedNet's service will eliminate this need by using technology that bounces signals around and through obstacles, allowing easier transmission. Customers will only need a small modem, similar in cost and installation ease as a cable or DSL modem. Non-Line of Sight technology allows service at distances up to 20 miles from the transmission tower. SpeedNet expects the loan will expand the company's market by more than 50%.

Saginaw 1st in World for Medical Procedure

Saginaw's Covenant HealthCare was the location for the world's first implantation of a newly designed heart assistance device. In March 2005, Dr. Asim Yunus, a cardiac electrophysiologist, inserted an internal defibrillator/pacemaker to help correct a patient's irregular heart rhythm.

Officials of Indianapolis-based Guidant Corp., which designed the device, confirmed that Yunus is the first doctor worldwide to implant it.

Covenant is one of 40 medical centers nationwide that recently began to participate in a clinical trial. The device uses a newly designed left ventricular lead — an electrical wire outside of the heart that stabilizes ventricles, delivers current and senses its beat. Yunus said he is invited to present his findings on this week's surgery to a gathering of the Heart Rhythm Society in early May in New Orleans.

Record Turnout For Brain Awareness Week

It was the most stroke screenings in a one-day period for Field Neurosciences Institute (FNI) staff and volunteers at the Fashion Square Mall in March. Over 130 people were screened for blood pressure, cholesterol, and other health issues.

The event was held in connection with Brain Awareness Week. In addition, free bicycle safety helmets were custom fitted and handed out to children.

Cardinal Square Improvement Grant Submitted

During the past four years, Saginaw Charter Township and Kochville Township have cooperatively planned ways to improve the function, safety and appearance of both the Bay and Tittabawassee Road Corridors.



This process has led to the development of a streetscape design plan for an area designated as Cardinal Square.

The proposed streetscape improvements include:

- Removal of mailboxes on Bay Road
- Construction of centralized mailbox centers within large parking lots.
- Construction of bus stop turnout areas and shelters
- Decorative street lighting fixtures
- Stamped concrete crosswalks
- Pedestrian pathways
- Brick pilasters and fencing at key entry areas
- Park benches, trees and shrubs, and street signs.

In late 2004 the Saginaw Township Board approved a resolution supporting the submittal of a streetscape enhancement grant to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), which is under review.

Funds derived from the grant will be utilized to implement the aforementioned improvements along Bay Road between Schust and Tittabawassee Roads.

Established in 1992, Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) is a public-private alliance of local businesses, the County of Saginaw, City of Saginaw, 15 local municipalities and the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce. SFI's mission is to increase economic opportunity in Saginaw County, ensuring long term growth and prosperity by fostering investment primarily in advanced manufacturing, high tech industries and professional services.

To receive the Good New Snapshot by e-mail, please contact Greg LaMarr at 989-754-8222 or e-mail glamarr@saginawfuture.com