

## Background on items mentioned in 2017 State of the State

*Due to time constraints, Gov. Snyder isn't able to highlight every notable Michigan place, person or project that made an impact on him in the past year. The information below will help provide you with additional context for many of the mentions made in this year's speech. They are presented in the order they were mentioned.*

- **Michigan Air National Guard** - In September 2016, the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard was awarded two of the military's top honors. The Wing was awarded the Meritorious Unit Award by the Air Force for its record of performance in and in support of combat operations. That award came just days after 127th Wing Commander Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum was presented with the Carl A. Spaatz Award, denoting the top National Guard flying unit in the nation.
- **Michigan National Guard won 2016 International Sniper Competition** - Sgt. Saykham Keophalychanh and Sgt. Nicholas Mitchell topped the field of 42 two-man teams from around the world to win the 2016 International Sniper Competition.
- **Business expansion in Coopersville** - Continental Dairy announced plans in Sept. 2016 to invest \$50 million to expand butter production and processing, creating new jobs. This brings Continental's investment to approximately \$425 million since the plant opening in 2012. The company already completed an \$8.8 million expansion in 2015. Next door, Fairlife, which operates in coordination with Continental, is also expanding. Combined, the two plants receive more than 5 million pounds of milk -- about 625,000 gallons -- for processing each day from some 20 dairy farmers in the region.
- **Clemens Food Group** - A sixth-generation, family-owned integrated pork production operation including farming, processing, transportation and logistics, the company recently announced a major expansion project in Coldwater with the construction of a new plant. The facility is expected to generate up to \$255.7 million in private investment and is projected to create more than 800 jobs. The plant is on schedule for operations to begin in late 2017.
- **Pure Michigan activities** -
  - Kayaking in Pictured Rocks - Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is a national treasure and a great example of Pure Michigan. To help celebrate 50 years of national lakeshore status, Gov. Snyder took a kayaking tour of the Pictured Rocks in August 2016.

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- Elk bugling in northern Michigan - Northern Michigan is home to over 600 elk, and last year, Gov. Snyder joined DNR Director Keith Creagh on a trip to view elk while listening to the male elk bugle, which the animals do to attract mates.
- Brewery, winery and bike trail in Michigan's Thumb - While Gov. Snyder was touring Michigan's Thumb area in October 2016, he had an opportunity to visit the 3 North Vines Vineyard and Winery and the Lexington Brewing Co. and Wine House. Gov. Snyder visited these two wineries while biking the Crosswell-Lexington Bike Path, which connects the two communities.
- **Upper Peninsula International Recognition** - Lonely Planet named the U.P. one of the world's Top Ten Value Destinations for 2017, calling it "An area of stunning natural beauty." The U.P. was recognized alongside destinations that included Venice, Morocco, Belize and Nepal.
- **No cities under emergency management** - When Gov. Snyder took office in 2011, there were three municipalities and one school district under emergency management. It has been more than a year now since any municipality in Michigan has had an emergency manager.
- **Creation of Public Health Advisory Commission** - In September 2016, Gov. Snyder signed an Executive Order that established the Public Health Advisory Commission. This 24-member commission will assess the current public health service delivery systems in Michigan and provide Gov. Snyder with its findings no later than April 1, 2017.
- **Angel Program Pilot in Gaylord** - To help fight addiction in Michigan, the Michigan State Police post in Gaylord has launched a program that pairs people with addiction issues with a volunteer angel who will work one-on-one with addicts. MSP hopes to expand this program statewide within a few years.
- **Iron Belle Trail status** - Michigan's 2,000-mile Iron Belle Trail continues to extend across the state, connecting 48 counties and 240 townships and communities through hiking and biking routes. In 2016, dozens of local communities partnered with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation and the Natural Resources Trust Fund to leverage local dollars to continue the trail's expansion. This resulted in the completion of 60 percent of the 793 bike trail miles and 72 percent of the 1,223 hiking trail miles.
- **DNR Wetland Mitigation Banking program** - Wetlands are vital to Michigan's wildlife, environment and infrastructure. The Department of Natural Resources is creating a public-private partnership opportunity to perform wetland mitigation banking on state-owned land.

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This will help make needed drainage improvements to our sewers and ecosystem upgrades for our wildlife.

- **Invasive Carp Challenge** - Invasive species, including Asian Carp, are the most serious threat to the Great Lakes. Last year, the Governor created an international Carp Challenge for anyone to present an idea to help stop invasive carp from entering our waters. The challenge will launch this year. More information is available at [www.Michigan.gov/DNR](http://www.Michigan.gov/DNR).
- **Silver Key Coalition** - By appropriating \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2015 for the Silver Key Coalition, Gov. Snyder made a strong commitment to Michigan's seniors. Silver Key Coalition is a group that focuses on allowing senior citizens to stay in their own homes. The goal is to make Michigan a no-wait state in terms of at-home care for seniors. Silver Key Coalition has served about 4,500 elderly Michiganders who were previously on waiting lists. State funds are not used to meet administrative fees, and every dollar allocated goes directly to serving the state's senior citizens.
- **Veteran-friendly employers** - In November 2016, Gov. Snyder presented awards to companies who are committed to hiring, retaining and growing veteran talent within their companies. This is part of the state's effort to make Michigan a more welcoming place to veterans, which resulted in the hiring of 2,700 veterans in 2016 by partner employers.
- **Secure Cities Partnership** – This community policing effort has worked to reduce crime in Detroit, Flint, Pontiac and Saginaw since 2012. Some areas have seen violent crimes reduced by double digit percentages. The Secure Cities Partnership was started by the Michigan State Police after Gov. Snyder sent a Special Message to Michiganders and the Michigan Legislature expressing the need for “smart justice.”
- **Improving relationships with law enforcement** - In an effort to renew the focus on law enforcement and community relationships, Gov. Snyder signed an executive directive in October focused on improving the trust and cooperation between the public and members of the law enforcement community.
- **Vocational Village** - The Michigan Department of Corrections launched a program in Ionia that provides hands-on skilled trades training to inmates to help them have better job opportunities after completing their sentences. Some offenders are now leaving prison at the end of their sentence with a job offer in hand. Gov. Snyder visited the program in Ionia this summer and saw the benefits the training is providing, both to inmates and to employers who are in need of trained skilled labor.

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- **Working to end campus sexual assault** - First Lady Sue Snyder continued her work to give students and universities the tools to end campus sexual assault. The Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program awarded \$500,000 to community colleges and universities in 2015 and 2016 to implement prevention programs on their campuses. Gov. Snyder spoke at the second statewide summit in September 2016 on the importance of awareness and communication in combatting this crime that is too prevalent in Michigan.
- **MI Hidden Talent Tour** - The MI Hidden Talent initiative is an effort created by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein to encourage Michigan businesses, and the State of Michigan itself, to be inclusive in hiring practices to include Michiganders with disabilities. Since launching in 2015, Calley and Bernstein have toured the state, speaking at Chamber/community events in more than a dozen different communities, as well as hosting a statewide training workshop and spreading the message at other events throughout the state. As a result of the effort, Michigan Rehabilitation Services is actively working with new businesses who are interested in tapping into this underutilized talent pool.
- **Rising Tide** - The Rising Tide program is designed to ensure all of Michigan's communities are part of the state's comeback. State departments work with local leaders to provide smaller communities with the tools needed to design and build a solid planning, zoning and economic development foundation to attract new businesses and help existing employers to grow. Gov. Snyder visited each of these communities in 2016 to hear about their progress.
  - Harrison is a city with great potential and considerable assets, such as a state park, beautiful lakes, county fairgrounds and a can-do spirit among community leaders. But it was struggling with issues of blight and a lack of housing that would attract new families and hotels for people to stay. The Governor visited Harrison in September 2016.

Embracing the slogan, "Twenty Lakes in 20 Minutes," Harrison has worked with the Rising Tide team on place-making and spreading the word about what it has to offer. MEDC and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development helped city leaders convert a blighted downtown building into a farmers market with a community commercial kitchen, a retail incubator and a food hub that will disperse unsold produce to area hospitals and nursing homes. Now underway is the Town Square project that would include a splash pad and ice skating rink in the heart of their downtown.

- River Rouge is a Detroit suburb with a small town feel. It has struggled economically and knows there are challenges down the line when a DTE coal plant closes. It also faced infrastructure challenges, such as a bridge adjacent to downtown being closed for repairs for more than three years.

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Now that the bridge has been repaired, city leaders are partnering with the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance to conduct job fairs and to engage area employers to learn about their talent needs and connect with the schools to boost training. A “Jobs for Michigan’s Graduates” staff member is now stationed at River Rouge High School, working with nearly 60 at-risk students to help them overcome barriers to success and focus on training for good jobs. The governor visited River Rouge in September 2015 to kick off Rising Tide and again in December 2016 for a status update.

- Ewart has struggled with housing and downtown development issues, but also faces social challenges that create barriers to success in its schools.

After the governor’s visit in April 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services worked with the Rising Tide team to expand the Pathways to Potential program to the schools, connecting families with the assistance they need to help students overcome outside-of-school challenges and focus on learning. The team also is working with residents to determine housing needs and downtown development to boost the economic base.

- Charlotte is a city that had many groups – the schools, the city government and the chamber – all working hard independently but struggling to make an impact. The city’s downtown had deteriorating facades and a wide thoroughfare with heavy traffic and loud, fast-traveling trucks contributing to a less-than-desirable environment for shoppers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

Through Project Rising Tide, the groups have pulled together. When Gov. Snyder visited in October 2016, he saw the rally cry #CharlotteRising on billboards and throughout the city. Projects including the revitalization of the downtown Beach Market public space and the revitalization of the old Charlotte Chair Factory are being examined for funding for their redevelopment.

- **Gordie Howe International Bridge status** - The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is moving full-steam ahead. Michigan’s project partner, the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority, recently issued the all-important Request for Proposals, which will be used to select the private-sector concessionaire that will design, build, operate and maintain the vital span. Land acquisition in Detroit is well underway and on schedule, as well.