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March 22, 2024

SHORT CUTS

Judge tosses union-friendly franchise rule

A new rule by the National Labor Relations Board that would have made it easier for millions of workers to form unions was blocked March 8 by a federal judge in Texas.

U.S. District Court Judge J. Campbell Barker ruled that the NLRB's new regulation would be "contrary to law" and that it was "arbitrary and capricious" in regard to how it would change the existing rule.

The current NLRB rule, adopted by a Trump-appointed, Republican-majority board in 2020, said companies with franchises – think McDonald's – aren't considered a joint employer since workers are directly employed by franchisees.

Of course, under such a setup, that greatly limits the legal exposure of the parent company in labor negotiations, with any worker actions taken against the employer only apply to individual franchisees.

When the new NLRB rule was announced last October by a Biden-appointed majority, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said "the point of the rule is simple – when workers negotiate for fair wages and working conditions, companies shouldn't be able to hide behind a subcontractor or staffing agency to deny us what we've rightfully earned. Today, too many employers use intermediaries like staffing firms or temp agencies to evade their responsibilities under the law. This rule ensures that union members can bargain with each company that has the power to make changes in the workplace."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups sued to stop implementation of the rule, and went court-shopping to do so, bringing the case to the highly conservative federal court in the Eastern District of Texas to block the rule. And Judge Barker delivered for them. An appeal is likely.

"Under the 2023 final rule, contractors would be vulnerable to increased liability and risk, making them less likely to hire subcontractors, most of which are small businesses," said anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors Vice President Ben Brubeck.

The AFL-CIO's Shuler countered: "The rule is about basic common sense. The right to collectively bargain is non-existent if the company that has the power to change workers' terms and conditions of employment, isn't negotiating with workers."

Anti-union firms seek to kill NLRB

Don't like NLRB rulings? Then get rid of the NLRB.

Notoriously anti-union companies like Trader Joe's, Amazon and Tesla have all been found responsible for unlawful, anti-union behavior by the National Labor Relations Board.

Now their lawyers are arguing that their union-busting, behaviors are legal because the NLRB itself is unconstitutional. They have filed joint cases with the NLRB and in federal district court to dismantle the NLRB, which administers labor law in the nation.

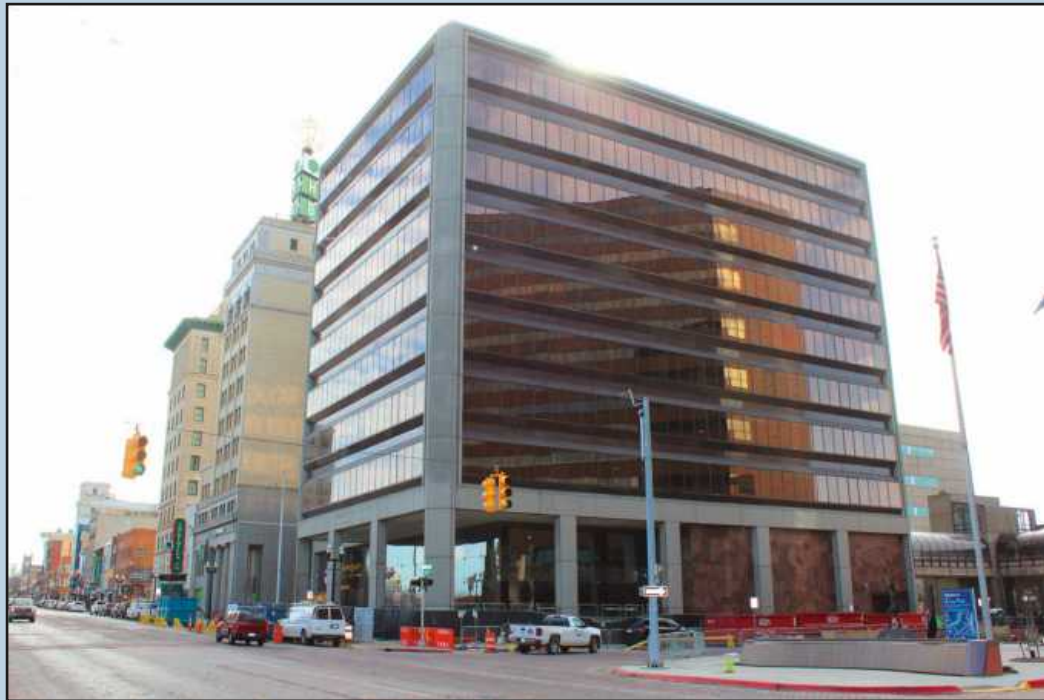
Seth Goldstein, an attorney who represents both the Amazon Labor Union and the labor group Trader Joe's United, said the cases are "very frightening."

"Since they can't defeat successful union organizing, they now want to just destroy the whole process," he said.

Quotable

"Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something."

—Plato (427 BC - 347 BC)



THE OPERATIONS OF FOUR Genesee County administrative offices will be combined under one roof, the former Citizens Bank tower on Flint's main drag, Saginaw Street. Last month, the building was being gutted and renovation work had commenced. E.L. Construction Group is managing the project.

Flint trades ready tower for Genesee County offices

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

FLINT – Consolidated space for employees of Genesee County is on the way, in the form of a 10-story tower that's being renovated downtown at Union and Saginaw streets.

Formerly occupied by Citizens Bank, and purchased from the University of Michigan-Flint, the building will bring together 350 or so county employees from four locations, to operations under one roof, offering the county efficiency savings while bringing more workers to a downtown that very much needs them.

The \$26.8 million project is being managed by E.L. Construction Group, which is overseeing subcontractors and trades workers performing a wholesale renovation the 1980s-era tower's interior, and then transforming it into efficient space for Genesee County

departments.

"We have an awesome group of tradespeople out here; they're working together really well," said E.L. Construction Group

Supt. Guy Cornell last month. "Right now, we're working throughout the entire building. We're doing just about a total

(Continued on Page 3)



ASSEMBLING A HEADER on the seventh floor of the Genesee County building for its new heating supply and return system are plumbers David LaForest and Mike Vondra. The UA Local 370 members are employed by Platinum Mechanical.



SETTING A BLOCK WALL in the basement of what will be the Genesee County Building are Matthew Ellis and Wilbur Cox of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by B & G Masonry Service.

Nice start in '24 for Michigan, U.S. construction

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

You're off to a pretty good start, 2024.

January wasn't great, but U.S. construction industry numbers overall for the first two months of the year show "that demand for construction remains strong in many parts of the country," said the Associated General Contractors on March 11, while cautioning that, as always these days, "labor shortages are restraining employment gains."

Michigan's construction em-

ployment situation remains on the plus side over the past 12 months, with building sector jobs up 2.6 percent from February 2023 to February 2024, ranking our state

Solid numbers for overall economy, too

U.S. employment rose by 275,000 in February, continuing a post-Covid positive jobs streak that has extended for 38 straight months.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate ticked up two percentage points to 3.9 percent, the highest in 25 months, but is still historically low, and is the longest

No. 25 in percentage gains. Michigan gained 4,900 construction jobs during those 12 months.

"This report confirms that construction demand remains ro-

(Continued on Page 2)

streak under 4 percent since the 1960s. Wages rose just 0.1 percent for the month, but were up 4.3 percent from 12 months prior.

The numbers were released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on March 7.

"The strong labor market continues into 2024 with 275,000

With fragile majority, trades urge Dems to finish the job for labor

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – Restoring prevailing wage. Rescinding the state's right-to-work law. Eliminating the burdensome tax on senior citizens' pensions. Re-establishing state workers' rights to bargain collectively.

Those were all colossal laws adopted by the Democrat majority in Michigan's Legislature, and passage of the first two turned heads all over the nation because prevailing wage comebacks and laws to overturn right-to-work are exceedingly rare among the 50 states.

But that was 2023. Since then, building trades union leaders and the rest of organized labor in Michigan have been asking the ancient political bromide, "what have you done for me lately?" to

Michigan Building
Trades Council
Legislative Conference

"Now that we have at least taken out a good portion of the trash, now we have to build for the future."

—Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist



MBCTC President Steve Claywell speaks to the legislative conference.

state Democrat lawmakers. That question was acknowledged, but could not be answered, by guest lawmakers addressing delegates of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's (MBCTC) 62nd Legislative Conference held March 5-6.

"Although we're extremely appreciate of the work that's been done, we know there's more work to do," said Steve Claywell, president of the MBCTC to the delegates. "There are a lot of specific priorities that we have. We're going to be moving and shaking on putting pressure on politicians, to make sure we're getting the value that our members deserve."

(Continued on Page 3)

Department of Labor's Egan:

Pro-worker laws are good; more bite would make them better

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – Could it be that the state Legislature's historic vote a year ago to restore Michigan's prevailing wage law was the easy part?

Now don't misunderstand – organized labor in Michigan is thrilled and gratified that the thin majority of state Democrats in the House and Senate concurrently repealed the state's right-to-work law and resurrected the Michigan Prevailing Wage Act in March 2023.

But a year later, for the state agency that administers prevailing wage and other worker-related functions in Michigan, the resurgence of organized labor's issues in the state is also pushing to the surface another reckoning. That is, properly administering and putting some teeth into Michi-



SEAN EGAN, a union electrician and state DOL leader, speaks at the Michigan Building Trades Council's Legislative Conference.

gan's new prevailing wage law is going to require more state resources – as is the case with the raft of other pro-worker legislation that labor unions want to see adopted this year by state lawmakers.

"We have to get more people in the Labor Department to enforce these laws that we think are important," said Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Deputy Director-Labor Sean Egan. "Otherwise we're not going to have the people to do it meaningfully and make sure that this prevailing wage law, which we helped write – is enforced the way that we want it enforced."

Egan made a presentation on March 5 to delegates at the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's 62nd Legislative Conference. He's a bit of a unicorn, even in the union-friendly administration of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. A union electrician, Egan is a former business manager of West Michigan IBEW Local 275. He's also an

(Continued on Page 3)

'Opportunity Roadshow' stops in Detroit

DETROIT – The most recent stop on the "National Opportunity Pipeline Roadshow" was IBEW Local 58 in Detroit, where local and national union officials, government and workplace planning advocates showcased union job opportunities.

The March 1 event at IBEW Local 58's union hall was part of a series of ongoing visits to local union halls and training centers across the country by officials at North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) over the past year. This forum, like the others, brought together the parties to discuss how union-trained workers are prepared for the \$1.2 trillion in federal infrastructure dollars that are starting to be doled out

to state projects.

"With the historic federal investments from the Biden Administration, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, NABTU is hitting the road to visit Building Trades Training Centers in every corner of America to promote our best-in-class training infrastructure and showcase how we are prepared to meet the moment and build the Infrastructure Generation," a NABTU statement said.

This event featured several participants, including NABTU President Sean McGarvey, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, Michigan Building and Construction Trades

Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin, MUST Construction Careers Director Cheryl Sanford, and host IBEW Local 58 Business Manager Paul VanOss. Additionally, throughout the event, attendees heard success stories from current apprentices that highlight the importance of apprenticeship readiness programs in Detroit and the strength of the building trades training model.

"You're going to hear about all this federal investment, we see it at the moment as an opportunity to provide an opportunity to the next generation of skilled trades professionals, what we like to call now the infrastructure generation. Never has there

(Continued on Page 2)



THE North America's Building Trades Union's National Opportunity Pipeline Roadshow stopped in Detroit on March 1 at IBEW Local 58, extolling the use of union trades to build the \$1.2 trillion-plus in U.S. infrastructure work that's in the pipeline. At the mic is Local 58 Business Manager Paul VanOss, with him on the dais (l-r) are Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin, Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, and Local 58 Assistant Business Manager James Peltier. Photo credit: Aly Darin

Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN – Our next union meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, at 6 pm. This meeting will be a Special Called Meeting. At this April meeting we will hold our 2024 allocations vote, and hold nominations to send two delegates to the General Convention.

These allocations will go in to effect on June 1, 2024. Please make every effort to attend.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. Iupatpension.org

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member id printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it's a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits if you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

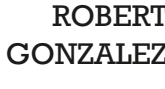
The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-0666; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep our union strong, so try to make it to a meeting. –Business Rep. Don Stepp

Michigan Painters
District Council

Painters DC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupat-de1michigan.org
DC 1M UNION CARDS*:
Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:
Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP
Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP. For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore



ROBERT GONZALEZ
Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP
Username: your member id#
Password: painters
With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

FTI of the Great Lakes upgrade classes: FTI Apprenticeship will be putting on Rigging and Signaling classes.

Rigging and Signaling class-Warren March 23rd and 30th. 9AM start time

Contact FTI Director Shawn Oneill to register
Email: dot@iupatde1m.org or call at (517) 304-4425

Sickness and Death. It is with great sadness we announce the following: Local 826 and owner of Calvin Glass, Dennis Calvin passed away.

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

OUT OF WORK/ BACK TO WORK: To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888. New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.

District Council 1M
Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez
Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

Local Union 312
Business Rep: Tim Schwerin
Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

Local Union 514
Business Rep: Scott Mikulen
Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.
Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826
Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845
Business Rep – Fred Frederickson
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Local Union 1052
Business Rep – Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803
Business Rep: Josh Ovalle
Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352
Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland
Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Local Union 2353
Business Rep: Tony Parker
Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

Local 275

IBEW Local 275
COOPERSVILLE – The work outlook continues to be very busy, with the potential of several large projects kicking off this Spring and Summer in addition to the work our contractors have already secured. We've had various open job calls for some time and plan to have more over the coming weeks and months. Call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call you may be interested in.

With the tremendous amount of work right now, the Local has been organizing new members of all levels to fill calls and grow the Local. If you've been to a Union meeting recently, you'd know we've been swearing in several new members every month for the last several months. We can use all the help we can get, so if you know any electricians in your social circles and/or communities, please encourage them to reach out to one of our organizers, Walter or Geoff.

Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to walk in the St Patrick's Parade in Grand Rapids last Saturday! It was a great turnout and Local 275 was well represented in the parade!

The 2024 West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, March 28! Please mark this date on your calendars if you plan to attend this year's event. We approved tickets at last month's meeting and they are at the Hall. If you would like to reserve tickets, call Nicole at the Hall. If you have any extra fillets or meat in your freezers that can be donated, please contact Walter at the Union Hall.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Luke Rokus, and Rodney Dobb. Please make every effort to get caught up with your dues as soon as you can.



Nicely spliced
SPLICING WIRING for a temporary lighting fixture on the second floor of the Genesee County Building project in Flint is Eric Hunsinger of IBEW Local 948. He's employed by Walker Electric.

Local 591
Sign, Pictorial & Display

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting

Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your Business Representative.

Questions pertaining to Local 591 Pension Fund issues call 248-645-6550 and/or Health Care issues call 248-358-3340 or 800-482-8736 which will then be answered directly through fund office.

OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK: procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474.

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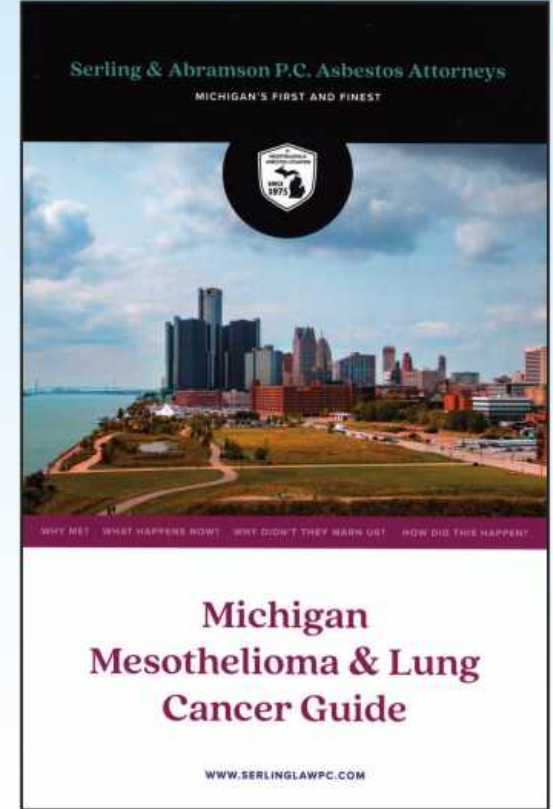
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Outdoors

Stopping the invaders



A SPOTTED LANTERNFLY, shown here, is one of the invasive pests that threaten Michigan's forests. If you see one, the Michigan DNR recommends that you kill it. "See it. Squish it. Report it." It can be reported at www.michigan.gov/invasives.

(From the Michigan DNR)
Protecting Michigan's 20 million acres of forest land and urban trees from threats posed by invasive plants, diseases and pests is no small job.

Some of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' recent work on that front is detailed in the latest "Forest Health Highlights" report, which explores forest health trends in the state during 2023.

As we mark National Invasive Species Awareness Week – an annual event, this year which took place Feb. 26 through March 3, to bring attention to invasive species, the threats they pose and what we can do together to prevent their spread – it's a great time to look at what the DNR and others are doing to keep Michigan's forests healthy, productive and sustainable in the face of these risks.

An invasive species is one that is not native and whose introduction causes harm, or is likely to cause harm to Michigan's economy, environment, or human health. These pests often are fast-growing, reproduce rapidly and have few predators or natural controls in their new environments.

"One of the biggest challenges to maintaining healthy forests is addressing pests and diseases," Sue Tangora, forest health and cooperative programs manager for the DNR's Forest Resources Division, said in the report's introduction.

Tangora went on to explain that climate change is altering forest pest and disease outbreaks – which historically were predictable, as forests evolved with native insects and diseases, adapting to maintain forest benefits – and creating new challenges for forest managers. Climate change creates uncertainty about the extent, timing and severity of outbreaks.

"This unpredictability increases with every new invasive insect, disease or plant introduced into our forests. The longer invasives are at play, the harder it is to



INSPECTING AND CLEANING shoes, clothing, gear and vehicles to assure they are pest- and seed-free can help limit the spread of invasive species. Shown here is a trailhead boot brush, where trail users can clean their footwear before and after their hike. MDNR photos

reverse the negative impacts they have on forests and the people and wildlife who depend on them," she said.

Examples of 2023 invasive species efforts highlighted in the report include teaming up with local and federal partners to treat hemlock trees in six west Michigan counties against a tiny, aphid-like invader, the hemlock woolly adelgid, and working to identify and respond to detections of beech leaf disease in seven southeast Michigan counties.

"The DNR's forest health team works closely with local cooperative invasive species management areas, or CISMAs, federal experts, researchers and many others to address issues that are new or ongoing," said James Wierich, forest health unit manager with the DNR's Forest Resources Division. "Besides on-the-ground work, the Forest Health Program brings money into Michigan to help partners address forest health challenges and concerns across the state and, in many cases,

prevent rapid spread of new pests and diseases into the region."

Progress is being made against the pest. The battle against the hemlock woolly adelgid is one good example of the type of teamwork that takes place when Michigan's forests are threatened. The tiny insect sucks sap from hemlock twigs, and ongoing infestations can weaken or kill host trees.

That threat means boots on the ground, first to find infestations, then to treat the trees. Over the past seven years, 12,468 acres and 231,429 trees have been treated as part of a strategy to keep the insect from spreading into northern forests. The good news: Most of Michigan's hemlock trees are many miles away from established hemlock woolly adelgid populations.

Over the past seven years, more than \$6.5 million has been raised to respond to the threat posed by the insect, and efforts continue to be funded through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, U.S. Environmental



A TREE BRANCH infested with white-specked balsam woolly adelgid, an invasive pest relatively new to Michigan.

Protection Agency, Recreation Passport (state park user fees), fundraising efforts supported by Bob Ross Inc. and other state funds.

The DNR's forest health team also works with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to respond to recent detections of a similar insect, the balsam woolly adelgid, in Kent, Missaukee and Oceana counties.

Balsam woolly adelgid also has become a threat. Balsam

woolly adelgid poses a threat to the roughly 1.9 billion balsam fir trees within their native range in Michigan's northern Lower and Upper peninsulas, as well as non-native Fraser and concolor firs. These fir species are important to Michigan's Christmas tree industry. Producing nearly 13.5 million trees each year, Michigan is the country's third-largest Christmas tree grower.

Balsam woolly adelgid was detected in Michigan in August 2021, when MDARD officials were notified of several infested Fraser firs in Kent County. No evidence of additional infestation was found within the survey area, and the eight infested Fraser firs were cut and chipped in winter 2021. Follow-up surveys in late 2022 found no evidence of balsam woolly adelgid in Kent County.

However, in 2023, additional infestations likely resulting from separate introductions were detected in limited areas of Missaukee and Oceana counties. Infestations are currently being evaluated, and treatment plans will be implemented once completed.

You can help. Forest health professionals cover a lot of ground throughout the state, but they can't be everywhere. The program relies heavily on reports from people who notice unusual insects or sick or dying trees. If you see something unusual or have concerns about trees in your area, use one of these methods to report it.

Report invasive pests to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development hotline at 1-800-292-3939 or

email MDA-Info@Michigan.gov.

Find information at Michigan.gov/ForestHealth, regarding concerns such as oak wilt, new potential invasive species and more. You can also sign up at the bottom of the page for forest health email updates.

Report suspected invasive species and get resources through the Michigan Invasive Species Information Network.

In observance of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, MDARD also is encouraging all Michiganders to do their part to prevent the spread of invasive species.

"Our department works tirelessly to prevent the spread of these pests, but getting everyone involved in prevention and detection is key to the fight against invasive species," said Steve Carlson, MDARD's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division director.

MDARD's suggestions for some ways to help limit the spread of invasive species include:

- Buy heat-treated firewood or buy wood where you burn it to avoid transporting insects or tree diseases that may be hitchhiking in untreated wood.

- When returning from international travel, declare food, plants and other agricultural items to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure these items are pest-free.

- Avoid buying seeds or plants online from unknown vendors.

- After enjoying the outdoors, inspect and clean shoes, clothing, gear and vehicles to assure they are pest- and seed-free.

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS
PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

- ◆ Mesothelioma
- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
- ◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis
- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

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Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG CANCER, ABESTOSIS, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, THROAT CANCER, and COLON CANCER.

Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

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