President & CEO's Message

The last month has brought about unprecedented changes in both the way we do business and the precautions we take in our daily lives. My hope for you is that you are taking additional steps to keep yourself and your family healthy and that you are adjusting to whatever the new normal is for you, as it seems to evolve daily.

BFI is continuing to work diligently to execute the mission, vision, and goals of the organization, working closely with businesses on attraction, retention, and expansion efforts and we stand vigilant in providing resources to inform and educate them during this time. We are currently working with our partners in Arenac, Midland, and Saginaw Counties as the local contact for the Michigan Small Business Relief Program, with the goal of helping small businesses offset the financial impact of this pandemic through grants and loans. More information on COVID-19 resources can be found here.

A few calls to action, I’d like to share with you:

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is desperately needed in our community. If you have extras you are willing to donate or have the capabilities to manufacture them, please let us know!

- N-95 Masks
- Hand Sanitizer (>60% alcohol)
- Disinfectant Wipes (>60% alcohol)
- High Efficiency Air Filter
- Gloves
- Goggles
- Clear Face Shields
- Clear Safety Glasses
- Surgical Gowns
- M4 Red Top Tubes
- Dacron Swabs (for sample collection)

Pure Michigan Business Connect: Supplier and Donor Capabilities for COVID19. Virtual Procurement and Donation Assistance Forms

Lastly, I'd like to thank those businesses who continue to step up and support...
front line workers, like those you'll see in the below Route Bay City articles. Everyday I am hearing that another company made a donation of masks or goggles, or is altering their processes to change production capabilities. It is this generosity and willingness to step-up, that gives me faith our community will come through this stronger, together.

Happy reading and stay safe,

-Trevor Keyes, EDFP
President & CEO
Bay Future, Inc.

"It's difficult staying apart, but we're all in this together. Whether you are working on the frontline, or simply staying home, we are all working together to slow the spread of this virus.... Keep your head up. We'll make it through, together."
#keepyourheadupGLB

-- Mark A. Plante, President, Imageworks, Ltd.

Artisanal ice maker pivots to medical face mask production in Bay City

Bay City-based Michigan Clear Ice has shifted from making ice for craft cocktails to making protective face shields for health care workers around the state.
Local efforts to supply critical COVID-19 materials in the Great Lakes Bay Region ramp up.

Efforts to supply needed materials for COVID-19 ramp up in the Great Lakes Bay Region, with over 10,000 PPE materials distributed in the past week among many milestones.

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**Featured Content**

**Recommended Strategies to Improve Perceptions of Economic Development**

Last month, in our President & CEO’s Message, we informed you about an opportunity in which BFI was selected through a competitive process by the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Advocacy Committee for a Pilot Program to develop a communications workplan with outside firm, Public Sector Consultants. This project focused on creating a plan for an economic development organization that was small in staff (as BFI is) and could be replicated in other communities within Michigan.

Our team was prepared to present this information at MEDA’s Capital Day March 18, 2020, to our peers in economic development across the state. As you may assume, due to the current climate, that event was canceled. I am excited to share with you now the final report.

To review an overview of the project [click here](#)

To view the final report “Recommended Strategies to Improve Perceptions of Economic Development” [click here](#)

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**2020 Census**
Because of the Census, economic development is possible.

The Census count helps businesses decide where to build factories, offices and stores which create jobs and opportunities.

Complete the 2020 Census to improve the local economy. It’s easy, confidential and takes just 10 minutes.

Take the Census Today!

Go to 2020Census.gov

The Great Lakes Bay Regional 2020 Census initiative is supported by your local community foundation in Bay, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.
Did you know 40% of Michigan's funding comes from the federal government?

The amount of money Michigan receives depends on the Census – a survey conducted every 10 years to determine the number of people living in the United States. An accurate count is vital to obtain funding and distribute resources throughout our community. Census funding impacts almost everything that’s important to you.

**Featured Event**

**Annual Meeting- POSTPONED**

Bay Future’s Annual Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2020 has been postponed. Additional details of this event will be provided at a later time.
Dear Community,

Your generous donations of masks, gowns, gloves, hand sanitizer, and so many other PPE items, have helped keep us safe. Your unending donations of food have helped keep our teams fed. Your endless messages of support have helped keep us going.

You are what motivates us to do what's best every single day.

To you, dear community, we thank YOU.
Thank you to McLaren Bay Region for taking care of Bay County as frontline workers, providing exceptional care for our community!

www.mclaren.org

Community Highlight

Take-Out Tuesday

Today is officially TAKE-OUT TUESDAY in the Great Lakes Bay Region! Let’s take a day off of cooking and support our local restaurants that are offering TAKE-OUT!

Have some fun with this! Post a photo on facebook with your food or menu and where you ordered from to help share these options with others and #GLBRTAKEOUTTUESDAY!

Click Here for the GLBR lists of TAKE-OUT TUESDAY options!

www.bayfuture.com