

**BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL!**

September 7, 2007

# The Pontiac News

A NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

A BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION VOL.1 ISSUE 2



Fran Anderson  
Receives Beardmore  
Service to Education  
Award. See story  
on page 2

## The City of Pontiac at the Crossroads - Part 2 How We All Can Work Together to Turn "OUR" School District Around!



Judge Fred Mester - Founder Pontiac  
Alumni Foundation

Dr. Jelani Jabari, Ph.D -  
President Pedagogical  
Solution @ Keynote  
Speaker

Listens during School  
District Opening School  
Summit @ Oakland  
Schools



# INSIDE

Fran Anderson Education Award S - Page 2

Editorial - How we can turn our school district  
around - Page 3

How to apply for vacant Board Seat page 3

Pontiac Mayor & City Council to cooperate on sale of  
Silverdome - Page 4

Town Meetings Schedule - Page 4

What Does a County Commissioner Do? - Page 5

Tim Melton - Home Loan Protection Act - Page 6

11 Best Money Saving Tips of All Times - Page 12

Voices in the Community - Page 13

Sports Article "If it Bleeds..it Leads" - Page 15

# Contents

- Cover .....1
- About TPN .....2
- Fran Anderson Education Award .. 2
- Mission Statement .....2
- Editorial**
- How we can work together to solve school problems .....3
- Board of Education News** .....3
- What's Happening in Pontiac** .....4
- What's Happening in Oakland County** .....5
- What Does a Oakland County Commissioner Do? .....5
- What's Happening in Lansing** ....6
- What's Happening in Washington** ..6
- Educational Matters Six Habits** ..7
- Downtown Pontiac Events in 2007 - Erubus** .....8
- Student & Parent Success kits** ...9
- Student & Parents Success Workshops** .....9
- Educational Matters**
- Why our Children Can't Read and Write - Part 2 .....10
- Health Watch**
- Selvy Hall .....12
- Senior Citizen Matters .....12
- Ask Elaine .....13
- Voices in the Community .....13
- It's Your Money**
- 11 Best Money Savings
- Ideas of all Time - Part 2 .....14
- Sports .....15
- Employment Opportunities .....15
- Community Calendar .....15
- Community Events .....16

## Fran Anderson Receives Beardmore Service to Education Award

LANSING – On August 14, 2007, the State Board of Education presented the Dorothy Beardmore Service To Education Award to long-time and revered statewide education advocate Francile (Fran) Anderson.

Anderson, a former Pontiac resident and teacher in the Pontiac School district who currently resides in Waterford, is the former State President of the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association; former Michigan educator; and for the past 12 years, has been the driving force behind the Michigan Public Education Task Force, now known as Michigan for Public Education.

“Fran is a knowledgeable, dedicated and informed citizen activist whose considerable energies have been focused on public education as a result of her experiences as an educator, a concerned mother, and a devoted grandmother,” said State Board of Education President Kathleen N. Straus.

The Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association, which supported Anderson’s nomination, stated that she was, and still is, the ultimate advocate for children. The Association holds her in such high regard that it have created the “Fran Anderson MPTSA Scholarship” which was awarded for the first time this year.

“Fran is well respected among parents and educators and is often called upon for her expertise on child-related issues,” Straus said. “Her interest remains on children and the importance of

their education. Even at 80 years of age, she keeps up with current trends and topics in education.”

In accepting the Beardmore Award, Anderson told the State Board of Education: “This is a moment in my life which is a highlight I’ll never forget. There is nothing more exciting to me than to be able to say to you, this award, is probably one of the greatest soaring moments of my life.”

Anderson’s contributions to educational excellence and to positive community involvements are demonstrated by her actions, which include:

Continuing service on the Michigan North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement;

Continuing service as President of the North Oakland Medical Centers Foundation; and

Continuing service on the board of the Pontiac Oakland Symphony.

Members of the Michigan for Public Education group enthusiastically nominated Anderson, not only because she has outstanding qualifications, but because she knew Dorothy Beardmore personally, and shared Beardmore’s philosophy for educational excellence and inclusion.

Beardmore promoted educational reform throughout her tenure on the State Board of Education, beginning with formulating new teacher certification rules in 1985 that require focused, relevant professional development for teachers. She envisioned quality education for all

# The Pontiac News

PUBLISHER & CONTENT EDITOR

R. Frank Russell

NEWS EDITOR:

Elaine Smith-Wright

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

State Representative Tim Melton

County Commissioner Mattie Hatchett, Selvy Hall,

Mary Pietila, John Smith, Joseph P. Cool, Kenneth

E. Corr, Dianthia Spann, Elaine Smith-Wright

PHOTOGRAPHER:

TBD

ADVERTISING MANAGER:

TBD

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

Christopher Riley

OFFICE MANAGER:

Mary C. Russell

DESIGNER & PRINTER

Michigan Web Press

CONTACT INFO:

TELEPHONE: (248) 758-1411

FAX: (248) 451-1653

PO Box 431412, Suite #1

Pontiac, MI 48343

ThePontiacNews@SBCGlobal.net

## About The Pontiac News

The Pontiac News is dedicated to providing balanced news about The City of Pontiac and surrounding communities!

The Pontiac News was founded and established in February 2007 and will be published bi-weekly beginning in August 2007. As a major community and the county seat of Oakland County we believe that The City of Pontiac should have a newspaper that is dedicated to providing information and news about this great and historical city.

The Pontiac News is a community minded newspaper that will not only serve readers but also businesses and local organizations and will strive to be the paper of record for local municipal units including The City of Pontiac, and the Pontiac School District.

This bi-weekly newspaper, The Pontiac News, has been established to cover areas in our retail zone including Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Waterford, Bloomfield and other nearby communities (and other school districts).

The Pontiac News will be distributed to over 25,000 homes in The City of Pontiac and nearby communities and over 1,000 area businesses, organizations and agencies. We will eventually create a computer database for all addresses in the zip codes contained in the basic Pontiac News circulation area. A computer program will be designed to generate labels for all households and businesses in those zip codes in order to reach a total of more than 30,000 homes and businesses in our retail area by mail or by door to door delivery service.

In addition to better serving the business community with expanded circulation to cover the retail zone, The Pontiac News will have a great product for readers. We will often feature full 4 color pictures on the front page and occasionally elsewhere in the paper. We will also have the Associated Press wire for news features, local writers to augment our local news, and feature coverage. The Pontiac News web site will be launched in the near future to expand and supplement our news coverage and advertising reach.

We will continue to find better ways to serve our customers.

## The Pontiac News Mission Statement



Publisher R. Frank Russell

To serve The City of Pontiac and nearby communities as the leading information source that empowers our community, while never compromising the principles of truth and fairness in reporting.

We measure our effectiveness based on the following core values:

- Provide leadership that contributes to the betterment of our community.
- Reflect our community in everything we do.
- Build credibility by accepting nothing less than the highest standard of excellence.
- Exercise our "watchdog" role by seeking solutions for and protecting those living within our community.
- Help our customers grow and prosper by providing useful information.

Several decades ago, Pontiac residents could pick up a newspaper and expect solid reporting from a locally owned newspaper

business with a focus on this community.

However as Michigan participated in social and political change in the United States, its media outlets moved in the opposite direction, falling victim to the corporate expansion and consolidation that was taking shape at the state, regional and national levels. Out-of-state conglomerates have bought many of the best dailies. In an attempt to keep pace with these fierce new competitors, the former Pontiac Press, changed its name to the Oakland Press, expanded its market area in order to serve the entire Oakland County community. As a consequence of this change, Pontiac experienced a void in its need for a news source with a local flavor. The birth of The Pontiac News eliminates that void and fills that need.

The Pontiac News will specifically focus on this city. Through our bi-weekly newspaper and web site, we will provide an independent perspective with a commitment to credible investigations. It will also include provocative and informative stories that others either miss or choose to ignore.

Too often, today's media spins their news coverage in a political rather than a human light. Stories and subjects are tagged as "left" or "right," ignoring the subtleties and nuances that define The City of Pontiac.

The Pontiac News will reinvigorate the credo that journalism speaks for the individual, checks abuses of power, and stands vigilant in the protection of democracy and free speech. By hosting regular editorial meetings throughout the city, and presenting news in a community context, we will give

students.

She dedicated over 34 years of her life to achieving this vision; striving to identify and remove barriers to student achievement; setting high expectations for all; believing that every child is capable of learning; and encouraging others to recognize that every child is capable of learning

Prior to her election to the State Board of Education, Mrs. Beardmore served eight years on the Rochester Board of Education (1967-75) and 10 years on the Board of Education of Oakland Schools (1974-84).

Pontiac citizens a unifying forum from which to view and address today's issues. Knowing that Pontiac residents value news and perspectives from beyond their borders, the Pontiac News will also provide timely and provocative stories from around the county, state, country, and the world, through an independent network of writers and subscriptions to various news wire services.

Our pledge to you -- readers, advertisers, and subscribers -- is to provide socially responsible news and opinions on a human scale. With news stories from throughout the city, we will be the voice of the community, a place where Pontiac citizens can share ideas and forge solutions. Those outside Pontiac can look to The Pontiac News as a showcase for "the Pontiac way," which personifies the unique ability to solve problems and define community issues related to political, educational, religious and social matters.

Our business model is unique in its approach because Pontiac is a unique city. A bi-weekly newspaper, combined with our web site will provide you with breaking stories as they become available to us, no matter where they come from including Pontiac, Oakland County, the State of Michigan in the U.S. or around the globe.

Thank you for joining us in this inaugural issue and taking us into your homes, schools and businesses. We hope you will keep coming back for more. Please pray with us that we will do good work when we report news concerning this city and never hesitate to let us know what you think.

## —Editorial—

# HOW WE ALL CAN WORK TOGETHER TO TURN OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT AROUND

By R. Frank Russell

Let me first take this opportunity to thank all of you who took the time to read the inaugural issue of our publication. We want to especially thank the people who took time out of their busy schedules to send words of encouragement to The Pontiac News. The overwhelming response has been positive and encouraging and we do appreciate this! Listed below are samplings of your reaction to the first issue of our newspaper.

• *"I just had the pleasure of reading the inaugural issue of the Pontiac News. I thought it was outstanding. I enjoyed all of the articles. I look forward to reading upcoming issues, possibly contributing a story or opinion or two, and advertising."* Ms. **Andrea Wright, BBA, MSA**

• *"Congratulations on your 'Inaugural Issue' of The Pontiac News. Your paper was left on our front steps Saturday and we happily couldn't wait to read it. Your lay out was attention getting in red, white and blue and the contents proved to be worth every word. We will look forward to the future editions. The Woods family appreciates your reference to the families that have been part of this community for so long."* **Esmo and Sandra Woods**

• *"I would first like to congratulate all that were instrumental in beginning this newspaper for the City of Pontiac. I believe this form of communication will aid the city in its endeavors to grow in a constructive direction. Encouraging communication IS strength."* **Sean V. Kennedy**

• *Congratulations on your vision and mission to redeem and restore a unique city such as Pontiac to its former glory and beyond by providing the citizens of Pontiac with a journalistic "think tank" tapping the hidden wisdom and understanding of its citizenry and other well wishers in an effort to repair the foundations of this city that have been destroyed in its familial, educational, political, religious and other pertinent arenas!*

**Raymond E. Wiggins Sr. A Pontiac Resident**

Now to the task at hand. How can we all work together to turn our school district around? Before I answer this threshold question, let me reflect a few minutes on the past glory days of the Pontiac School District.

Did you know that back in the day, the Pontiac school district produced Al Taubman - Developer of many malls across the United States including the first mall in the world Northland Shopping Mall in Oak Park, MI; the world's largest mall in Minneapolis, MN;

and Great Lakes Crossing? Did you also know that Dan Murphy (Oakland County's first County Executive), Lynn Allen (long-time Oakland County Clerk) are graduates from the Pontiac School district? How many of you know that the renowned attorney Albert Hatchett and former 50<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Christopher Brown are products of the Pontiac School District? Were you aware that Ronnie McNair, now a member of the famed Four Tops and international jazz musicians Hank, Thad and Elvin Jones once walked the halls of Pontiac Central and Pontiac High respectively? Surely you have heard about the achievements of Olympic gold medal winners Miki King and Hayes Jones, both graduates from the school district of the City of Pontiac. Bet you did not know that the 1964 state semi-finalist Pontiac Central basketball team consisted of a future doctor in Gerald Henry, a future mayor in Walter Moore, a future attorney Alvin Keel and a future school principal in William Morgan. Other high achievers from our school district from back in the day include TPN Teacher of the year Ruthie Winfield, Rev. Bill Tipton, comedian Terry Hodges, Donnie Soden, Dana Coin, Judge Phyllis McMillen, Judge Preston Thomas, Judge Leo Bowman and attorneys Joe McMillen, Harrison Munson, Russell Anderson and Kenny Burch. Dr. Gary Weeks, Dr. Bruce Turpin, Dr. Larry Russell, Dr. Jeff Martin, Dr. Beverly Goodman, Dr. Terrance Haynes, Dr. Drew Marshall, Dr. Amos Johnson, Jr. and Dr. Henry Smith are all graduates of the Pontiac School district.

Finally it is important to note that in the late 1950's and early 1960's the Pontiac School district was considered by many to be one of the top school districts in America! In addition, Pontiac Central High School has been an accredited high school since 1849. It is the oldest high school in Oakland County, Southeastern Michigan, and has the largest alumni of any school in Oakland County.

So, there you have it, the Pontiac school district was once a great place to send your child if you wanted him or her to excel academically, socially and athletically. I conclude my travels down memory lane with this statement "if we did it once; we can do it again".

So what happened to this once great school system? As stated in the editorial in the first issue of TPN; "*Pontiac - The Former All-American City at the Crossroads*", this writer believes that forced court ordered busing of our children to achieve integration was the single biggest cause of the decline of the Pontiac School District. Future editorials will

discuss this conclusion in more detail and we do welcome pro and con points of view on this critical issue. However, since the focus of this article is on solutions, let's offer a few. Hence, the rest of this editorial will suggest what students, parents, teachers, administrators, board members and the community can do to turn our school district around.

"In order to turn our school district around, our students must be taught how to come to school with a mindset to learn. Parents must do what ever is necessary to make sure that their children come to school every day with a ready and willing to learn mindset. Parents must also develop the skills needed to work in harmony with school staff and teachers. Teachers must be mentally prepared to teach every day that they are in the classroom. Teachers must also gain the knowledge and understanding of how to motivate, stimulate, educate and cultivate the students of the Pontiac School District. In addition to the items mentioned above, teachers absolutely must acquire the ability to relate to and work with the parents and other caregivers. School Board members must be proactive in setting policies that are in harmony with the community educational and workforce needs and be willing to listen to and respond to parents and other community members' concerns. The superintendent and other administrative staff must administer decisions fairly, carry out board policy as directed, and create a solid working relationship with all school district personnel as well as the community. The final piece of this "turn our school district around puzzle" is the community at large, including families, the business community, religious establishments and every other segment of the Pontiac community. Community involvement could mean volunteering at the school in your neighborhood, attending board meetings, mentoring students, joining the PTA, sponsoring a school activity and/or attending the many school events that take place during the school year."

In order to achieve the objectives outlined above, TPN suggests that the following critical action steps be taken:

Establish and implement a District-wide Student Success Program. This project would teach all of our 8,000+ students how to be successful in school. This would include teaching our students the proper classroom decorum, such as how to dress, and how to impress your instructors, how to prepare for class, how to study, how to take tests, how to take notes, how to make a time schedule and how to perform the various other tasks needed to succeed in school.

Execute a comprehensive Parent Training and Involvement Program. This program would teach parents how to help their child succeed in school and in the general society. Included in this training is a specific step-by-step process for helping parents to develop the skills needed to properly interact with teachers and other district personnel, as well as how to become effectively involved in their child's education.

Initiate and implement a comprehensive teacher development and training program that will show our teachers how to motivate, stimulate, educate and cultivate Pontiac students! Another component of this project will focus on assisting our teachers on how to properly interact with the parents of this district.

Perform an assessment/evaluation of every school in the district to determine specific needs in order to create school improvement plans specific to each particular school.

Conduct a community educational/workforce needs assessment spearheaded by the Pontiac Alumni Foundation in conjunction with the business community and the workforce development community to define the business and workforce needs for the next 5-20 years. Work with school board and administrative staff to develop relevant education and training programs and incorporate these findings into the school curriculum in order to train students to meet community educational and workforce needs.

Over the past 25+ years this writer has personally met with every superintendent (except Mr. Lee) that we have had during this period including Dr. Nails, Dr. Abrams, Dr. Gregg, Dr. Hawkins, Dr. Burt and Dr. Mason. In addition, we have also met with and made presentations to various boards of education during this same time period. During these various meetings and discussions we have consistently presented the information outlined above. Like most members of the community who have attempted to assist the district in solving these now chronic problems, we were ignored, distracted, played-off and/or discredited. As a consequence of these tactics, our district is now facing a crisis of monumental proportions. The question is "are they willing to work with us to turn OUR school district around?" I think they are!

So there you have it; my 2 cents worth. Hopefully these suggestions will be received in the spirit in which they are presented - as a primer or catalyst for action!

Again please keep in mind that the suggestions made in this editorial is the opinion of this writer. We welcome your comments!— **TPN**

## — School District News —

### Interested Persons Invited

#### To Apply To Serve On School Board

Persons interested in serving as a Trustee to fill a vacant Board seat (term of this seat ends June 30, 2008) are invited to submit an application by September 17th.

The process for filling this vacant Board seat is as follows:

**Monday September 10th 2:00PM** applications will become available. Those interested in applying will be able to obtain applications online from the District's website ([www.pontiac.k12.mi.us](http://www.pontiac.k12.mi.us)), or from the Superintendent's office at 47200 Woodward Avenue, Pontiac Michigan

**Monday September 17th by 4:00PM** the completed application must be submitted to the Superintendent's office.

**Wednesday September 19th** those applicants selected to be interviewed will be notified

**Friday September 21st** the selected Candidates will be interviewed by the Board

**Monday September 24th** The Board will make its final selection in open meeting.

On September 5th President Roberts tendered, in writing, her resignation from the Board and from her office as President. Per State election law and Board policy, a resignation from the Board once submitted becomes effective.

### New Board Officers

In the wake of the resignation the board has reorganized, per board bylaw and Robert Rules of Order, as follows:

President	=	April Hernandez
Vice President	=	Chris Northcross
Secretary	=	Alma Bradley-Petress
Treasurer	=	Gil Garrett

By law the Board must select an eligible resident of the School District of Pontiac to fill this vacancy by no later than October 5th of this year.

### Other Significant Board News

An employee's summit was held on August 30th at Oakland Schools with the theme of New Beginnings. Dr. Jelani Jabari give a highly motivational and very inspiring

presentation that served to focus all present on the education of young minds.

**Schools opened September 4th on a very positive note. Staff was organized and prepared and the buildings were clean and set to receive the students. Special thanks to the many volunteers who pitched in to help the District prepare its buildings.**

On September 7th a newly renovated Reading & Learning Center was unveiled at Will Rogers Elementary School courtesy of the defending world champion basketball team The Detroit Shock. The Reading & Learning Center is a state of the art facility chuck full of cutting edge technologies, thanks to IBM and other partners.

On hand for the event was the entire Shock WNBA women's professional basketball team, Head Coach Bill Laimbeer, Assistant Coach Rick Mahorn, the team mascot Zap representatives of IBM, Mayor Clarence Phillips, Police Chief Gross, and four School Board Trustees (Bradly-Petress, Garrett, Bass and Northcross). This was a wonderful event.— **Board Trustee Chris Northcross**

What's Happening In Pontiac



Mayor Phillips



Pontiac City Council

# Pontiac City Officials Promise Full Cooperation on Sale of Pontiac Silverdome

At the Pontiac City Council meeting held on August 23, 2007, the Pontiac City Council passed a Resolution pledging full cooperation in processing the bids from the Request For Proposals on the purchase and redevelopment of the approximately 127 acre Pontiac Silverdome site, located at 1200 Opdyke Road, Pontiac, Michigan (Copy of Resolution attached).

Mayor Clarence Phillips said "Our elected officials are in agreement to provide prompt professional processing of all bids, which are due in to our professional brokerage firm of CB Richard Ellis on October 11, 2007. I have contacted our city staff to make processing a priority item. When the successful bidder is determined, they will receive expeditious attention by all departments."

Council President Art McClellan and Council President Pro Tem Joseph Hansen indicated, "We just want to let the develop-

ment community know we are prepared to work together in the prompt processing of all bids and the final selection of an offer after public hearings."

Council President Pro Tem, Joseph Hansen, is the Councilman in charge of the Silverdome Sub-Committee; whose members include representatives from the Stadium Authority, CB Richard Ellis, The Pontiac Growth Group, Professional City Staff, Economic Development staff from Oakland County, and Staff of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

For additional information, contact Ms. Myrna Burroughs of CB Richard Ellis at 248-351-2028 or email myrna.burroughs@cbre.com. The Silverdome bid information can be accepted at CBRE c/o Myrna Burroughs at 1000 Town Center, Suite 2300, Southfield, Michigan 48075. The RFP may be accessed at www.cbre.com/pontiacsilverdome.

## Town Meetings

There is an important opportunity coming up soon to help shape the future of Pontiac and have some fun at the same time.

There will be four Town Meetings in late September and early October to receive public input on how to shape the future of Pontiac over the next 20 years. Faculty and students from Michigan State University will lead four visioning sessions where citizens will be asked to share their ideas for the future in round table discussions.

**YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS ATTENDING ONE OF THESE VISIONING SESSIONS. THEY ARE FUN!**

**PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO COME!**

The meetings will run from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the following locations. There will be refreshments.

- Tuesday, September 25 - UAW Local 653 - 670 East Walton
- Thursday, September 27 - Holland Center 469 MLK, South
- Tuesday, October 2 - Bowens Center - 52 Bagley
- Thursday, October 11 - Howard Dell Center - 345 Edison

For more information contact the Office of Land Use and Strategic Planning at 248-758-2888

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!

**We Welcome Your Input!**

Send your ideas to:  
PO Box 431412, Suite #1  
Pontiac, MI 48343  
ThePontiacNews@SBCGlobal.net

# Royal Carpet Cleaning

*Guaranteed To Come Clean*



Prince Miles EL  
Carpet Cleaner

235 Sanford  
Pontiac, MI 48342

**248-454-0808**  
princmiles@yahoo.com

Get a great job  
you'll feel great about.

1500 University Dr.  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
[www.baker.edu](http://www.baker.edu)



(248) 340-0600  
(888) 429-0410

*You'll do better with Baker!*

An Equal Opportunity  
Affirmative Action Institution Y6151-AH

—What's Happening In Oakland County—

# Accomplishments



Patterson

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has provided strong leadership and inspired stewardship that has resulted in a number of outstanding achievements for Oakland County during his term in office, including:

### Growth

- Retail sales in Oakland County totaled \$22.5 billion in 2002, surpassing total retail sales in 14 separate states and the District of Columbia.
- Oakland County was the fastest growing labor market in Michigan between 1991 and 2003 with employment increasing 90 percent faster than the state and 33 percent faster than the nation.
- Oakland County was Michigan's number one county for business development between 1997 and 2003, with more than 10,000 new expansion projects.
- More than \$220 million has been invested in Oakland County's 10 Main Street communities over the past four years.
- Manpower's Employment Outlook Survey ranks Oakland County as one of the top 10 growth markets in the U.S.
- Successful trade missions to Mexico, Canada, China and Germany have generated millions of dollars in new business for local companies.

### Public Safety

- Oakland County's CLEMIS (Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System) signed a data sharing agreement with the Michigan State Police that will make 1.5 million mug shots available statewide along with an extensive fingerprint database.
- The 31-year old CLEMIS has been technologically improved to allow officers to access a wide array of data from their patrol cars.
- Oak Video, Oakland County's new multi-point video arraignment system, will link all district and circuit courts, as well as the prosecutor's office, jails, booking facilities and law enforcement agencies in Oakland County.
- A new radio communications system is in place that will allow police and fire agencies for the first time to communicate across boundary lines. The \$17 million COPSMORE grant presented to Oakland County by the U.S. Justice Department is the largest multi-jurisdictional grant ever approved in the history of the program.

### Health

- The Oakland County Prescription Savings Program is saving participants between 15-40 percent on their prescription purchases. The \$7 Prescription Relief Program, targeting low-income individuals, is saving participants an average of \$2,400 each on prescription purchases.
- More than 29,000 third and fourth grade students participated in the County Executive's Count Your Steps pedometer walking program targeting childhood obesity in 2004.
- Between 2002 and 2003 the black infant mortality rate in Pontiac dropped from 21.4 per 1,000 live births to 9.8.

• Oakland County's Health Division has successfully dealt with two Hepatitis A outbreaks, an outbreak of Legionnaires Disease and the West Nile Virus.

### Veterans

• The new Great Lakes National Cemetery, located in Holly, is Michigan's second National Veteran's Cemetery.

### Technology

- Four out of five businesses and homes in Oakland County have access to a high speed Internet connection, which is higher than the national average.
- *CIO Magazine*, a national publication focusing on Information Technology, selected Oakland County as the only county in America among its 100 award recipients for 2004.
- The 530-member Automation Alley consortium ranks as one of America's premier technology clusters with more than 19,000 high tech companies and a technology workforce of 568,000.
- Automation Alley's new technology center in Troy is expected to contribute \$15 million to the region's economy while creating some 100 new jobs.
- Implementation of OAKNet, a 380-mile fiber optic network connecting hundreds of locations, allows local units of government to exchange large amounts of data more efficiently and cost-effectively.
- Oakland County was the first government unit in the nation to successfully develop and implement an enhanced access program called Access Oakland, which offers 30 on-line services and generated revenue of \$2 million in 2004.

### Government

- According to a recent survey, Oakland County delivers government services at the lowest cost based on personal income of the 50 largest counties in America.
- More than 80 percent of all Business Roundtable recommendations have been implemented since 1993 including the establishment of a One Stop Shop for business development; a new focus on downtowns and older commercial areas; the Export Assistance Center; and a countywide Workforce Development Board to consolidate all job-training programs.
- Since 1998, Oakland County has maintained an AAA Bond rating because of its sound business practices, escalating tax base, exploding business growth and spiraling commercial, residential and industrial development. Oakland County is one of 34 counties nationwide to have achieved this highest rating out of more than 3,000 counties.
- Oakland County's 4.19 county millage rate is among the lowest in the State of Michigan.
- The Employees' Suggestion Program has saved more than \$3.5 million since 1993.
- The Casual Day Fund has distributed nearly \$400,000 to local charities since being established in 1993.
- Privatization efforts have saved the County \$2 million annually since 1993.

### Quality of Life

• Arts, Beats & Eats Festival attracts more than a million people over the Labor Day Weekend to downtown Pontiac. It is widely recognized as one of America's top 20 premiere summertime events.

—From the County Seat—

# What Does a Oakland County Commissioner Do?



Hatchett

By: Mattie McKinney Hatchett, Oakland County Commissioner

One of the most frequently asked questions of any Oakland County Commissioner is "What Does a County Commissioner Do?"

The answer lies in the many duties and responsibilities of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. First, as a member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, I am one of 25 elected commissioners who serve two-year terms. Each commissioner represents one of the 25 county districts comprised of approximately 48,000 people.

As a member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, one of the major responsibilities of the Board is to oversee the county budget of over 7 billion dollars, to be exact, the upcoming 2008 fiscal year budget is 708.8 million dollars. Another role of the Board of Commissioners is to set policy for county departments and personnel.

Budget recommendations are sent to the Board of Commissioners through a committee process where discussions about funding, policies, or issues are provided. Options are weighed during this process as we vote to approve or deny support for many issues, policies and funding requests. Operating under a committee system, the Board has five standing committees representing the following areas: Finance, Personnel, General Government, Planning and Building, and Public Services.

The Finance Committee plans ways and means for financing county activities, prepares and presents the recommended county budget, examines assessments of local taxing units and determines the county's equalized value; review and approve federal and state grants while providing oversight for all internal and external audit functions.

The Personnel Committee formulates policies on personnel matters, including wages, fringe benefits and employee human resource issues. This committee sets Oakland County Merit System policies, collaborates with the Oakland County Retirement Commission regarding pension matters and retirees' healthcare benefits, as well as reviews the annual affirmative action program reports.

The General Government Committee receives, reviews and recommends proposed revisions of the Rules of the Board of Commissioners. All public transportation policies affecting Oakland County are reviewed recommendations to the full Board regarding Committee Chairpersons, membership and appointments requiring full Board approval are made through this committee. Legislation and county ordinance recommendations are made through the committee that also acts as a liaison with all federal, state, regional and local agencies and governments.

The Planning and Building Committee develops a 5-year Capital Improvement Program and act as the County Coordinating

Zoning Committee. They oversee the purchase, sale or lease of properties and facilities, as well as, building alterations and new construction. This committee biennially reviews all county-owned buildings and facilities, as well as inspects and provides maintenance and improvement of county-owned buildings and facilities.

The Public Services Committee informs the board on all matters of the Administration, Animal Control, the MSU Cooperative Extensions, Veterans' Services and Circuit Court Probation. They review and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on law enforcement matters, as well as Emergency Management, the Medical Examiner, the Prosecuting Attorney and all courts.

All committees are open to the public and allow time for Public Comment. For committee meeting times, visit the Oakland County Board of Commissioners website at [www.oakgov.com/boc/](http://www.oakgov.com/boc/).

In addition, each commissioner acts as a liaison between their local governments, individuals, businesses, informal and formal groups, and all county departments. The responsibility of a commissioner is to eliminate any delays, red tape and assist you in successfully completing your business while continuing to make Oakland County a great place for you to live, work, play and prosper.

If you have any concerns, please contact me at 248-499-2142

## D'litteful Ice

**ICE CREAM  
POPCORN • SNACKS**

**Spencer M. Dinkins III**  
**President**  
Management, Sales, Logistics, Marketing

**P.O. Box 21026**  
**Auburn Hills, MI 48326**

**248-894-6172**

**[sdinkins@delittefulice.net](mailto:sdinkins@delittefulice.net)**

# —What's Happening In Lansing—

## Oakland Dems Unveil Plan Prohibiting Reckless Predatory Lending Practices

### Legislation safeguards Michigan homeowners from unscrupulous lenders

LANSING – State Representatives Tim Melton (D-Pontiac), Marie Donigan (D-Royal Oak), Andy Meisner (D-Ferndale), and Aldo Vagnozzi (D-Farmington/Farmington Hills) today unveiled the Michigan Home Loan Protection Act, a comprehensive legislative package that cracks down on predatory mortgage-lending practices and strengthens consumer protections in the face of the collapsing subprime mortgage market.

“Home foreclosures have skyrocketed across Oakland County and throughout entire state of Michigan, threatening the development of our communities as families are too often forced from their homes,” Melton said. “Michigan ranks among the highest in the country in home foreclosures due in part to the practice of reckless predatory lending. The Michigan Home Loan Protection Act will close the door on this unscrupulous business practice that has taken advantage of too many of Michigan’s working families.”

#### The Michigan Home Loan Protection Act will:

- Ban predatory lending practices, such as making loans without requiring borrowers to prove their ability to repay the loan, encouraging borrowers to default, charging excessive late fees and charging fees for a payoff statement.
- Protect homeowners’ equity by prohibiting home refinancing to generate fees for the lender unless there is a tangible net benefit to the borrower.



**Left to Right: Representatives from Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), State Representative Marie Donigan (D-Royal Oak), State Representative Steve Tobococman (D-Detroit), Oakland County Commissioner Tim Greimel (District 11), State Representative Tim Melton (D-Pontiac), and State Representative Andy Meisner (D-Ferndale). Not Seen in Picture: Sam Scott-State Representative Tim Melton (D-Pontiac), and State Representative Legislative Assistant Greg Sterns-Lighthouse-(Pontiac Location), and State Representative Aldo Vagnozzi (D-Farmington/Farmington Hills)**

- Protect consumers from being steered toward high-cost loans when they would otherwise qualify for a traditional loan.
- Prohibit the financing of any points and fees that hide the true costs of the loan.
- Prohibit prepayment penalties.
- Require vulnerable borrowers to receive independent counseling from a certified third-party, non-profit counselor.

- Give injured and aggrieved homeowners legal recourse so they can independently enforce these consumer protections against unscrupulous lenders.

“The Mortgage Home Loan Protection Act is about defending Michigan’s residents from mortgage lenders who mislead consumers,” Donigan said. “Predatory lenders are more interested in making a buck than

keeping Michigan’s families in their homes, and this legislation will ensure that these unethical practices that are killing the American dream are shut down.”

According to federal data, subprime borrowers are often steered by brokers into signing Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs) and

*See Melton on page 11*

# —What's Happening In Washington—

## Meet Congressman Joe Knollenberg



**Knollenberg**

A small business owner, PTA president, homeowner association president, and parish leader, Congressman Joe Knollenberg has been a citizen leader in Oakland County for the better part of three decades.

Elected to Congress in 1992, Knollenberg is the ranking member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development. In this role, Knollenberg utilizes his stature in Congress to fight for Oakland County’s fair share of federal money for local road projects and other priorities such as environmental clean ups of the Rouge River. Knollenberg is also a senior member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and a key ally of the many ethnically diverse communities in Oakland County.

A recipient of the National Federation of Independent Business’ top legislative award, Knollenberg is a strong supporter of health care reforms that will reduce costs for small businesses and make it easier for them to offer insurance to their workers. Knollenberg has also championed legislation to provide tax credits to small businesses that create new jobs. And he has worked to reduce the cost of regulations and litigation on small businesses.

Knollenberg is one of the auto industry’s most effective advocates in Congress. He has

fought to rescind costly steel tariffs that drive up the cost of auto manufacturing for The Big Three and their suppliers. In 2006, Knollenberg authored legislation to crack down on counterfeiters who make fraudulent auto parts that cost Michigan thousands of auto jobs. The Knollenberg counterfeit law was a top priority of The National Association of Manufacturers, The United States Chamber of Commerce, and scores of automotive suppliers located in Oakland County. In the 110th Congress, Knollenberg is working to promote alternative fuels as a means to reduce America’s dependence on Middle East oil and to prevent job-killing increases in federal fuel economy regulations.

Knollenberg has worked closely with Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson on initiatives to diversify Southeast Michigan’s economy and attract good paying, high-tech jobs to our communities. Knollenberg was instrumental in securing federal funding to build Automation Alley’s new headquarters. And he believes we must raise the bar on education and focus more extensively on math and science education to ensure our children have the skills to compete in the global economy.

A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, Knollenberg served in the Army before launching his business career. He and his wife, Sandie, have been married for 44 years and have lived in Oakland County for 40 years. They have two sons, Marty and Steve, who also reside in Oakland County. Marty Knollenberg represents Troy and Clawson in the Michigan Legislature. Steve Knollenberg is a successful entrepreneur.

## FOR YOUR COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES



Contact  
**ROBERT D. WRIGHT**  
SR. MORTGAGE BROKER

VANDYK MORTGAGE  
**(T) 248-342-6452**  
**(F) 248-322-1230**

Wright3646@sbcglobal.net

## — Educational Matters —

# The Six Habits Of Fiscally Responsible School Districts

*The Six Habits of Fiscally Responsible School Districts is an article that was written by Dr. Kirk A. Johnson and Elizabeth Moser of The Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a nonprofit research and educational institute headquartered in Midland, Michigan. This is the second and third parts in a seven part series that outlines the Habits of a Fiscally Responsible School District.*

*This article continues from the first issue of The Pontiac News. This week's topic focuses on Habit 1 and Habit 2.*



Moser



Johnson

**Habit 1: Minimize Administrative Costs.** The first hallmark of fiscal responsibility starts with front office functions. Many school districts employ a small phalanx of consultants, administrators, assistant superintendents, etc. Does the existence of this sometimes-extensive front office staff help educate children, or could this money be better used in the classroom?

**Habit 2: Take Advantage of Cost Savings from Outsourcing Non-Instructional Services.** Most schools currently run a broad range of non-instructional services, such as janitorial, food, transportation, etc. When these services are opened up for competitive bidding, many school districts find they can either improve the quality of the services, save money on comparable services, or both.

**Habit 1: Minimize Administrative Costs** For public school districts, as with any venture, fiscal responsibility starts at the top. This means controlling administration costs in Michigan's public schools, particularly since expenditures on administration have risen faster than other budgetary areas over the past three years. According to the S&P School Evaluation Services, central administration costs have increased more than twice as fast as instructional expenses, including teacher salaries. Building administration (principals and school directors), grew at about 5 percent, more than the 3 percent that teacher salaries increased over the same period. Combined, these administrative expenditures make up 10 percent of total annual education spending, or \$1.4 billion. This translates to more than \$846 per-pupil in administrative spending.

There are ways of trimming administrative costs through outsourcing, while potentially alleviating some of the problems associated with district-run administration. For example, Detroit Public Schools' payroll system has been fraught with problems, mostly stemming from employees not being paid correctly; outsourcing this to a private company that has a pecuniary interest in its accuracy would likely solve the problem entirely.

School districts of all sizes, though, could benefit from outsourcing adminis-

trative functions such as payroll services. The Texas State Comptroller of Public Account's office (the state auditor) has been conducting school district performance reviews over the past few years. In these performance reviews, the Comptroller's office estimates how much money could be saved through outsourcing certain administrative functions, among other fiscal recommendations. One example is the Eagle Pass Independent School District in the Rio Grande valley. The Comptroller's office estimates that the 12,500-student school district could enjoy a net savings of nearly \$43,000 per year if they outsourced their payroll functions. Mid-size districts in Michigan could realize similar savings.

Other administrative areas in which school districts should consider outsourcing include records management, benefits administration (flexible spending accounts, some insurance benefits, etc.) and even candidate recruitment.

Another way administrative costs can be reduced is by contracting out administrative functions entirely, which is precisely what happened a few years back in Minneapolis. That city's school district became the first public school entity to name a private company to the position of school superintendent.

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) originally hired Public Strategies Group (PSG), a private consulting firm, in February 1993 to help balance its books. The district was \$5 million in debt when PSG was hired. Around that time, MPS also hired a search firm to help locate a new superintendent. The district authorized the search firm to consider nontraditional candidates and even asked PSG if it would be interested in the position.

Peter Hutchison, PSG's president, took the district's suggestion to heart and offered himself as a candidate, intending to hold the position of superintendent temporarily. In 1994, the 45,000-student district accepted Hutchison's proposal, but with a twist. It hired the entire PSG firm to serve, in the district's words, "in the capacity of superintendent."

Thus began a unique public-private partnership that ultimately resulted in four contracts between PSG and the district, beginning January 1994 and ending in June 1998. In Minneapolis, an entire firm's expertise was brought to bear on a school district's management for a mere \$72,000 per year, far less than the average annual superintendent's salary and benefits.

The Minneapolis school district paid PSG a total of \$431,000 for its work during the first contract and its initial extension. This payment included just over \$70,000 in base salary, with the rest being bonuses for meeting 60 percent of the school district's goals. This outcome-based contract allowed the school district to pay most of PSG's compensation only after the firm had thoroughly proven itself.

Local media also were impressed with PSG's performance. According to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, PSG "made fundamental changes in a district that was desperately in need of direction and competence. [Hutchison] streamlined some ancient bureaucratic practices and brought about improved test scores in elementary grades." The editorial continued, "Staff

morale has improved, and administrators are encouraged to admit failure as well as success."

The public-private partnership of Minneapolis Public Schools and PSG contains a lesson for school districts everywhere who wish to improve education while freeing scarce resources for other purposes. As Hutchison told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, privatization gave PSG "a chance to share ... our success and the elements that have gone into that success, so that we can all learn how to get better."

Clearly, minimizing administrative costs can reap savings for public school districts of all sizes. Districts should therefore analyze their administrative expenditures first when they look to maximize classroom spending.

**Habit 2: Take Advantage of Cost Savings through Outsourcing Non-Instructional Services** One of the most straightforward ways school districts can save money or improve services is to evaluate how they provide non-instructional services, such as transportation, food services, and maintenance. If private companies could provide these non-instructional school services better and/or cheaper than the school district itself, there is little reason for the district to continue providing these services.

Note that this is different from blindly privatizing these services. Districts should know their service costs and compare them to alternatives by soliciting and evaluating bid contracts. This process alone is beneficial to public school districts for two basic reasons. First, the bids show districts what options are available to them saving money or improving services. Second, districts can compare the bids to their own internal costs of providing these services. If districts are providing non-instructional services for less than it would cost to hire private businesses (to perform the same services) then it would be fiscally *irresponsible* to outsource those services.

Outsourcing school-related operational services through competitive bidding is common throughout the nation. According to a 1997 survey by *American School & University* magazine, more than 40 percent of the nation's school districts are contracting out for bus transportation and more than 21 percent are contracting out for food service. Philadelphia's school district alone saved over \$29 million in just two years by relying on privatized transportation, food service, custodial, and other functions. In a similar fashion, Chicago's school district saved \$20 million over three years by contracting out its bus service.

**Maintenance** The Detroit Public Schools, under CEO Kenneth Burnley, have aggressively outsourced a number of operational services, beginning with maintenance and janitorial services. In January of 2002, Detroit Public Schools (DPS) signed a 10-year, \$78.5 million contract with Aramark ServiceMaster Facilities Services to manage its 3,000-employee maintenance operations department.

Whether or not the Aramark contract will save the district money will be determined over time, but the move signals a wholesale change in the way school maintenance is handled in Detroit. This is

the kind of outsourcing that has the best chance to save money and improve services.

Aramark claims that the contract will save DPS a substantial sum of money because the company will be able to eliminate a layer of bureaucracy by sending 43 sub-foremen back to labor positions. Aramark ServiceMaster also will revamp the district's maintenance department to provide higher quality service. Among the planned improvements are putting a deadline on work orders (there was a backlog of 20,000) with a new software program, selling the maintenance warehouse and buying smaller, more centrally located buildings, and giving workers district vehicles stocked with supplies so they do not have to drive back to the warehouse for parts.

Similar maintenance contracts were granted by DPS in 2001 to two firms, B&L Landscaping and Torro & Braglio Landscaping, for snow removal, and Jackson Public Schools' recent outsourcing of painting services is projected to net the district about \$150,000 per year.

**Transportation** The Pontiac School District in Oakland County made statewide headlines in 1993 when it sold its buses and hired Ryder Student Transportation Services to transport its 4,000 students to and from school. Designed to net the district savings of about \$500,000 annually, the Pontiac plan spurred other school bus privatizations across the state.

To handle its busing, the Climax-Scotts School District in Kalamazoo County hired Cincinnati-based Laidlaw Transit Corporation in 1996. "We've never been happier," says the district's business manager Lou Wade. "Drivers get more in-service training and the company helps educate our students about bus safety too."

**Food Services** Chartwells, a subsidiary of United Kingdom-based Compass Group that operates offices in Grand Rapids and other U.S. cities, won a contract to manage food service for Mt. Pleasant Public Schools in the late 1990s. Under the agreement, all school food service employees except one manager from Chartwells remained employees of the district, complete with unchanged salaries and fringe benefits.

In the first full year, Chartwells has saved the Mt. Pleasant district \$113,000. The first \$100,000 in savings came because Chartwells, being a large multinational company, can buy larger stores of supplies at a time than any single school district, and suppliers will charge the company less because it buys in bulk. Another \$13,000 in savings was achieved simply by streamlining certain operations, such as food preparation and delivery, something the district had been unable to do as effectively as Chartwells.

The food is better, too, and healthier choices such as a salad bar are now available. Student use of the high school cafeteria is up dramatically.

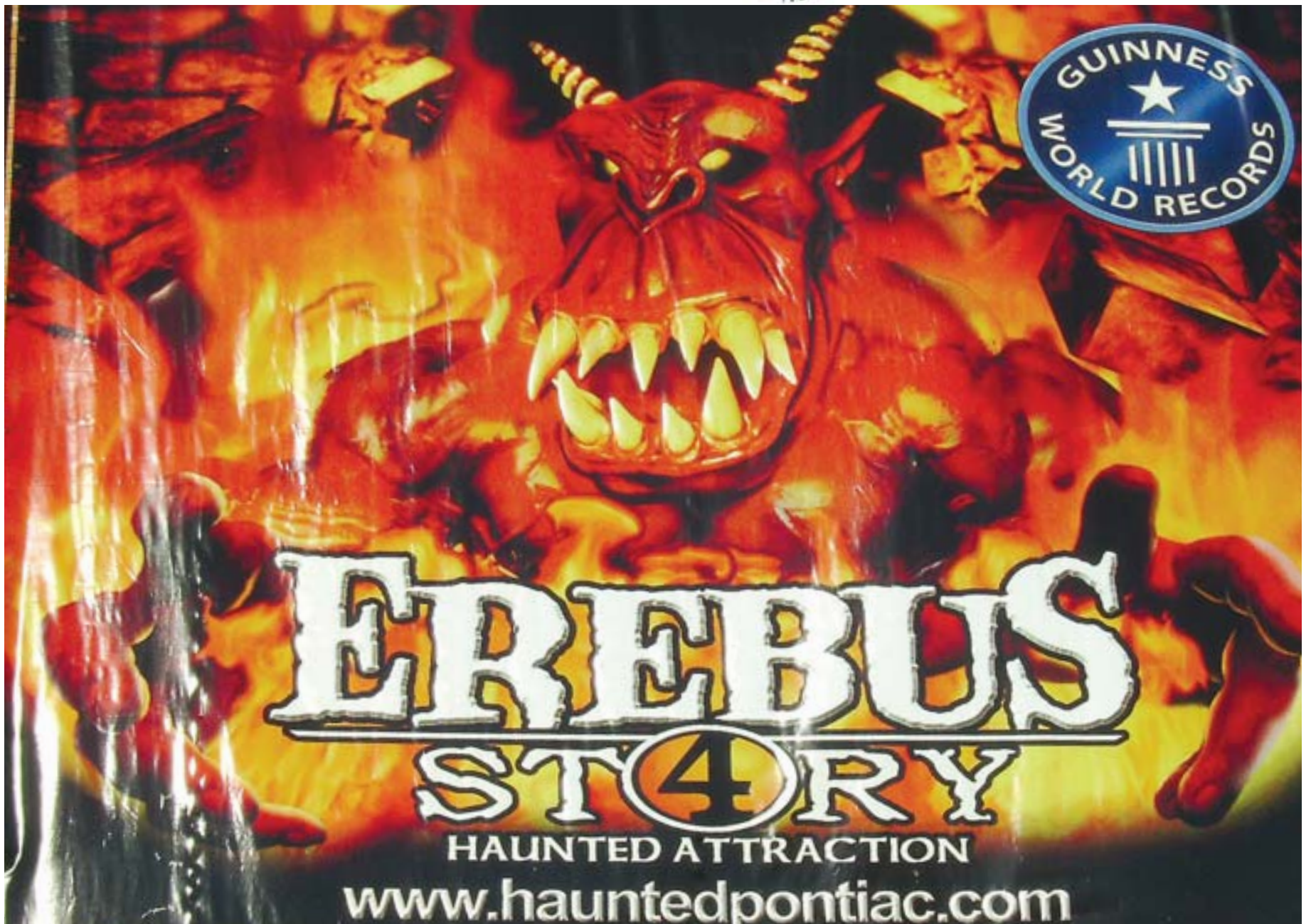
Food service is a popular target for competitive bidding and contracting. In addition to Chartwells, Michigan school districts also have contracted for food

*See Habits on page 11*

# Downtown Pontiac



# Events 2007



## Haunted House Attraction

**SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 31**

**Downtown City of Pontiac**

- The one you heard about....It's the haunted attraction that, "Shows No Mercy!"
  - Erebus, is an award-winning, four-story, high-tech entertainment complex.
  - Known across the U.S., this masterpiece of horror rivals the wizardry you's see in Hollywood film or experience in a major theme park.



# THE STUDENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP

## HOW TO GET BETTER GRADES IN SCHOOL

A Workshop For Students By The Youth Development Institute

### THIS WORKSHOP WILL HELP THE STUDENT TO IMMEDIATELY

- Get Better Grades In School
- Get Better Test Scores

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS INFORMATIVE WORKSHOP

- How To Prepare For Class
- What To Do After Class
- What To Do During Classes
- Test Taking Strategies

### TYPICAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT COMMENT:

After attending and applying the material that was presented at this workshop my grades and study habits improved.

### REVIEWER COMMENT:

This Workshop is a must for the serious student who wants to get better grades in school.

### IT WORKS:

Hundreds of students have already attended this workshop and are now getting better grades in school.

# THE PARENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR CHILD A SUCCESS IN SCHOOL, FRIENDSHIPS AND IN ATHLETICS

A Workshop For Parents, Guardians & Caregivers By: The Youth Development Institute

### THIS WORKSHOP WILL HELP PARENTS TO IMMEDIATELY

- Help Their Child to Develop a Sense of Responsibility.
- Help Their Child To Read Better and Get Better Grades In School
- Help Their Child Get Better Test Scores.
- Help Their Child With His/Her Homework

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AMAZING WORKSHOP INCLUDES

- Ways To Help Your Child Learn.
- Ten Steps To Improved Reading.
- Impact Of Parental Support.
- Getting Along With Others.

### TYPICAL PARENT COMMENT:

After participating and applying the material presented in this workshop my ability to help my child has increased significantly.

### PARTICIPANTS COMMENTS:

This workshop is a must for the concerned parent who wants to help their child succeed in school, friendships and in sports.

### IT WORKS:

Hundreds of parents have already attended this workshop and are now helping their children succeed in school, friendships and in sports.

I am interested in enrolling in **THE STUDENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP!**

Please contact me at the address listed below, with the time, date and location of this workshop.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Student Age \_\_\_\_\_

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) - P.O. BOX 431016 - PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48343

NON-PROFIT YOUTH SERVICE CONCEPT SINCE 1983 YDI

I am interested in enrolling in **THE PARENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP!**

Please contact me at the address listed below, with the time, date and location of this workshop.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

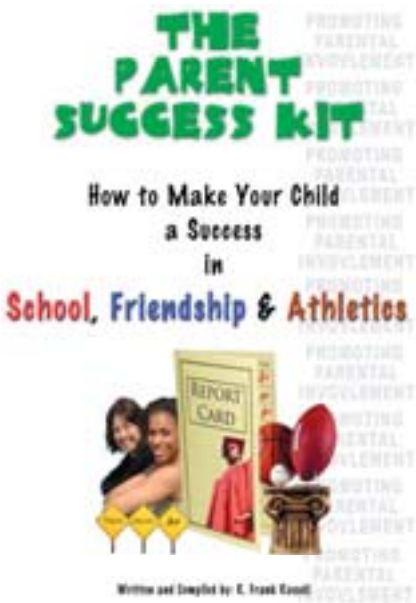
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Student Age \_\_\_\_\_

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) - P.O. BOX 431016 - PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48343

NON-PROFIT YOUTH SERVICE CONCEPT SINCE 1983 YDI



### THIS HANDBOOK WILL HELP PARENTS TO IMMEDIATELY:

- Help Your Child to Develop a Sense of Responsibility.
- Help Your Child To Read Better and Get Better Grades and Test Scores In School.
- Help Your Child With His/Her Homework.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AMAZING HANDBOOK:

- Contains Tear Out Work Sheets & Charts To Help You Help Your Child.
- Sixty Ways to Help Your Child Learn.
- Ten Steps to Improved Reading.
- What The Research Says About Parental Support.
- Getting Along With Others.

### TYPICAL READER COMMENT:

After reading and applying the material in this handbook my ability to help my child has increased 100%.

### IRON CLAD GUARANTEE:

If you're not completely satisfied with this handbook after you have it for 10 days, return it for a full refund.

### IT WORKS!

Hundreds of parents have already used this handbook and are now helping their children succeed in school, friendships and in sports.

**REVIEWER COMMENTS:**  
• This handbook is a must for the concerned parent who wants to help their child succeed in school.

Clip Coupon and mail to: The Youth Development Institute P.O. BOX 431016 - PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48343 email: YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com

Please send Me \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of **THE PARENT SUCCESS KIT** AT \$14.95 each plus \$2.00 Postage and Handling. It is my understanding that if I am not completely satisfied with the book after 10 days of receipt, I can return the book undamaged for a full refund.

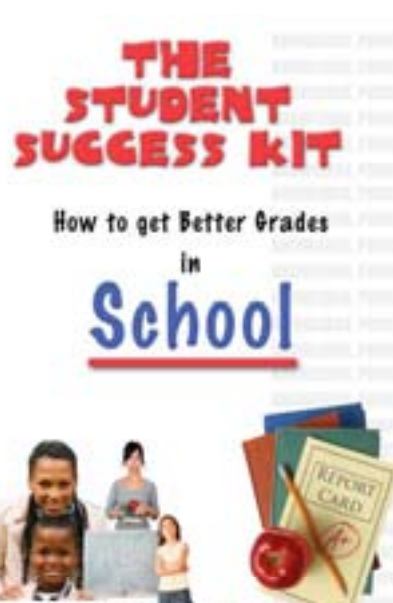
Money Order Enclosed  Check Enclosed (Make Payable to Youth Development Institute)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



### THIS HANDBOOK WILL HELP THE STUDENT TO IMMEDIATELY:

- Get Better Grades In School
- Get Better Test Scores

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AMAZING HANDBOOK:

- How To Prepare For Class
- What To Do After Class
- What To Do During Classes
- Test Taking Strategies
- Contains Tear Out Worksheets and Charts To Help You Get Better Grades

### TYPICAL READER COMMENT:

After reading and applying the material in this handbook my grades went from a (D-) to a (B+).

### IRON CLAD GUARANTEE:

If you are not completely satisfied with this handbook after you have it for 10 days you may return it for a full refund.

### IT WORKS!

Hundreds of students have already used this handbook and are now getting better grades in School.

**REVIEWER COMMENTS:**  
• This handbook is a must for the serious student who wants to get better grades in school.

Clip Coupon and mail to: The Youth Development Institute P.O. BOX 431016 - PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48343 email: YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com

Please send Me \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of **THE STUDENT SUCCESS KIT** AT \$14.95 each plus \$2.00 Postage and Handling. It is my understanding that if I am not completely satisfied with the book after 10 days of receipt, I can return the book undamaged for a full refund.

Money Order Enclosed  Check Enclosed (Make Payable to Youth Development Institute)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## — Educational Matters —

# A Perspective on Why Our Children Can't Read and Write! Part 2

By Robert W. Sweet, Jr. Co-Founder & Former President

© The National Right to Read Foundation

This article continues from the first issue of *The Pontiac News*, where the focus was on the **grim statistics**. This week's issue will explore the **two ways in which American school children are taught to read**.

**Illiteracy: An Incurable Disease or Education Malpractice?**

(Illiteracy is defined as the inability to read or write at a level that allows one to function at a certain level in the society). (Literacy is the ability to read and write. In modern context, the word means reading and writing on a level adequate for written communication and generally a level that enables one to successfully function at certain levels of a society).

Robert Sweet is a former senior official at the U.S. Department of Education, White House domestic policy advisor to President Reagan, head of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency under President Bush, and former high-school teacher. In July 1997, he resigned as President of the foundation to become a professional staff member on the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

**“Learning to read is like learning to drive a car. You take lessons and learn the mechanics and the rules of the road. After a few weeks you have learned how to drive, how to stop, how to shift gears, how to park, and how to signal. You have also learned to stop at a red light and understand road signs. When you are ready, you take a road test, and if you pass, you can drive. Phonics-first works the same way. The child learns the mechanics of reading, and when he's through, he can read. Look and say works differently. The child is taught to read before he has learned the mechanics — the sounds of the letters. It is like learning to drive by starting your car and driving ahead. . . And the mechanics of driving? You would pick those up as you go along.” —Rudolf Flesch, “Why Johnny Still Can't Read,” 1981**

### Two ways to teach reading

Historically, all American school children were taught to read. Teachers never considered that a child “could not” be taught to read, and remedial reading was unheard of. In fact, the first remedial reading clinic opened in 1930, soon after the results of the “look and say” (the so-called “Dick and Jane” program) reading methods were beginning to be felt.

Up until the early part of the 20th century, children were taught to read by first learning the alphabet, then the sounds of each letter, how they blended into syllables, and how those syllables made up words. They were taught that English spelling is logical and systematic, and that to become a fluent reader it was necessary to master the alphabetic “code” in which English words are written, to the

point where it (the code) is used automatically with little conscious thought given to it.

Once a child learned the mechanics of the code, attention could be turned to more advanced content. It seldom, if ever, occurred to teachers to give children word lists to read, or to make beginning readers memorize whole words before learning the components of those words, or to memorize whole stories as today's proponents of the “whole language approach” recommend.

Several recent studies funded by the U.S. Department of Education, including “Preventing Reading Failure: The Myths of Reading Instruction,” found that 90 percent of remedial reading students today are not able to decode fluently, accurately, and at an automatic level of response. In a March, 1989, Phi Delta Kappan article, Harvard Professor Jeanne Chall (author of “Learning to Read: The Great Debate”) cites a study by Peter Freebody and Brian Byrne, that confirms the same finding. Today's students are not being taught the fundamental structure of language, but rather are engaged in what Dr. Kenneth Goodman (a proponent of “the whole language approach”) has called a “psycholinguistic guessing game.”

One philosophy of teaching reading is usually called “whole language” but many other labels are used to describe it, such as: the whole-word method; language experience; psycholinguistics; look and say; reading recovery; balanced literacy; or integrated reading instruction. The “whole language” or “look and say” method teaches that children should memorize or “guess” at words in context by using initial letter or picture clues. According to estimates given in one widely used “look and say” reading series, a child taught this method should be able to recognize 349 words by the end of the first grade; 1,094 by the end of the second; 1,216 by the end of the third; and 1,554 by the end of the fourth grade. Learning to read this way is supposed to be more meaningful and fun. This way of teaching is currently used by nearly all of the schools in the United States. It is clear that the current high illiteracy rate is directly due to this scientifically invalidated approach to reading instruction.

Another approach is called intensive, systematic phonics first. With this technique, children are taught how to sound out and blend the letters that make up words in a specific sequence, from the simple to the complex. Today, educators call this method the “code” approach because it teaches the skills and logic children need to understand the English spelling system. When a child comes to school he or she has a spoken vocabulary of up to 24,000 words. Children taught to read using systematic phonics can usually read and understand at least as many words as they have in their spoken vocabulary by the end of the third grade.

Teaching children to read is the most important objective educators have to accomplish. Reading is a prerequisite for everything else, not only in school but in life itself. Western civilization has taught its children to read using an alphabetic approach ever since the Phoenicians invented the alphabet and the Egyptians stopped writing in hieroglyphics. English is an alphabetic language that, when written, uses letters to represent speech sounds.

When students were taught to read, they consciously identified the speech sounds and learned to recognize the letters used to represent them. They were then trained to apply this information to “decode” the names of unknown written words, understand their meaning, and comprehend the information presented as a complete thought.

The English language contains approximately half a million words. Of these words, about 300 compose about three-quarters of the words we use regularly. In schools where the “whole language” is taught, children are constantly memorizing “sight” words during the first three or four grades of school, but are never taught how to unlock the meaning of the other 499,700 or more words. Reading failure usually shows up after the fourth grade, when the volume of words needed for reading more difficult material, in science, literature, history, or math cannot be memorized quickly enough. The damage to children who have not been taught phonics usually lies hidden until they leave the controlled vocabulary of the basal readers, for more difficult books where guessing, or memorizing new words just does not work. The result is that textbooks in the middle and upper grades are “dumbed” down to a fourth or fifth grade reading level.

This is the real reason why the SAT scores have dropped to such low levels during the last three decades.

From the time the alphabet was invented until the time of French scientist and mathematician Blaise Pascal, reading was taught by memorizing the sounds of syllables, and then stringing them together to make words. But Pascal found that by separating the syllables into their letter parts, one could learn to read more effectively and efficiently. His method was intended only to assist in the very beginning stages of reading, when a child is learning the printed syllables of his own language.

Former teacher and researcher Geraldine Rodgers puts it this way: “It was only for this purpose that Pascal invented it [phonics], to make the previously almost unending memorization of regularly formed syllables . . . unnecessary. But phonics works, and has since 1655. So it is not surprising that it was invented by one of the most towering mathematical and scientific geniuses in history, Blaise Pascal . . .”

**19th century: “look and say” introduced**

In 1837, Horace Mann, a lawyer and Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, proposed to the Boston School Masters the adoption of a “new method” of reading that began with the memorization of whole words rather than just learning the letter sounds and blending them into words. His “new method” was based on the work of Thomas A. Gallaudet, who had developed a way to teach deaf children to read. Since deaf children had no ability to “sound out” letters, syllables, or words, the constant repetition of “sight” words from a controlled vocabulary seemed to be the most efficient way to teach them to read.

Adapting the work of Gallaudet, Horace Mann and his wife Mary developed a reading program that applied the same principles to students who had no hearing impairment. His method was tried for about six years in the Boston schools, and then soundly rejected by the Boston School Masters in 1844. Samuel Stillwell Greene, then principal of the Phillips Grammar School in Boston, expressed the views of the Boston School Masters, and the following excerpt from his essay is as relevant today as it was in 1844:

“Education is a great concern; it has often been tampered with by vain theorists; it has suffered much from the stupid folly and the delusive wisdom of its treacherous friends; and we hardly know which have injured it most. Our conviction is, that it has much more to hope from the collected wisdom and common prudence of the community, than from the suggestions of the individual. Locke injured it by his theories, and so did Rousseau, and so did Milton. All their plans were too splendid to be true. It is to be advanced by conceptions, neither soaring above the clouds, nor groveling on the earth, — but by those plain, gradual, productive, common-sense improvements, which use may encourage and experience suggest. We are in favor of advancement, provided it be towards usefulness. . . . We love the secretary, but we hate his theories. They stand in the way of substantial education. It is impossible for a sound mind not to hate them.”

The establishment of the normal school to train teachers at the same time Horace Mann was promoting the “new method” was not coincidental because these institutions became the vehicle by which to continue promoting the “new method.” With the help of John Dewey at the University of Chicago, Arthur Gates at Columbia Teachers College, and the growing network of normal schools springing up around the country, direct, intensive, systematic phonics was debunked in favor of the whole word “look and say” way of teaching reading, with no research to support it.

**1930: “basal reading” series introduced**

In 1930-31, William S. Gray and Arthur I. Gates introduced a “basal

*See Read on page 11*

*Habits from page 7*

Sodexo Marriott, Canteen Services, and Diamondback Catering.

**Computer/Information Technology** In 2001, Detroit Public Schools and Compuware signed a \$90 million contract to manage the district's information technology services. The deal is expected to save the school district approximately \$10 million over the five-year term of the new contract.

Detroit Public Schools CEO Kenneth Burnley anticipates that the Compuware deal also will put a significant dent in problems with outdated hardware and software, payroll, the telephone system, cost overruns, and other technology-related issues that have plagued the district for years. The benefits will then spill over into a number of areas, just through one contract.

Compuware beats offers by Ameritech; Celt Corporation, an educational technology and services firm; and EDS, a business solutions company. The Compuware offer was not the lowest, but according to DPS administrators, it was the best value for the district. The deal was criticized, however, because some suspected the deal was compensation to Compuware for moving its corporate of-

fice to the city of Detroit.

The savings from the various competitive contracts will help Detroit reprioritize its spending and direct more money into classrooms. In 2000, the district spent 68 percent of its budget at the school level; the rest provided for administration. In 2001, the district's budget slated 76 percent to be spent in schools. In short, competitive bidding has proved it can put more dollars back into the classroom in one of the most problem-ridden school districts in the nation.

These privatization contracts are not a new phenomenon in Michigan. Some districts have been outsourcing non-instructional services for years and even decades. For example, the Morrice and Millington school districts have contracted for food services for more than 15 years. The Lincoln Park school district has contracted for transportation services and Coloma has contracted for janitorial services for even longer.

**The next issue of TPN will continue this article by exploring - Habit 3: Manage Employee Health Benefits Effectively.**

Copyright © 2002 Mackinac Center for Public Policy

*Read from page 10*

the methods used to teach the deaf to read. Today's basal reading books, still used by a high percentage of American school children, are essentially the same as the 1930-31 Gates and Gray books. Their most harmful aspect is their rigidly controlled vocabulary, and emphasis on memorizing whole words before the letter sounds are learned.

With "whole language," the controlled vocabulary of earlier "basal readers" has been abandoned. Children are now required to read words like "forsythia" before they have been taught how to sound out these new words. This causes frustration, poor spelling, and a hostility towards reading. Very bright children who can't memorize long lists of words and retain their meaning are placed in special education, when all they need is to be taught the 26 let-

ters of the alphabet, the 44 sounds they make, and the 70 common ways to spell those sounds. Some researchers believe dyslexia and the symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder are actually caused by this reversal of the normal learning sequence.

Children trained to read by whole language are made almost deaf to print if they are unable to sound out a printed new word like "gate" or "frog" by the beginning of second grade. In fact, they are almost as deaf to the sounds of the printed words as a deaf person is to the sounds of spoken words.

**The next issue of TPN will continue this article by exploring - What answers are provided by the research, and how educators have responded to the research.**

*Melton from page 6*

are not given the option of fixed-rate loans, nor informed of the inherent risks of ARMs. Some lenders and brokers write loans they know borrowers cannot afford just to collect the fees and commissions. Federal home-loan agencies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac estimate that 30 to 50 percent of all borrowers with subprime loans could have qualified for more affordable mortgages.

According to the latest figures from RealtyTrac, an Irvine, Calif.-based online foreclosure firm, Michigan ranks third in the nation in foreclosures, with 13,979 foreclosure filings in July, up 39 percent from June and up 130 percent from July 2006.

According to federal data, in April 2007, there were 641 foreclosures in Oakland County.

The North Carolina-based Center for Responsible Lending found that, in general, lower-income families tend to pay more for the exact same consumer product than families with higher incomes. According to the Brookings Institution, if those lower-income

families could pay less for their mortgages and reduce their cost of living by just 1 percent, it would add up to billions of dollars in new spending power for these families. This would enable lower- and modest-income families to save for, and invest in, income-growing assets such as homes and retirement savings. It would also allow them to pay for critical expenses for their children, such as education and health care.

"One of the most stressful and traumatic things that can happen to a family is being forced out of their home due to a foreclosure that was questionable in the first place," Sam Scott (aide to State Rep. Melton) said. "Foreclosed homes don't just devastate the family, but the entire community. Neighborhoods where homes are abandoned see their property values lowered and their community changed. This legislation is critical to protecting all of Michigan's homeowners."

**Contact: Tim Melton  
Phone: (517) 373-0475**

# DIVINE BREEZE

**Specializing in Residential, Commercial and Industrial Cleaning Services**



**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.**  
Using Technology in Cleaning Services  
Honest, reliable, diligent service  
Competitive pricing  
Finest sanitary cleaning services

*Kofi Annorh, Proprietor*

Call Today - Quick Clean  
Tel: (248) 636-8448 • FAX: (248) 683-1130  
2760 Cherokee Hills #32 Waterford, MI 48328  
Email: [divinebreeze@cool-associates.com](mailto:divinebreeze@cool-associates.com)







# Rocket Eddy's




[www.rocketeddys.com](http://www.rocketeddys.com)  
**2897 Orchard Lk. Rd. • 248-683-3775**  
 Mon - Thurs: 6am - 9pm • Fri & Sat: 6am - 10pm  
 Sunday & Holidays: 7am - 8pm

FREE

Buy One Breakfast, Receive  
Second Breakfast of Equal  
or Lesser Value FREE

Valid only with coupon. Cannot be combined with other offers.  
Expires 9/15/07.

Half Off

Buy One Dinner, Receive  
Second Dinner of Equal or  
Lesser Value Half Off

(Valid after 4pm only)  
Valid only with coupon. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 9/15/07.

\$2 OFF

Ten Pack of  
Rocket Eddy's  
Famous Sliders

Valid only with coupon. Cannot be combined with other offers.  
Expires 9/15/07.

## Health Watch

# Myths and Facts About HIV

**Myth:** It can take ten years or more for HIV to show up

**Fact:** The average time for an individual to build up enough HIV antibodies is 3 weeks to 3 months - maximum of six months. If a person does not get tested, they may not have any physical symptoms or illnesses for 7 years or more. The only way to know if you are HIV positive is be tested

**Myth:** Only gays and intravenous drugs users get HIV

**Fact:** Anyone having sex unprotected or protected can become HIV positive. It's not about your sexual preferences it's the behavior. In 2007 increases are in african american women, seniors (over 50 yrs), men who have sex with men (13-24). However, if all groups are not educated we will see a new trend in other populations.

**Myth:** You can get HIV from kissing and from a mosquito

**Fact:** HIV is only transmitted through five fluids. It is in every fluid of a HIV positive person, however, can only be transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal secretions, breast milk and spinal fluid. To contract HIV from kissing you would have to take in at least 3 gallons of that person's saliva.

Once blood dries HIV is no longer alive it has to have heat to stay alive (i.e. the body, crack pipe, syringe and any closed environment.)

HIV is a human disease and cannot be contracted from a mosquito or any animal it's strictly a human disease.

**Myth:** Two condoms are better than one

**Fact:** Using two latex condoms will cause thinning and tearing.

**HIV services located at:**  
Olhsa, 196 Cesar Chavez,  
4th floor, Pontiac, MI.

**HIV testing, AIDS Partnership Michigan:**  
(248) 338-2014 for appt. Receive your HIV results in twenty minutes.

**Referral for medical, nutrition, transportation, etc.**  
Olhsa (248) 209-2600

Selvy Hall Foundation provides HIV and safer sex educational workshops to individuals, churches, community centers, schools, etc. Some of our topics: "The Ultimate Deception: Is the Other Woman, Another Man", "Whose Loving on Your Child", "Sex, Sexuality and Spirituality"

To make a financial investment you can mail donations to Selvy Hall Foundation, P.O. Box 430714, Pontiac, Michigan 48343-7014; to purchase DVD of the "The Ultimate Deception" workshop (\$10.00) or shop for a cause discount card for Macy's store (\$5.00), please call 248-874-2515.



*Your support is greatly appreciated.*  
**Selvy E. Hall,**  
*Executive Director*

## Senior Citizens Matters

# Good Health Habits at 60 and Beyond

**Do you feel as good now as you did at 40 years of age? At 50?**

If the answer is no, read on. You might be able to feel as good as you used to—or even better—by picking up 1 or 2 new good health habits. It may seem like more trouble than it's worth to start doing something new. However, even small changes can improve your health. One small change you can make is to add some activity to your daily life. Another is to eat more fiber.

**What if I've never been very active? Will starting now really make a difference?**

Yes! Physical activity is good for people at any age. Among older adults, falls are a common cause of injury and disability. Physical activity makes your bones and muscles stronger. When your muscles are strong, you're less likely to fall. If you do fall, strong bones are less likely to break.

Regular physical activity is good for your brain too. Recent studies have shown that people who do simple exercises (for example, walking briskly) on a regular basis are better able to make decisions than people who aren't physically active.

**I haven't been physically active in a long time. I'm afraid I'll get hurt when I start.**

From diabetes to heart disease, many chronic (ongoing) health problems are improved by even moderate amounts of physical activity. For people who have these conditions, not exercising is a bigger risk than exercise-related injury.

Talk with your doctor about your plans before you get started. Your muscles will very likely be sore when you first increase your physical activity, but don't consider that a reason to stop. Mild soreness will go away in a few days as you become more used to the physical activity.

**What's the best way to get physically active now?**

For most people, walking is one of the easiest activities to do. Experts recommend at least 30 minutes of physical activity on most days of the week, but you don't have to do all 30 minutes at once. Try walking for 15 minutes twice each day or for 10 minutes 3 times each day.

People who have started being physically active later in life say that exercising with a partner is the best motivation to stick with it. Some suggest starting or joining a walking group with friends or neighbors. Others suggest getting a dog that needs to be walked. If walking isn't your idea of a good time, try gardening or dancing. Go fishing or swimming. The activity can be enjoyable and good for you.

**What about strength training?**

When your muscles are strong, activities like getting out of a chair or holding a door

open are much easier. If you decide to lift weights, start with a 1-pound or 5-pound weight. If you don't have weights, you can use a can of soup, a book or a full water bottle. Keep your weights in the same room as your television and do a few exercises while you watch.

Another way to build muscle is to use a resistance band (also called an exercise band). Resistance bands are flexible and come in different lengths. They are commonly used to strengthen upper arm and leg muscles.

**Why should I eat more fiber?**

Fiber can improve your health in 3 ways: It helps your colon work better; It reduces the risk of heart disease and cancer; and It is associated with lower cholesterol levels.

Men over 50 years of age should get 30 grams of fiber per day; women over 50 should get 21 grams per day.

**I don't want to start eating health food. How can I get more fiber without changing my diet completely?**

You don't have to change your diet all at once. Try making 1 small change at a time. For example, if you eat 2 slices of white toast for breakfast, replace 1 of them with a slice of whole grain bread. If you drink orange juice every day, eat an orange instead for 3 days of the week. If you prefer salty snacks, try low-fat popcorn instead of potato chips.

Some people find it helpful to focus on adding a single high-fiber food (see the box below) at each meal or snack time.

**I often have a hard time sticking with something, even when I know it's a good thing to do.**

How active you are and what you eat are habits. Picking up healthy habits can be tough. But by starting small and rewarding yourself for each step you take, you can make a difference in how good you feel. You may find it easier to be more physically active and eat more fiber if you think of every day and every meal as a chance to do something good for yourself.

### Foods Rich in Fiber

- Unprocessed wheat bran
- Unrefined breakfast cereals
- Whole wheat and rye flours
- Grainy breads, such as whole wheat, rye or pumpernickel
- Fresh fruits, such as apples and berries
- Dried fruits, such as prunes, apricots and figs
- Vegetables, such as broccoli and carrots
- Legumes, such as chickpeas, baked beans and lima beans

*Copyright © 2004-2007 – Written by American Academy of Family Physicians*

# DENTAL ARTS COMPANY

**DENTISTRY BY  
JEFF MARTIN, D.D.S.**

**91 N. SAGINAW  
PONTIAC, MI 48342**



**248-332-4240**

**Affordable Family Dental Care**

## Mary C. Russell Catering Services

### Specializing in Healthy Soul Food

**Beef • Chicken • Turkey • Fish**  
Baked • Broiled • Barbequed • Steamed • Fried  
**Great Side Dishes & Salads**



**Try Mary's Famous**

Grilled Barbequed Salmon • Fish Balls • Fresh Fruit Salad

**Desserts**

Carrot Cake • Peach Cobbler • Carrot & Squash Pies  
*(Taste as good as Granny's Sweet Potato Pie)*

**For a price Quote call 248-451-1665  
or E-mail celestemcr5@aol.com**

# —Voices in the Community—

## Lifestyles

By Mary Pietila

How often they change when we are growing.

Although I am no expert, but having been in the same position, I want to assure those parents dealing with the obstinate teenagers and young adults, there is hope! In the mid 80's, I had my last child. She was a sweetheart, always trying to please her parents and "such a sweetie" was how the neighbors had always described her.

I use to think the air tends to gravitate towards kids of an adolescent age group then embeds the seeds of entitlement on them. Something we never knew when we were

their age. They landed on Jamie Lee at the age of eleven. From that point on, we had the road of rocks ahead of us; it wasn't as smooth as the new Woodward Loop by a long shot. I was the ogre because I set curfews and stuck to them. Her friends could stay out till 11:00 on a school night while in Jr. High, but not my child because she was to be in bed by 10:00.

When in high school, she still had a curfew, had to do her homework by a given time and heaven forbid, had to check in when she was gone out with friends. Oops, don't let me forget when she decided she was grown enough to quit school at age 17. After she had her first child, she had to get a job and start paying rent. That didn't last too long. When she finally realized I was serious, she moved out and into her friend's home where the parents allowed the kids to live as they choose. Eventually, Jamie realized that grass wasn't always greener on the other side as she thought.

I'm sure a lot of the frustration I felt then,

others are feeling now and that is why I wanted to address this issue. Working in Property Management, I hear a lot of stories like the one above. Our hardest charge as a parent is sticking with that teenager until they make it into adulthood and find their niche in life. As a parent and especially for us moms, that's hard to do. Our maternal instinct is to protect our kids, but yet at some time in our life we have to let them go. One of the biggest favors we can do is to walk them through the everyday challenges they create for themselves. However, we cannot solve their problems. We can however give them options and different avenues to try, to solve their issues what ever they may be.

When I hear these stories, I laugh.... not because they are funny, but with relief. I actually made it beyond the point I just described, all in one piece and with all my sanity!

Today that young lady I just described is now working as a dispatcher for a Mobile X-Ray Company in Southfield, MI., has com-

pleted the Medical Assistant's program at Everest Academy graduating this past April with a Medical Assistant's Certification, and is earning a higher income than what she was being paid as a Medical Assistant in the office where she did her internship. She has her own apartment, nearby, we visit often, but yet she's away from those friends who were such a major influence in her earlier years and has 2 beautiful, happy and healthy children.

So as I stated when I started this story, things do get better. Leave that young person enough leeway to make their mistakes, be there to show them the different avenues to take, but let them take it, don't solve their problems for them! It's the only way they will learn. We are not sitting in the Golden Chair at the moment, but there is a silver pathway leading down that road and I think I see a glimmer of shine at the end. Most of all, remember, it does get better. So as my sister Laura would say, smile and nod, it goes a long way.

### Ask Elaine.com

By Elaine Smith-Wright



Mrs. Smith-Wright started out as a Mass Communications major at Oakland University and now holds a B.A. degree in Nursing Home Administration and the Certificate of Gerontology and Sociology of the Aging from Wiley College along with a MBA Degree from East Texas Baptist University in Management. She also holds a Certificate in Filmmaking, Screenwriting and Directing from the Motion Picture Institute of Michigan.

Dear Elaine:

I have been dating the same guy for two years and now he wants to move into my apartment to save on rent and other expenses. He hasn't popped the question so we're not even engaged. What should I do? Should I just let him move in or should I bring up the fact that we haven't discussed the big "M" question?

**Signed, Still Waiting**

Dear Still Waiting:

While some people believe you should try on living with someone before you marry them, my mother always said that it was better to marry than to burn (I guess in hell). I did live with my second husband for eleven years before he was ready to "jump the broom" for a second time. I wanted to get married right from the start but he was a little gun shy going into it again. So I was faced with a choice; wait until he was ready or move on. Because I loved him so much, we waited. And waited and waited. Are you willing to wait or are you ready to move on? Moving in together has its ups and downs and I believe that you really don't know someone truly until you live with them.

But if you do decide to move in together, move into a new place so that it seems like it belongs to the both of you and not like he's invading your space. And yes, let your wishes be known that you desire to take your relationship to a higher level including matrimony if that is what you really want to do. You really do need to find out if he plans to buy the entire cow one day or if he intends to keep getting the milk for free!

**Good Luck!**

## The World According to Joe Cool

By Joseph P. Cool

Hi Pontiac - Joe Cool here again. First of all, I want to express my sincerest thanks for the many favorable comments I received about my article in the inaugural edition of The Pontiac News. I am firmly convinced that Pontiac, the city of my birth is genuinely interested in pursuing opportunities in the global marketplace and is willing and able to look to a successful future in the global marketplace.

This week I will provide some information on a recent international Convention in which I participated at the Renaissance Center in Detroit that could easily have positive economic impact on the City of Pontiac. The Convention is the 13th annual World Igbo Congress Convention. You ask "Igbo"? Igbo is one of the three major cultural groups in Nigeria. This year, the Convention was sponsored by the American Nigerian Economic Council (ANEC) located in Detroit. The Convention had the honor of having 5 Nigerian State Governors from the 5 Igbo States of Nigeria in attendance and also included many business leaders from Nigeria in the banking/investment industry and many local individuals comprising the Nigeria Diaspora.

On the first day of the 4-day Convention known as Business Exposition Day, speakers from throughout the US and Nigeria were invited to speak about specific market sectors. My presentation was entitled: "Global Telecommunications Engineering: Infrastructure vs. Implementation of Infrastructure" in which I provided insight into the advances of global communications with the expressed purpose of describing advanced communications capabilities in the Igbo States including enhanced distance learning, e-commerce, Internet with VOIP and telemedicine. I also found tremendous networking opportunities with Nigerian Chambers of Commerce & Industry. Other presentations included power generation and rail transportation in small communities, wa-

ter purification, airport facilities, alternative energy sources and several presentations on project banking and investment opportunities.

So, you ask - what does this have to do with the City of Pontiac? In preparation for my presentation, I did considerable research on common market sectors between the City of Pontiac and the Republic of Nigeria. Market sectors researched include the construction industry, light manufacturing including industrial machinery, transportation equipment and health care facilities. Another

area for consideration is educational research and applications in the emerging technologies with the considerable knowledge of robotics and similar studies in local universities around Pontiac. Is there an area or a topic that you would like to know more about? A specific country? How about a specific business opportunity? How about success in the global marketplace through synergy? Send your requests to Joe Cool at ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net and I will answer in future columns.



Joe Cool

### ENCOURAGER'S CORNER

By Dianthia Spann



Dianthia Spann

Have you ever felt pushed out of your area of comfort to do something that you didn't quite feel you were able to do or better yet pushed to the limit, to the edge of the rope? Well, I believe we all have been in that place at one time or another. I say that to introduce myself to my fellow citizens in this great city of Pontiac and the readers of our Pontiac News. I am Dianthia Spann, a native of the city of Pontiac and very proud to have graduated from Pontiac Central during an era when the district was second to none. Did you think I was going to say what year, and then you would know my age (have to keep a few secrets)? I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to serve the Pontiac News in any way that I can, but truthfully, I did not know that it would be in this capacity. It is my hope and aspiration that this piece will serve as an opening to share love, hope and laughter.

I said at the beginning of the article pushed and the definition for the word pushed is: To apply pressure against for

the purpose of moving, an effort to advance, to urge forward, to extend or enlarge.

Could it be that you may be in a place of being pushed into your purpose? Let's think about it for awhile. The measure of pressure on the job, in your family, your health and just plain simply everything that concerns you seems to be pressure on every side. Well as the definition states it is for the purpose of moving. So you ask me moving where Dianthia and my reply to you would be, my friends the pressure against you in this season is to push you, thrust you, literally propel you into your purpose.

So often we procrastinate and allow distractions to send us down a road that was never intended for us to take, yet it all works for the ultimate goal of getting us on the right road, in the proper lane. The pushing is not to hurt or harm you but to build character, integrity and strength to bring forth something great. Strength one would not otherwise experience except for the pushing. It could be compared to the point of delivery in pregnancy when the child is ready to come forth and you are told to push. Ladies you understand and men if you have ever had the opportunity to observe delivery then you too understand. With great pain and effort something wonderfully indescribable is brought forth.

I encourage you to remain focused, trust God and push until your purpose is revealed.

—It's Your Money—

# The 11 Best Money Saving Ideas of All Time - Part 2

*This article continues from the first issue of TPN where Tips 1, 2 and 3 were discussed, we continue this important topic with a discussion of Amazing Money Tips 4 and 5.*

**Amazing Money Tip #4**

Ben Franklin said it long ago: "A penny saved is a penny earned." Yes, it's still true, and still one of the most powerful money-making tips in all history.

Implied within Franklin's famous statement is the difficulty of saving. It's tough to save and easy to spend! You know that! That's why every penny saved truly is earned - because it takes so much effort to hold on to that cash! But if you can do it, it will work magic in your life. Having a savings account will de-stress your life. Imagine being ahead of your bills, rather than behind. When you are ahead of your bills, your entire life comes under your control. You sleep better at night. Your mind is freer to come up with new ways to make more money and save more. Saving is contagious - once you let it get started!

**Here are some tips to help you save:**

Don't settle for interest checking. Have a separate savings account that can't be as easily accessed as a checking account.

Keep your savings in another bank - one that's off your regular route, or perhaps even in another town. That way you won't be tempted to dip into it every time you visit the bank to make a checking deposit.

Buy short-term savings bonds, which have 6-month to one-year maturity dates. That way you will get a higher rate, while at

the same time keeping your money close in case of real emergencies.

If you can, open the account under two names and require that both signatures be required to make a withdrawal. Two people can debate each withdrawal and keep each other in line.

When you get your paycheck, immediately put a minimum of 5% in your savings account. After just a year, you'll be surprised by how much you have actually saved and feel great about it.

**Amazing Money Tip #5**

Visualize wealth and abundance everyday. Am I actually suggesting that you practice some sort of airy-fairy mysticism that will make you into a "money magnet"? Maybe yes, maybe no. Call it what you will - a mind game, mysticism, New Age ga-ga - but the solid fact is that behind every wealthy man and woman is a positive attitude toward money. Here's a quick demonstration:

(1) Person One with a negative money attitude has daily thoughts which go this way: "Jeez! \$20 bucks is hard to come by! I seem to work so hard and get so little for it. Money just slips through my fingers. It's amazing how much money you have to earn to just get by these days. I'm never going to be able to afford that new car on my limited salary, but this job is still the best thing going for me right now. It's easy for some people to make a lot of money, but I'm not one of those people ..." and on and on.

(2) Person Two with a positive money attitude has daily thoughts which go this way:

"You know, I bet if I work my butt off I can get a raise next month, and then I'll take half of the extra money I make and toss it in a savings account. There must be a 100 other ways I can bring in some extra cash. Money is not all that hard to earn if you work hard, watch your spending and save a little at a time. There's enough wealth for everybody in this country, and I can easily get my share, and more ..." and on and on.

Okay. Which person do you think will have a better chance of success? You don't need to be a Rhodes Scholar to see how Person One is dragging himself down with his thoughts, and how Person Two is giving

himself a fighting chance.

Look at it this way: It costs nothing one way or the other to have either negative or positive thoughts. So why not have positive thoughts?

There have been many studies done on the thought patterns and the frames of mind of some of the richest, most successful people in the world. The one thing they all had in common was a positive attitude toward money and their ability to earn it.

Copyright © by Palyn Peterson

*The next issue of The Pontiac News will continue this series by taking a look at Money Tips 6, 7 and 8.*

## Celestial

### Assisted Living Services & Facilities



**Dedicated to Healthy Living & Loving Care in a Comfortable Residential Setting.**

For Appointment & Answers to Your Questions:  
**Phone: 248-451-1665**  
 Email: CelesteMCR5@aol.com



# ROYAL SEALCOATING





**Asphalt Maintenance and Repair  
Commercial and Residential Services**

*"We take pride in maintaining your investment"*


- Brush Applied
- Full Insured
- Driveway and Parking Lot Sealcoating
- Crack Filling
- Asphalt Patching
- Stripping
- 9 Years Experience/Guaranteed Workmanship

248-253-7050

P.O. Box 431915 • Pontiac, MI 48343

## Remax In The Hills

### Real Estate For Sale!



Contact Us For More Information

**183 Rapid - \$ 83,000**  
 Nice 3 Bdrm, 2 Baths, Finished Basement,  
 2 Cars, Below Appraised Value. Seller will pay allowable closing cost Protection Plan

**26 Wall - \$60,000**  
 Nice 3 Bdrm, Finished Basement, 1,000 sq.ft.  
 1 yr. Protection Plan. Seller will pay all allowable closing cost.



**34 Cherokee - \$ 225,000**  
 Beautiful Brick Ranch Historical Seminole Hills  
 3 Beds, 3 Baths, 2 Cars, Finished Basement,  
 Panorama view, Custom 30x30 deck with Grape Arbor. 1 yr. Protection Plan, Sellers are Motivated!

**568 Montana - \$ 36,500**  
 Nice 2 Bedroom, 1 yr Protection Plan Sellers are motivated. Will pay all allowable closing cost

**976 Canterbury - \$ 117,900**  
 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 Bath Finished Basement, Carport, Master Bdrm 22x11, Heated Sunroom With Gas Fireplace, All Appliances Included.  
 1 yr., Protection Plan, Motivated Sellers!

**"Auburn Hills"**  
**2375 Phillip - \$157,000**  
 Pretty as a model. Completely Remodeled Summer 2007, 3Bdrm, 2 Cars, Custom Deck  
 1 yr. Protection Plan. Seller is motivated!

**Last Deals on the Street!**  
 350/362/374 Fremont St- Homes/Vacant Land -Off Franklin Rd.  
 Commercial/Industrial area over 5 acres

Outstanding Agents  
Outstanding Results

**Call Shelba Frazier**  
**248- 646-8642**

—Sports—

# “If it Bleeds . . . it Leads”

By Ken E. Corr  
Pontiac's Poet Laureate

Growing up in Pontiac, a city certainly known as one of Michigan's basketball hot beds, we rank right up there on the competi-



Corr

tive, respectability chart with Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, River Rouge and Muskegon Heights. No, I haven't forgotten some of the new kids on the block, like Clarkston and Lake Orion; however, back in the day, they were hardly an afterthought.

I remember as a youth listening to Pontiac Central's games on WPON (AM radio). Some of the stars during that era were Paul Brown, George Fed, Bob Rabaja, Gerald Henry, Alvin Keel, William Morgan, Bill Roach, Mel DeWalt and Booker Hurner just to name a few. Probably all of the aforementioned went on to college, became attorneys, doctors, and educators or worked in corporate America.

The legend of the Russell Brothers is well documented in Pontiac. Three of them played in the NBA. Frank, Campy, and Walker D were stars at the great PCH (Pontiac Central High School). Frank is presently working in human resources for Oakland County and coaching Oakland Community College's basketball team. Campy is working in the front office with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Walker D. Russell is

head scout for the New York Knicks. Sound like good press? Maybe . . . maybe not. “If it bleeds . . . it leads.” Is it true that bad news sells? Have we developed an appetite for negative press?

One of the most talked about sports stories in Oakland County, as only Ali would say, “of all time” was a recent series in The Oakland Press entitled “Dreams Unfulfilled”. The story featured two members of Pontiac Northern's second championship team. I recall driving to a gas station at 6:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning to get a copy. There were four people in front of me. To this day, everywhere I go, it's a hot topic.

Negative press . . . basketball . . . a winner . . . all the necessary ingredients to sell newspapers in Oakland County. As a Pontiac Northern Alumni who bleeds red and white, I and countless other Northern alumni and faculty are appalled by the article “Dreams Unfulfilled”. I've had dialog with Pontiac Central people also. They feel the same. It certainly doesn't take a rocket scientist to detect sensationalism. In fact, we can detect when a writer is taking advantage of someone merely for the sake of having some juicy story.

If a writer does his or her homework, they'll hear about Ricky “Pretty Ricky” Morgan, the flashy point guard from Pontiac Northern's first championship team. Ricky was a kid, who statistically could have had every excuse imaginable to fail, but persevered and graduated from UNLV.

They would know about Lester “L.A.”

Abrams, the marquee player on both championship teams. Lester graduated from Northern with a 3.2 GPA, then went on to play four years at the University of Michigan and graduated. Or, how about David “State” Stephens who was on both championship teams, then went on to become a two-time, small college all American and graduate.

I could go old school on ya' and write about Dana Coin, whom I graduated with in 1968. Dana was Pontiac Northern's football star who went on to play at the University of Michigan or Donnie Soden, a Pontiac Northern football player in the early 70's who went on to graduate from college and now owns a successful coffee business (Pontiac Coffee Break).

Dana and Donnie for years partnered with several Pontiac Northern High Alumni raising tens of thousands of dollars to support their alma mater, through the Huskie Open Golf Outing.

There are so many positive, feel good stories to write about. How about a little balance?

This is certainly not a character assassination of the writer, Dave Birkett. One might call Dave a genius. After all, his job is to write articles that sell newspapers. For at least one series, even I must say “job well done.”

The issue with balancing academics and athletics is so vast in the inner city that we will have to revisit the topic another time.

## B - Ball - It's Just a Game

I love this game - the NBA  
Most play for free  
Just a lucky few for pay.

I got a “handle” like Isaiah.  
Got “hang time” like Mike!  
All the scouts say I'm  
“First round” . . . Syke.

I didn't make it in the big league  
Now I'm lookin' back,  
Flippin' burgers up at Wendy's  
Thinkin' bout sellin' crack.

But all the girls was jockin' - -  
Everybody knew my name,  
I should have hit the books harder . . .

*B-Ball, it's just a game.  
Dedicated to Isaiah Thomas  
A man who exemplifies life  
After basketball.*

By Ken E. Corr

—Employment Oportunities—



**Human Resources** Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, 196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., P.O. Box 430598, Pontiac, MI 48343-0598  
Email: EMPLOYMENT@olhsa.org (248) 209-2615 FAX Website: www.olhsa.org

**The Pontiac News** is in need of contributing writers and other staff - See list below!  
Send your resume to  
ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net

**DIRECTOR OF SALES**  
The Pontiac News, a community newspaper based in the City of Pontiac Michigan, is seeking a highly motivated, results driven Sales Director. This position is accountable for assisting with the direction, coordination and control of advertising for TPN and the management of sales and support staff to ensure the attainment of advertising sales goals.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
The Pontiac News seeks, an advertising manager. The person who fills this position will be responsible for growing classified revenue through out-bound sales (cold calling), handling incoming advertiser calls, and executing sales strategies. The candidate selected must

be able to work independently, be well organized and work efficiently in a deadline environment. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in sales either in an outside media sales capacity or inside sales business development environment.

**ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES**  
The Pontiac News is looking for highly self-motivated, enthusiastic, strong customer skills individuals to build our outside sales team. This position will report to the Advertising Manager. This is an Entry-level sales position with onsite training - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY BUT PREFERRED.



All persons interested in applying for posted positions must complete and submit the required official on-line Oakland County Merit System employment application form. You may also add a resume to your application. After a review of your application, you will be notified by mail and/or email of the status of your application. For further assistance, please contact the:

**VOLUNTEER WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS**

The purpose of this bi-weekly publication is to examine and report on the various socio-political, educational and other issues affecting the City of Pontiac and surrounding communities. The Pontiac News will bring that relationship to print. Different formats such as articles, poetry, photographic essays, and artist profiles will be used to achieve this.

Job Description: The Pontiac News is putting out an open invitation to anyone interested in being a part of this dynamic community publication. We are looking for written content, such as editorials, columns, artist profiles, interviews, creative pieces, and specifically article proposals for our bi-weekly issues. We are also looking for photography, layout design, and cover artwork for upcoming issues.

OAKLAND COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328-0440  
Telephone: (248) 858-0530  
http://www.oakgov.com

—Community Calender—

**The Metro Minority Chamber of Commerce** will host its' 7th Annual Business/Scholarship Awards Banquet, Friday, September 21, 2007. This event will be held at St. George Cultural Center, Bloomfield Hills, Mi and will begin promptly at 6pm. The guest Speaker is Mr. Frank Taylor, of Seldom Blues. The 2007 Honoree's are: Dr. Deborah Ferguson, Diamond Award, Attorney Harrison W. Munson, Humanitarian Award, Ms. Regina Woodward, Taylor Rising Star Award and Mr. Charles M. Tucker, Jr., the President's Award. For ticket information, please call 248 334 1508 or 248 982 3020.

**Bloomfield Hills/Woodward Estates Neighborhood Association - Pontiac**  
VELMA STEPHENS - Chairperson  
Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month 1pm - 2:30pm  
@ Franklin Elementary School  
661 Franklin Road, Pontiac, Mi 48341  
**Guest Speakers**  
Judge Cynthia Walker - September 8<sup>th</sup>  
Pontiac Fire Chief - Skip McAdams - October 13<sup>th</sup>

**Contact**  
**248-758-1411**  
or  
ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net  
**To list your Event**

# Community Events



**Clara Norris - Judge Cynthia Walker - Marsha Battles @ ARTS DU JOUR Downtown Pontiac**



**Councilman Kone' Bowman & Wife Tracey @ ARTS DU JOUR Downtown Pontiac**



**Councilman Everett Seay @ Support The Troops Rally @ Pontiac Central High**



**Larry Glover & Councilman Lee Jones @ Harrison Park - Lil' Wolves Youth Baseball Recognition Picnic**



**Akeem organizing young children @ Harrison Park**



**2 Young girls @ Mexican Festival Downtown Pontiac Pheonix Center**



**Jonathan Witz and Alexander Zonjic @ ARTS DU JOUR Downtown Pontiac**



**Herman and Meloney Ellison-Bishop and family @ Arts, Beats and Eats.**



**Andrea Wright, Sandy McDonald, Andy Pettress and Irma Bradley Pettress School Board Trustee @ ARTS DU JOUR Downtown Pontiac**



**Fire Marshall Fowlkes, Mr and Mrs Neal and others @ Arts, Beats and Eats**



**Big Fun Productions doing business @ Arts, Beats & Eats**



**Baby Matthew enjoying Arts, Beats & Eats with his Granny Diane Jeffery**