



It is a busy time of the year!

We have lots of exciting events happening across the region. Be sure to check out the NIST supplier request at the bottom of the newsletter for new business opportunities.

Thank you to Falcon Road Maintenance Equipment in Freeland for hosting the GLBMA members.

Please note; all [blue colored text](#) is a hyperlink.

What's in the newsletter!

- Welcome New Members
- Feature Article: Wildfire Credit Union
- GLBMA Events/Programs
- Partner News/Events
- NIST Supplier Request

Welcome - New Members

Blue Thumb

Blue Thumb manufactures products to help you design, install, and maintain better water features. Our primary business is to sell wholesale pond supplies, wholesale pond kits, wholesale waterfall kits, and wholesale fountains directly to landscape professionals, installers, architects, and retail pond stores.



Feature Article

Learn more about Wildfire Credit Union

Susan Moody | 989-249-8300 | smoody@wildfirecu.org

Wildfire Credit Union has been serving members in Michigan for over 85 years. With offices throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region, we provide businesses and consumers a level of service that is Distinctively Better!

Today, Wildfire serves the entire state of Michigan allowing anyone who works, lives, worships or attends school in the state of Michigan to join Wildfire.

Like all financial institutions, we offer you an array of personal and business services to meet your needs and help you achieve your future financial goals. So what sets us apart? Our commitment, determination, and desire to make sure that our member service is in a league of its own. We also have a staff that commits over 2,000 volunteer hours every year to make a difference in the communities we serve.

What sets us apart in the Business community?

- Our team of experienced business lenders know our community. With dedicated lenders in Saginaw, Bay City, Midland and Mt. Pleasant, we not only hone in on your specific business needs, we are also a part of the community.
- Our Work Place Perks program. This special program is available to companies with 5 or more employees. It provides your employees an opportunity to save money and improve their financial future.

Wildfire Credit Union offers employees of member businesses in the Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association a wide range of services that are free of charge to your business and provide your employees with valuable information and discounts on banking services.

The Work Place Perks program gives your employees access to the following discounts:

- Financial health through financial literacy.
- Free Basic Checks for Life with a Wildfire checking account, along with a free Debit/ATM card that can be used at almost 30,000 fee-free ATMs nationwide.
- 10,000 Wildfire Rewards Points upon opening a new Wildfire Visa®
- \$150 off the First Loan Payment on a vehicle, boat or unsecured loan over \$10,000 (new money only)
- \$250 off Mortgage Closing Costs (new money of \$10,000 or greater)
- CD Rate increase of .25% APY on any term Certificate of Deposit (new money only, excludes CD specials)

Your employees work hard, and our Work Place Perks provides benefits for their financial lives. This is just one way we continue to strive to be the best kind of place for our members to manage their finances and serve our community. Wildfire Credit Union is proud to support the Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association and its members. To learn more, please call at 989.249.8200 or contact us at our call center at 800.227.2328 for assistance.

GLBMA News

The GLBMA holds All Member Meeting - June

Our next all member meeting will take place June 6, 2023, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at the Michigan Works! GLBR - Saginaw office. Located at 312 E. Genesee Street in Saginaw.

We will hear from Thomas McFadden with the U.S. Small Business Administration office. He will share programs available to our local manufacturers.

We hope to see you there. No registration is required.

Our other quarterly meetings are scheduled for September 5 & November 28.

Join us for our Best Practices Plant tour at Blue Thumb

Tuesday, August 15
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
2650 Schust Road
Saginaw, MI 48603



Blue Thumb

We ask that you wear closed-toed shoes, and better yet, steel-toed shoes. Bring your favorite pair of safety glasses too. Refreshments provided.

Blue Thumb has evolved over the years but started as a simple business by the owner while in high school. Progressing to a manufacturer over the years out of necessity, Blue Thumb is now one of only four rotational molding companies in the state. From water features and aquariums to custom acrylic and plastics, you won't want to miss touring their 126,000sf facility. Learn how Blue Thumbs blends manufacturing, distributing, and retail operations all under one roof.

Plant tours are limited to two (2) non-manufacturing members from each company as space is limited.

[Please register here.](#)

GLBMA leads an Industry Led Collaborative with Midland Business Alliance, Bay Future, and Saginaw Future

Do you have one or two people in need of training and would like to join the ILC? We are accepting **commitment forms until May 19th** and the [applications should be submitted by May 26th to Michigan Works!](#)

See complete details [here](#).

The GLBMA will act as the lead and prepare the bulk of the application for submission. For any training to be approved, **at least three companies must sign up and complete the training.**

You can receive up to \$2,000 per participant in training funds awarded through this grant. A one-to-one match is required which can include wages, benefits, travel, and production interruption costs. If you are able to host a training at your facility for the ILC, you will be able to include the cost of hosting as part of your match amount.

Each company will need to complete the individual application with the ILC narrative and submit it to the MI Works Great Lakes Bay Regional office contact as directed later in the process.

The **GLBMA will work on coordinating the training locations, date, and times** for all participating businesses.

[Commitment form](#)



Partner Programs start to take off - Wildfire offers Work Place Perks

Wildfire Credit Union not only offers a full range of business services, and a **Work Place Perks program** for your employees, we offer the personal service and quick response you deserve. When you need to speak to someone about your business needs, we are right here; a local business working with local businesses. Wildfire serves the entire state of Michigan allowing anyone who works, lives, worships or attends school in the state of Michigan to join Wildfire. We offer locations in Bay City, Midland, two branch locations in Saginaw and a lending office in Mt. Pleasant.

We live here, work here and are active in our community. That means when you are ready to do business, we are ready to meet with you ...at your convenience. Just pick up the phone; call our local number and one of our business services specialists is here, ready to help.

Reach out to Susan Moody at 989-598-7173 or email smoody@wildfirecu.org to learn more about how you can implement a **no-cost Work Place Perks program** now available to all GLBMA members.

Quality Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting

May 24, 2023 - Invite your Quality Staff/Plant Management to Attend

Join us to learn more about IATF 16949 and is it right for you or does ISO 9001 meet your needs. We meet at 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm. We will meet at Nexteer Automotive, 3900 E. Holland Ave, Saginaw.

Please wear steel/composite safety shoes for department tour.

This discussion is best suited for the plant manager, quality manager or director. We hope to see you there.

Register to attend [here](#).

Women in Manufacturing Special Interest Group (WIM) Events

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Crooked Creek Driving Range
9410 Gratiot Road

Not sure about golf, never golfed before? This is a great time to join us at the driving range. No clubs needed; we will have clubs for use.

We will go over basic terminology, tips for driving the ball, and chipping for those looking to improve upon their skills or network with other women in manufacturing.

You should purchase a bucket of balls for your use. The cost is \$7 for a small bucket or \$11 for the large bucket from the automatic dispenser on-site. If you are paying by cash, you will need to go to the golf counter at Crooked Creek to purchase your bucket.

We plan to go across the street at about 6:45 pm for food and beverage.

No need to register, just show up!

Thank you to PNC Bank for sponsoring this special interest group.

Open to all members and guest

WIM CEO Olympics - July

Are you game? We are! Join us for this first time event as you root on your favorite companies CEO. We will be hosted by the Great Lakes Safety Training Center in Midland for this event. This is an open event for anyone to attend. Ma's Kitchen Food Truck will be on site for food and beverage purchases. You may bring a snack of your own but this is a non-alcoholic event, please leave yours at home.

We are looking for a couple more contestants to participate in our bracket. If you would like to participate, please reach out to Tanya at the GLBMA office for details.

Tuesday, **July 25, 2023** (please note date change due to the golf invitational)

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Great Lakes Safety Training Center

1900 Ridgewood Dr. Midland, MI 48642

This event is free and open to anyone to root on their favorite Olympian.

Thank you to PNC Bank for sponsoring this special interest group.

Partner News

SVSU offers Summer Intern Housing

Sharon Hugo | 989-964-4255 | housing@svsu.edu

Hiring a summer intern from out of the area? In need of short term housing for them? Look no further. SVSU has an option for you. See detailed flyer [here](#). Cost is \$540 a month. You can reach out to the housing office at SVSU for details. Contact information is located just below the headline or on the flyer.



Ken Horn joins GLBRA as Executive Vice President, Strategic Development

Matt Felan | 989-695-6100 | mfelan@greatlakesbay.org

The Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance is pleased to announce that former State Senator Ken Horn will join the organization as Executive Vice President, Strategic Development. Horn will focus on the key aspects needed for population growth within the Great Lakes Bay Region over the

next decade. Horn will begin his work with the Alliance beginning on May 1, 2023.



The announcement comes as the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance recently completed strategic planning efforts with a simplified vision for the region: ***A prosperous and growing Great Lakes Bay Region.*** Hiring Ken is a vitally important next step as we move forward with implementation of our strategic plan.

An advocate for growth and development, Horn previously served as the chair of the Senate Economic Development Committee, where he advocated for Michigan's economic development efforts and personally championed **Project 1MP**, a concept for growing Michigan by one million people in under a decade. In addition, he brings a wealth of dynamic and relevant experience from the private, public and nonprofit sectors. In this role, Horn will advocate for sustainable advancement and growth of the region, while drawing on support from education and workforce readiness, community development efforts, employment opportunities, and underscoring many of the quality-of-life aspects of the region.

"As I completed my tenure in state government, I looked for an opportunity to team up with a strong organization and continue to lead in growing Michigan's population. I'm passionate about problem-solving and believe that the future of the Great Lakes Bay Region relies on investing in our people, our communities, and our industries," said Senator Horn. "I look forward to using my expertise gained in the legislature and beyond to attract national and international interest and shine a light on the region's future."

First elected in 1992, Horn was a Saginaw County commissioner for 14 years, then served in the Michigan House of Representatives for six years before he was elected to the Michigan Senate in 2014. During his second term in the Senate, Horn served as the chairman Economic and Small Business Development Committee, T.E.D./MEDC Appropriations Committee, and the Joint Capital Outlay Sub-committee, as well as the vice chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, the Education and Career Readiness Committee, and the Appropriations Sub-committee on Colleges and Universities. In addition, he also previously served as a STEM and skilled trades consultant for MiTech+ where he worked to promote development and education ideals in Michigan.

Ken brings decades of experience leading significant, bi-partisan economic development efforts fundamental to moving Michigan forward. We are ecstatic to have Ken put his expertise to work right here at home in the Great Lakes Bay Region. We learned through the most recent census in 2020 that the region lost people, which has a direct effect on our influence, representation and long-term viability. We feel strongly that growing the population of the Great Lakes Bay Region is critical to building a prosperous future. We know that Ken is the right person to lead this effort and we look forward to the positive impact he will have in the years ahead.

Please join us in welcoming Ken to the team as we champion this important work in moving the region forward.

Matthew Felan
President and CEO
Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance

Looking for something for the summer to engage your kids? Here is a great list of area summer camps by county. Access the STEM Summer camp list [here](#).

Specific Camps provided by our educational partners can be found here. Click the camp to download the flyer or visit the website.

[SMEKplus Summer Camp - SVSU](#)

[Find Your Future - Midland ConnecCTEd](#)

[Start at Square 1 - Midland ConnectCTEd](#)

Middle Michigan MiCareer Quest announces date for 2023

Amy Ames | 989-280-4133 | amesa@michiganworks.com

We are excited to announce that MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2023 will be held **Friday, September 29, 2023** at the SVSU Ryder Center. It is sure to be another engaging and safe, hands-on career exploration experience for 10th grade students, teachers, and counselors to learn about today's high demand jobs from employers like you! MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan 2023 is hosted by Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! and Michigan Works! Region 7B.

Download Exhibitor & Sponsor Participation Form [here](#).

Please reach out to Amy Ames, Business Services Team Lead, Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! at (989) 280-4133, amesa@michiganworks.com or Pam O'Laughlin, Chief Operations Officer, Michigan Works! Region 7B at 989-205-4560, polaughlin@michworks4u.org for more information on participation.

Automate: Powering What's Possible

A3 | 734-994-6088 | automateshow.com

May 22–25, 2023 · Detroit, Michigan · Huntington Place Convention Center

As Automate continues to grow in prominence and extend its influence, this event has become a must-attend for anyone currently working with automation, companies that want to begin to use automation, and those looking for ways to capitalize on the technology.

As the leading automation showcase in North America, the hands-on, front-row-seat experiences are second to none. The gathering of expertise and experience is unmatched. The opportunities to learn, get better and make a fast impact abound. Whether you already use automation or you're just curious, Automate is simply a can't-miss.

[Registration](#) now open.

How to Make Sense of HR Compliance

Kristi | 616-975-2833 | Kristi.Clemens@rehmann.com

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

From recruiting to off-boarding, it is hard to fully grasp the complexity of laws, regulations, and best practices for governing the employee life cycle. Join Rehmann Principal, Elizabeth Williams, for a critical conversation called Alphabet Soup – How to Make Sense of HR Compliance. You'll walk away with the knowledge of real-life examples and scenarios and the steps you should take to reduce your organization's compliance risk.

Register [here](#).

SBDC Lunch and Learn

Denise | 517-203-0737 | denise@michigansafetyconference.org

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Saginaw Valley State University, Curtiss Hall Seminar Room, University Center

Have you ever thought about what will happen to your business when you're ready to move on? Whether you are planning to retire, sell, or pass on your business, it is important to have an exit plan in place. If you're interested in learning more about exit planning then, you're invited!

Register [here](#).

Midland Business Alliance to host Women in STEM event

Lauren | 989-839-9522 | lbruck@mbami.org

Thursday, June 8, 2023

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Holiday Inn, 810 Cinema Drive, Midland

\$15 - Lunch provided

Women in STEM an Innovation Event will highlight a few of the local female leaders working in STEM in our community. This event is open to the public, high school aged and up are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Panelists:

Jessica Snyder- Michigan Operations Site Leader at DuPont

Linda Gruber- Site Leader at Hemlock Semiconductor

Sarah Eckersley- VP of R & D for II&I at Dow

Christal Taylor-Lawson- Information Technology Service Manager at Dow

Aundrea Trzaskos- Information Technology Analyst at Dow

Facilitator:

Sarah Gallo- Digital Capability Manager at Dow

Register to attend [here](#).

SensCy provided Tax Season Cybersecurity Best Practice Checklist

Raj | 734-276-9891 | info@senscy.com

Although tax season has ended for 2022, this information is great to review for next year

and be mindful of year round. [Download your copy](#) of the tax season cybersecurity checklist.

Pressing Issues for Small to Medium-Sized organizations

The Problem: Bad actors are targeting SMOs at higher rates than ever. I believe we need to ask ourselves who we think a hacker would rather target: Google - who likely has a team of cyber experts on call at any given moment - or the mid-sized organization with a third-party IT provider protecting its data.

I learned from a recent Forbes article that an employee at a smaller company will experience 350% more social engineering attacks than one at a large corporation. While Google might have the resources necessary to ward off hackers, the over 5 million SMOs in the U.S. need help securing their data from growing cyber threats.

The SensCy Solution: Solving this problem is one of the reasons my team and I initially founded SensCy. We designed our services to specifically fit the needs of SMOs who don't currently have the resources to tackle cybersecurity on their own. We dedicate a Cyber Advocate to each organization. Our Cyber Advocates provide clients with a roadmap to better cyberhealth and help guide them through activities that will improve their SensCy Score. For example, one stop on this roadmap is developing a cyber incident response plan to minimize the time it takes our clients to recover if they face a successful cyberattack. At SensCy, our sole focus is providing a comprehensive solution to address the lack of preparedness against cyber threats among SMOs.

What is your SensCy Score

Your SensCy Score™ is a good indication of your organization's cyber hygiene and how prepared your organization is against cyber threats. We can generate your score in less than 30 minutes—at no cost to you!

[Schedule your SensCy Score now!](#)

The General Agency offers GLBMA Members select Insurance Lines

Nate | 734-994-6088 | NWeisenburger@ga-ins.com

The General Agency is currently offering reviews for GLBMA members for their liability, workman compensation, or cybersecurity lines of insurance. The General Agency offers a broader coverage at the same or better rate. In addition, the GLBMA is receiving a yearly rebate from the General Agency. Interested in a review of your insurance coverages in these areas, please reach out to Nate Weisenburger at NWeisenburger@ga-ins.com or call 989-817-4271.

Automation Alley offers Trade Mission to Mexico

Wanda | 248-457-3233 | normanw@automationalley.com

Trip Dates: October 15 - 20, 2023
Trade Mission to Mexico

Expand your business into the world's second-largest market for U.S. exports with help from Automation Alley. Join our trade mission to Mexico, a nation with a strong demand for the following Michigan-made products, services, and technologies: Automotive components and systems (including EVs), Industry 4.0 and advanced manufacturing technologies, IT and information communication technologies, Environmental and pollution control (including air and water quality), Healthcare and medical, and Aerospace. [Inquire now for complete details.](#)

Congratulations to Yeo & Yeo as they turn 100 years old

Adele | 989-793-9830 | adehet@yeoandyeo.com

May 1, 2023 was a big day at Yeo & Yeo. What a thrill it is to announce we are marking **100 years in business!** That's 100 years of helping businesses thrive. 100 years of lifting our communities. 100 years of growing, expanding, and improving. We are grateful for your support — we could not have done it without you.

Yeo & Yeo was founded on possibilities. Starting in 1923, three visionary generations of the Yeo family, James J. Yeo and W.L. Yeo, later joined by a third generation, Lloyd Yeo, shaped the history and reputation of the firm. They started from humble beginnings by focusing on client needs and adding services to meet demands and proactively help our clients succeed. They instilled the values of community service and giving back, inspiring the creation of the Yeo & Yeo Foundation.

Through the decades, our people have carried that passion for serving clients and our communities, bringing us to where we are today – a leading firm with nine offices and more than 225 professionals poised to take on the next century of opportunities. Thank you for everything. Here's to 100 great years. The best is yet to come!

Warm regards,
David Youngstrom, President & CEO
Yeo & Yeo

MMA - Updates

Ashley Wakefield | 517-487-8523 | wakefield@mimfg.org

New Resources for CHIPS Applicants

The Department of Commerce has released pre-application and application instructions, guidebooks and other resources for the first CHIPS for America funding opportunity for leading-edge, current-generation, mature-node and back-end semiconductor fabrication facilities. [Find out how you can tap into federal funding intended to meet the complex needs of the semiconductor ecosystem.](#)

Embracing Holistic Employee Care: The Secret to High Retention in the Manufacturing Industry

Whether adding to a healthy supply chain or driving technological advancement, manufacturing is essential to a thriving economy. But, like other industries, the manufacturing sector is facing its fair share of challenges, from maintaining employee

loyalty to drawing in new talent.

To help companies understand these hurdles, MetLife conducted its 21st annual U.S. Employee Benefits Trends Study (2023). The study sheds new light on employee satisfaction and its main contributors. More than ever, employees express a growing need for employers to take greater interest in their overall well-being, as well as provide a more holistic workplace experience.

Read complete article [here](#).

Steps for Reducing Owner Dependency

Vincent | 616-918-6551 | vincet@prometispartners.com

Can your business survive without you? If you had to take several months off unexpectedly, would you have a business to come back to? If your answer to these questions is no, your business is dependent on you. If you do not make changes to make your company stronger and more independent of you, this will affect its sale value and could prevent a sale entirely. Let's talk about what strategies you can implement for reducing owner dependence. Read complete article [here](#).

SVSU Employment Fairs announced

Registration is now open for all fairs, and you can register and learn more about each fair by visiting Handshake [here](#).

New this year is the ability to pay for fairs online with a credit card! There will be a link to pay online included in the invoice email and registration approval email.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at careers@svsu.edu or 989-964-4954, Monday-Friday from 8am-4:30pm.

SVSU Part-Time Job Fair

Aug 29, 2023 • 12:00pm - 3:00pm EDT

SVSU Accounting & Finance Networking and Employment Fair

Sep 12, 2023 • 3:00pm - 5:00pm EDT

SVSU Fall University-Wide Employment Fair

Sep 22, 2023 • 12:00pm - 3:00pm EDT

SVSU Manufacturing & Information Technology Fair

Jan 23, 2024 • 3:00pm - 5:00pm EST

SVSU Spring Employment Fair

Feb 2, 2024 • 12:00pm - 3:00pm EST

SVSU Spring Education Fair

Mar 14, 2024 • 4:00pm - 6:00pm EDT

Michigan Safety Conference

The 2024 Michigan Safety Conference

Save the date for April 16 -17, 2024 for next year's conference. This will be held at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

MEP Supplier Scouting Opportunities

The following supplier opportunities are available through the MEP center. These are national MEP Center clients seeking domestic suppliers for the various items. Please contact Tanya Blehm for complete details on how to submit a Supplier Scouting form. Tanya can be reached at tblehm@svsu.edu or 989-964-2881.

Current Opportunities:

Opportunity: 2023-004 Level 2 EV Charger closes Jan. 5, 2024

Submitted by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Opportunity: 2023-005 DC Fast Charger closes Jan. 5, 2024

Submitted by EPA

[Sign Up for more Supplier Opportunities - Michigan CONNEX program](#)

We welcome your company updates and events but ask that they be ready to cut and paste to ensure that data transfer is correct and no errors occur. The GLBMA policy is to share items that align with manufacturing in our newsletter. The GLBMA reserves the right to correct any grammatical errors prior to publishing. The GLBMA reserves additional emails for events, partners, state initiatives, and MFG Champions*. The GLBMA does not share or publish our contact list, event list, or email list. If you would like to submit something for consideration, please send it to tblehm@svsu.edu. The GLBMA reserves the right to use submissions and edit for grammar or punctuation for clarification. **The GLBMA newsletter is published about the 15th of each month, items must be received no later than the 10th of the month.** Thank you.

*MFG Champions are allowed one email per year; please call 989-964-2881 for more details.

Manufacturing Champion Members and Supporters





Great Lakes Bay Manufacturers Association | MMTC-NE, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI 48710

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