



Wednesday, March 11, 2020

## Here at Home, in our Michigan Community, Life has Shifted for the Better

As you may know, a former resident of Bay County recently returned to our community to write an article for the New York Times. After reading the article and seeing the response by numerous community leaders on social media and elsewhere, it is important to keep in mind this article was written from the perspective of one individual who has not lived in our community in nearly forty years.

It is impossible to visit Bay County and not see the positive impact so many businesses and individuals are having on our community. Whether it is a one-hundred year old, family owned business still thriving in our historic downtown, the redevelopment of numerous buildings or millions of dollars invested into the new Uptown Bay City Development, Bay County has become a community driving forward following the Great Recession.

We are home to world class healthcare in McLaren Bay Region and boast a thriving agricultural and agribusiness sector, including Michigan Sugar, a grower-owned cooperative and Bay County's second largest employer. The next year will see a \$100 million private investment into Bay City's infrastructure, creating numerous high-paying construction jobs, and the recent announcement by Bay Future, Inc. and the City of Bay City of the \$50 million investment by Wilkinson Minerals will create an additional 50+ permanent jobs in Bay County. In fact, more than 700 jobs, averaging \$19.92 per hour have been created in Bay County over the past three years.

Bay County may not be New York City, but the quality of life here is second to none. That is why so many of our talented young people choose to stay in the area and many of our neighbors return from larger communities to raise their families. Bay County remains one of the most affordable communities in the nation, with a median home price of \$69,900. Year-round activities take place at the Bay City State Park and Wenonah Park. Festivals, including the annual Fourth of July Fireworks, triennial Tall Ships Celebration and 2020 Eat Great Food Festival, consistently draw visitors to our community.

Politics aside, we can think of no better community to live, work and play than Bay County. To learn more about the opportunities in Bay County, [click here](#).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Trevor M. Keyes'.

Trevor Keyes  
President & CEO  
Bay Future, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ryan Tarrant'.

Ryan Tarrant  
President & CEO  
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

