

# The Pontiac News

A NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

VOL. 1 ISSUE 15



Dr. Maridada

## Cobo Deal Struck

*House, Senate agree to leasing deal to modernize Cobo, keep Auto Show in Detroit*

LANSING - House and Senate leaders recently announced a major deal that will keep the North American International Auto Show in downtown Detroit by allowing for the modernization of Cobo Hall. The agreement comes as a result of bipartisan collaboration among the House, the Senate, the Governor and leaders in Southeast Michigan. It now awaits the Governor's signature.

"I commend everyone who worked hard to make this deal a reality, including Senator Bishop, Mayor Bing, Oakland and Macomb County Executives, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano, who initiated the process," said House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Township). "Cobo plays a vital role in Southeast Michigan's economy. The agreement we've reached will protect the jobs of thousands of Michigan workers and keep the North American International Auto Show in its home in Detroit."

The deal struck will provide for a 30-year lease to a regional authority made up of representatives from Detroit and Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, as well as a representative appointed by the Governor. The lease agreement requires the authority to renovate, rehabilitate and expand the aging facility.

"Our primary focus throughout this process has been to keep the North American Auto Show at Cobo Hall while also ensuring that Michigan did not lose this important event to another state. The compromise reached should accomplish that goal," said Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester). "In keeping the Auto Show here in Michigan, we not only preserve an important part of our state's culture and history, but we hold onto \$600 million in revenue at a time when our state struggles with sinking revenue levels. I want to thank all the participants in this process for seeing the wisdom in a timely resolution and look forward to the City Council accepting this agreement."

Hundreds of thousands of visitors come to Cobo Hall each year from across Michigan and the country, many to visit the

North American International Auto Show, one of Michigan's signature events. In addition to being responsible for more than 16,000 direct jobs, it is estimated that Cobo brings in hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue annually to Southeast Michigan's economy.

"This is great news for Detroit and the tens of thousands of workers whose livelihoods rely on a strong, vibrant Cobo Hall," said State Representative Shanelle Jackson (D-Detroit), who has worked tirelessly to resolve this issue. "Cobo is part of the fabric of our community, and with this modernization plan, not only will we keep the Auto Show in Detroit, we'll attract the sort of events that demand a world-class convention center. This will help revitalize Detroit's recovery and boost the entire state's economy."

State Senator Jason Allen (R- Traverse City) said: "I want to congratulate members of the Legislature, local government officials and leaders of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association for moving forward with a compromise to secure the future of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. I think this compromise is fair and balanced not just for the city of Detroit, but for the entire state of Michigan. For years, Detroit has been known as the Motor City capital of the world. We have enjoyed that designation, and the North American Auto Show has been an important part of our state's economy and history. Its continued presence here in Michigan, especially in Detroit, was our primary focus."

State Representative Bert Johnson (D-Detroit), Chair of the Detroit Caucus, also praised today's deal.

"We've reached a bipartisan agreement that works for both Detroit and the surrounding suburbs," Johnson said. "All of Southeast Michigan benefits from the hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity that Cobo creates for our economy, and all of Michigan benefits from the world-class events that are held in downtown Detroit. This is a great day for our city and our state."

## Pontiac School Board Appoints Renown Educator to Superintendent Post

*Dr. Thomas G. Maridada II Takes the Helm of the Pontiac School District on August 10th*

The School District of the City of Pontiac Board of Trustees has named the 2008 Michigan Superintendent of the Year Dr. Thomas G. Maridada II to serve as superintendent of the 7200-student school district. Dr. Maridada and his cabinet will begin on Monday, August 10, 2009.

Dr. Maridada has been an educator for more than 20 years and holds a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. His experiences include major successes as Superintendent of Inkster Public Schools, Director of Learning Services at Wayne County

Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), Principal and Assistant Principals in Southfield Public Schools and teacher in various Oakland County school districts.

A public reception is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2009 from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Odell Nails Administration Building located at 47200 Woodward Avenue in Pontiac. The meet and greet is planned to give students, parents, church and business leaders and the entire school community, the opportunity to personally welcome Dr. Maridada to the Pontiac School District.

## The Obamas land in Ghana for Historic Visit!

US President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and their daughters Malia and Sasha disembark from Air Force One upon arrival in Accra, Ghana on Saturday July 11, 2009.

See full text of President Obama speech to the Ghanaian Parliament and more photos on Pages 6 & 7.



## Support the Pontiac Promise Zone Scholarship Fund

The POH Riley Foundation Board of Trustees, supporters and friends invite you to come aboard and join us in our efforts to support the Pontiac School District. On **Saturday, July 25, 2009 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.**, the Foundation will host a special **"Cruising for Education"** charity event to support the Pontiac Promise Zone Scholarship Fund. The four-hour dinner cruise will be held aboard the spectacular 138-foot Ovation Yacht in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. This special event will allow corporations, foundations, organizations and key leaders an opportunity to come together to support this worthy cause.

For information contact: Teresa Rodgers at **(248) 338-5310**. More about this event on back cover!

# WE MUST USE OUR VOTE WISELY



**Publisher  
R. Frank  
Russell**

To Pontiac community members who vote!

The topic of my discussion is **“yes people died for the right to vote...and we should exercise that right...but we should do so with intelligence!”**

For many years I served As Oakland County's Recruitment Specialist. My job involved the following:

Meeting with department heads to get a clear understanding of their staffing needs!

Drafting job descriptions that clearly define the duties of the jobs!

Conducting assessments and surveys to determine the qualifications needed to perform the jobs!

Evaluating people who have applied to determine if they meet the minimum qualifications!

Performing salary surveys to determine the appropriate salary range for jobs!

Attending job fairs, advertising and conducting resume searches on the web, placing newspaper and other ads and reaching out to various community resources to find qualified people was also part of my duties and responsibilities!

We also make sure that a representative number of qualified minority and female applicants have applied and had been accepted - before we close the application process.

Conducting structured interviews to determine who is the **MOST** qualified person for a particular job is also a part of this process.

Because of the events of Monday September 11, 2001 - a position titled Chief-Building Safety WAS ESTABLISHED at the County.

We were contacted by the department to develop a job description.

This job is responsible for the security and inspection of all County, owned, operated and leased buildings and grounds.

**To qualify for this job you need to be a high school grad or have completed GED requirements;**

Have 7 years experience as a police officer ...including 2 years of supervisory experience; ...and have a valid driver's or chauffeur's license

In order to ensure that we select the most qualified person for this or any other job, we develop and conduct a test or oral evaluation of qualifications which includes a battery of job-related questions to determine the KSA's of each candidate.

**K =Knowledge S = Skill A= Ability**

For the Chief position appropriate job related questions could include:

1. What experience or training have you had as a police or security officer?

2. Have you had supervisory experience ..if so ...how much.. And what level of staff did you supervise?

3. Have you had experience coordinating or developing security procedures and systems?

**After each qualified candidate has completed this objective process the best candidate was then selected!**

**I submit to you that we should follow a similar process in selecting our mayor and other elected officials.**

Appropriate questions for mayoral candidates should include:

1. What experience have you had as a chief executive officer of a multi-million dollar business or as mayor or manager of a city?

2. What experience have you had supervising and overseeing the development, presentation and management of a \$100+ million dollar budget?

3. Have you had experience selecting and supervising department heads and other high level officials?

4. What experience have you had reviewing, analyzing and completing business deals involving 100's of millions of dollars?

The candidate with the most Knowledge Skills & Abilities to best address the above and other job related questions and issues should be elected as our next mayor!

Over the past 30+ years of my involvement in politics.....I have been appalled by some of the silly reasons that people vote for candidates - a few of my favorites are:

1. He/she has the most yard signs

2. Girl he is fine! I am going to vote for him because he looks so good!

3. He/she is a democrat - Be emphatic vote straight democratic

4. He/she is a republican

5. We need a black person in that office

6. We need a white person in that office

7. Vote for anybody but that guy!

In my humble opinion we should **NOT** select a mayor, City Council person or school board trustee or any candidate for any elected office based on any criteria other than Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA'S).

When we go to the polls we must cast an intelligent vote for the most qualified candidate that is available!

Forget the Personal Stuff...Pontiac is on the verge of degenerating or falling to the lowest level in its history.

**WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE UNQUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS AT THE CONTROLS DURING THIS TIME IN PONTIAC'S HISTORY!**

**Please Pontiac voters let's use our votes wisely.....this time!**

## The list of Mayor/City Council Candidates for 2009 Primary scheduled for Tuesday September 15th are listed below

### Mayoral Candidates

- Ray D. Alexander
- Damon Ferguson
- Bradley Gibbs
- Leon B. Jukowski
- Sandy-Michael E. McDonald
- Clarence E. Phillips
- Donald L. Robinson, Sr.
- Everett L. Seay

### City Council District (1)

- Wilbert T. Alexander
- Janiece Gage
- Patrice Waterman
- Wilvern Charli Yarbro.

### City Council District (2)

- George Williams

### City Council District (3)

- Mary Pietila
- Marc A. Seay
- Sherman Williams II

### City Council District (4)

- Randolph Carter

### City Council District (5)

- Ron Harmon
- Donald Watkins

### City Council District (6)

- Lee A. Jones

### City Council District (7)

- Kermit Williams

Please study each of these candidates and vote based on Knowledge, Skills and Abilities!

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## 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.

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# Oakland Dems: Bad Faith Insurance Practices Must End

## Plan cracks down on companies that deny residents' legitimate claims

In a move to protect Michigan consumers from some of the most outrageous practices in the home, auto and health care insurance industries, State Representatives Vicki Barnett (D-Farmington Hills), Lisa Brown (D-West Bloomfield) and Ellen Cogen Lipton (D-Huntington Woods) today announced a package of bills that will toughen penalties and rein in corporate leaders who promote a culture that denies consumers' legitimate claims. The legislation is modeled after laws in 46 other states that have taken aim at "bad faith" insurance practices.

"Insurers should not be able to get away with bullying people into dropping a claim or delaying payment so they can collect interest," Barnett said. "And while consumers are waiting for an insurance company to do what they promised, they can face mounting bills - maybe even bankruptcy and foreclosure. It's absolutely shocking that Michigan is only one of four states that don't have laws to protect consumers from this reprehensible practice."

Bad faith insurance practices consist of a set of tactics to delay or deny legitimate

property, automotive or health care claims in order to maximize a company's bottom line. Such practices can have devastating consequences for consumers while reaping profits for companies.

Jo Anne Katzman of Bloomfield Hills, a former claims adjuster with Allstate Insurance Company who became a whistleblower, saw firsthand why consumers need stronger protections against the wrongful practices of the insurance industry. Katzman said managers regularly threatened that adjusters would lose their jobs if they didn't deny enough claims. She also was ordered not to pay a claim she knew was valid. According to multiple reports by Bloomberg News, both Farmers Insurance and Allstate have employee incentive programs for adjusters who deny the most claims.

"I could no longer look people in the eye knowing our insurance company would turn its back on them in their hour of need," said Katzman, who worked for Allstate from 2002 to 2003. "The employees who regularly delayed or denied claims were awarded with promotions and rewards. Having worked on the inside, I can tell you

that no one is in good hands with Allstate or with any other insurance company until Michigan toughens its consumer protection laws."

### The House plan will:

- Strengthen consumer protections by punishing insurance companies that illegitimately deny consumer claims with penalties including a \$1 million fine.
- Punish corporate leaders who knowingly foster or encourage wrongful denial of claims by making the misconduct a felony that could result in four years in prison plus a \$50,000 fine.
- Create a whistle-blower protection plan to shield employees who report that an insurance company is engaging in wrongful denial of claims.
- Require insurance companies to repair a consumer's credit rating when harmed by wrongful denial of coverage.

"Not only does this plan create much-needed consumer protections in Michigan, it holds corporate leaders accountable," Lipton said. "For far too long, insurance companies have been able to turn their backs on our

residents when they needed help the most. With this plan, we're sending a message loud and clear: People come ahead of the profits of powerful insurance companies."

Michigan's current law offers little or no protection against bad faith insurance practices, and the state's lack of penalties acts as an incentive to encourage companies to break their promises and exploit residents. According to the 2007 Bloomberg News report, insurance companies even make money by low-balling claims and collecting interest when they delay a consumer's claim.

"Too many residents have watched their lives fall apart as powerful insurance companies profit by dragging their feet and denying legitimate claims," Brown said. "Residents pay hard-earned money to insurance companies to be there when disaster strikes. This plan will force companies to keep their promises and punish those who don't."

Note: Video testimonials by wrongful denial victims and whistle-blower Jo Anne Katzman are available at [housedems.com/wrongful-denial](http://housedems.com/wrongful-denial).

## Melton: 90-Day Foreclosure Lifeline Agreement Reached

*House passes plan to help homeowners, awaits action in the Senate*



Melton

LANSING - In a move that will aid struggling homeowners trying to hold on to their piece of the American Dream, State Representative Tim Melton (D-Pontiac) voted for a compromise plan reached with Senate leaders that will extend a 90-day lifeline to residents at risk of foreclosure who seek help. The plan, originally proposed by House Democrats in February, awaits action in the Senate.

"In these tough economic times, it is important to have a Legislature that stands up for our citizens," Melton said. "Thousands of families across Michigan have lost their homes because of situations out of their control. It is important to me that the residents of Pontiac and Auburn Hills - and all Michigan residents - have the opportunity to work with their leaders in order to keep their homes."

After weeks of negotiations between the House and Senate, the two chambers came to an agreement that will allow the House

Democrats' plan to be sent to the Governor. The plan will create a 90-day lifeline for homeowners at risk of losing their home who commit to working with their lender and a housing counselor. Counselors are available through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

According to RealtyTrac, Michigan ranked sixth in the nation in foreclosures in the first quarter of 2009, with more than 33,000 properties in foreclosure. In 2008, more than 145,000 Michigan properties statewide were in foreclosure - a 21 percent increase from 2007 and a 108 percent increase from 2006. In the first four months of 2009, Oakland County saw 6,919 homes fall into foreclosure.

"Because of the foreclosure epidemic, the very fabric of our neighborhoods and communities is beginning to unravel," Melton said. "Keeping our families in their homes will help get us through these tough economic times. I applaud my colleagues for coming together for our families and passing this very important plan."

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— What's Happening In Pontiac —

# City of Pontiac Blog

TPN has decided to publish the information presented by Mr Leeb the Emergency Financial Manager, in this blog he responds to various questions and concerns that are on the minds of citizens of Pontiac.

The opinions expressed in this blog are those of Mr. Leeb and do not necessary reflect the official position of the City of Pontiac.



Fred Leeb

Welcome to the City of Pontiac blog. This is an effort to keep you (the citizens) better informed of what is happening in city government and this also will be a vehicle for you to keep us (the city administration) better informed of your concerns.

Through this blog, we will try to answer your questions and discuss key issues on a weekly basis. You are encouraged to send questions and comments to [blog@pontiac.mi.us](mailto:blog@pontiac.mi.us) or to 47450 Woodward Ave., Pontiac, MI 48342, Attn: BLOG. We will read your comments and they will help us determine your interests in specific areas. The most frequently voiced questions and comments may be reprinted on the blog. We

hope that you find this site both helpful and informative!

I would like to start this issue off by saying thank you to all of the residents and stakeholders who are reading the Blog. I would like respond to several e-mails that have been sent to the blog. In the future, I will try to respond more quickly.

*\*The following e-mails have been modified to withhold identity of the sender and information that was deemed inappropriate for this forum ( e-mails to us are in Lower Case and responses are in Caps).*

– Fred Leeb, Emergency Financial Manager

### County Sheriff's Proposal

As a resident I wish to thank you for your service to our city, and for your initiatives to date to improve city administration and finances. I also wish to thank you for your response to my letter, in which I stressed the justification for, and apparent absence of, any objective evaluation of the County Sheriff's proposal as an alternative to continued funding of the Pontiac Police Dept. In your response you reassured me that this evaluation will take place prior to the date on which the grant winners are to be announced, to possibly

provide more officers for Pontiac PD.

However, when I look at your blog, I again become confused. You talk about the grant application, as Val Gross does, as if it is the only game in town for expanding public safety. There is no mention of the possible alternative that may not require a grant (aka more tax money) and could be pursued immediately. Is it morally/ethically right to compete for public monies before looking at available and more cost-effective alternatives?

Mr. Leeb I dearly hope that you are not tempted to appease the incumbents at the cost of your detachment and objectivity. It will not be financially responsible, nor fair to the residents who still pay taxes, for you to give the Sheriff's proposal short shrift. I believe you will find many residents ready to support you in looking at alternatives, including me, our block club, and the Citizen's District Councils, plus many others. We are waiting and watching to hear from you on this.

Mr. Leeb please reassure those of us who want to rebuild Pontiac, by getting started on that evaluation of the Sheriff's proposal, and by letting us know in a public forum that alternatives to Pontiac PD are being objectively analyzed and results reported.

EFM: As you read on the blog, awards are expected to be announced in late august. Between now and then, it is still our intent to determine the option that provides the best long-term police coverage for Pontiac. Had we determined that keeping the department was the best option for the city, but did not apply for the grant, then we would have made a big mistake. By applying for the grant, we are keeping every option open, whether it be only the Pontiac PD, only the county sheriff, or some collaborative effort of multiple law enforcement agencies as exists now. At this time we do not know what the most cost effective alternative is. Please keep in mind that least expensive and cost effective are not the

same. Furthermore, no final decision has been made.

When a decision is reached, it will be based on what the available data suggests is the best alternative for a vibrant Pontiac.

### Silverdome update

An amicable deal could not be completed with the current bidder on the Silverdome and the site is once again available for new bids. As stated in the first posting of this blog, the city will now consider alternative methods of disposing of the property.

We are very aware that the delays in the sale process that already have gone on for years have cost the city many millions of dollars. We intend to move this sale to a fast track procedure that may be finalized very soon.

### Police Department News

The mobile command unit is up and running; check the Police department website to see when it will be in your area. The mobile command unit is an excellent opportunity for citizens to interact with the Police Department and to get answers to many frequently asked questions.

The Chief of Police would like to remind all citizens that there is a city curfew for minors and that it is being enforced. Children between the ages of 12 and 16 should not be out between 12 midnight and 6 AM. Children under 12 are to be in by 11 PM.

The Chief would also like to report the following:

- 16 of the last 20 homicides have been solved and the defendants have been prosecuted or are preparing for trial at this time.
- 2 individuals recently convicted of murder are believed to be responsible for approximately 75% of reported shootings.
- Since January, there have been 15 felony convictions, 33 misdemeanors, and 27 civil infraction citations.

— What's Happening In Oakland County —

## Seven Main Street Communities Honored by County Executive



L. Brooks Patterson

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson recently will released first quarter economic development statistics for the Main Street Oakland County program and honored seven MSOC member communities for their recent recognition by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The presentation was held on Thursday, July 16, at the new Rosie O'Grady's Restaurant & Pub, 279 W. Nine Mile Road in downtown Ferndale.

The communities honored were: Farmington, Ferndale, Holly, Ortonville, Pontiac, Rochester and Walled Lake. Patterson presented a representative from each of the seven community Main Street Oakland County members with a plaque honoring them for their accomplishment.

Kathy LaPlante, a representative from the National Main Street Center in Washington D.C., was on hand for the presentation. County commissioners from each of the communities were invited to attend. The Men of Grace Gospel Choir from Pontiac also performed.

The grand opening of the new Rosie O'Grady's and its \$3.4 million expansion, took place immediately after the presentation.

### Oakland County Clerk Announces | STAR | Awards



Ruth Johnson

*Three employees Honored for Exceptional Service and Suggestions to Save Tax Dollars*

Ruth Johnson, the Oakland County Clerk & Register of Deeds, honored three County employees with new STAR Achievement Awards for their exceptional service and

suggestions that improve office efficiency and save tax dollars. "Our employees are hard-working, dedicated and constantly review the way we do business to make sure we are providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost," said Johnson, who created the STAR (Serving Taxpayers & Residents) Achievement Awards. "We wanted some way to recognize employees' ingenuity, determination to improve our office and understanding that we have to be good stewards of public money. I'm very proud of them."

### STAR Achievement Awards were given to:

• **Stephanie Schroeder**, a longtime county employee and chief deputy in the Legal Division, for her suggestion for online marriage license applications. The online applications save couples a trip, including gas money and travel/parking time, to the courthouse to apply for the license. The online marriage license application, which required a change in state law, recently received national recognition. Today, more than half of the marriage license applications submitted to the Clerk's Office are submitted electronically. Schroeder lives in Troy.

• **Linda Nembhard**, a custodian responsible for the cleaning of the Oakland County Courthouse, Linda was honored for her hard work and her honesty. Nembhard discovered an \$11,000 diamond ring in one of the courthouse restrooms and promptly turned the ring in so it could be returned to its rightful owner. "That lady was only married two weeks," said Nembhard, smiling as she held her award. Nembhard, a 31-year county employee, lives in Pontiac.

• **Denise Bristow**, the Tract Index supervisor in the Register of Deeds Office, was recognized for her exceptional customer service and for her efforts working with federal authorities to combat deed and mortgage fraud – an ever-growing white collar crime where homes are stolen "on paper" and re-mortgaged before the true owners are even aware what was happened. Bristow, a 35-year county employee, resides in Independence Township.

— What's Happening In Washington —



Gary Peters

Paul Turner, Congressional Liaison to Congressman Gary Peters has set up shop in various cities throughout the district. The purpose of setting up a temporary office is to allow constituents the opportunity to come and share their ideas, concerns or complaints and basically communicate any problems they have regarding issues on the Federal Government level. It is an opportunity for people to come and actually have their concerns reach the Congressman and allow him and his liaisons the chance to work on the issue, assign it to someone else in the proper department or branch of the Government more able to handle your particular situation in order to see the problem resolved. Such matters could include but are not limited to Social Security case issues, Internal Revenue Services (IRS) concerns, Medicare problems, Housing Urban Development (HUD), Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF), Immigration and any of the host of other departments listed under Federal Government Departments.

Community office hours will be made available from 10a.m. to 4 p.m. with a liaison dispersed to each city located within the Congressman's district. Office hour availability will be established on a monthly to bi-

monthly basis. Pontiac will be set up on a bi-monthly basis at this time with the Congressional Liaison. Other cities may possibly receive bi-monthly services as well.

All constituents will receive the same services no matter which city they reside in within the district. Constituents in Pontiac will receive the same services offered in Troy, Auburn Hills or Rochester. Constituents should look at this as an opportunity to come and voice their concerns that they feel they may need assistance with when dealing with Federal Government issues as well as information that needs to reach the Congressman. Some issues that may appear to be a local or State problem may be looked at by the Congressman if it has a Federal Government connection. The Congressman's office liaison will take a look at each issue on a case-by case basis to determine which department or individual would be best suited to assist each constituent in receiving an answer or a solution that will help them.

The following dates have been established for the city of Pontiac:

August 4, 2009	August 12, 2009
September 1, 2009	September 9, 2009
October 6, 2009	October 14, 2009
November 3, 2009	November 11, 2009
December 1, 2009	December 9, 2009

Submitted by Elaine Smith-Wright

## —Money Matters—

# Here are the facts on buying a car with “so-so” credit

By Regina E. Woodard



Regina Woodard

Auburn Pontiac-GMC. I hope you'll find the answers helpful to you

Before you ask the question, the answer is “yes!” Yes, you can purchase a car with only so-so credit. I've spent years helping people with so-so credit get the vehicle they wanted. Below are a few questions I regularly hear as Sales Representative at

*“Just what are my requirements to get approved for a car loan?”*

- U.S. residency - and at least 18 years of age.

- Gross monthly income of at least \$1,500.00

- Flexibility - Remember, you may not be approved for the vehicle of your dreams. Make sure, it is reliable transportation that you can live with for 1-2 years while repairing your credit.

*“What if I have a recent repossession on my credit record?”*

- This does not have to be a problem.

*“I am currently in a bankruptcy” - or, “I have a bankruptcy on my credit history. Will this keep me from getting a car loan?”*

- Again, this does not have to be a problem.

*“How much of a down payment will I need?”*

- There is no specific answer to this. Each dealership may require a different down payment. Your down payment will also depend on the vehicle you wish to purchase - and on your own unique credit situation.

*“Do credit inquiries affect my credit rating or credit score?”*

- Yes, they do. Unfortunately the more inquiries you have on your credit report, the more of a “desperation” case you may appear to be. If you have 14 inquiries and were turned down by each of the credit companies

with whom you applied, this information remains on your credit report. The next time you apply for credit, the rejections are available information to anyone investigating your credit. Also, you will lose one to three points for each inquiry on your report.

*“I have no credit history with anyone. Can I get approved for an auto loan?”*

- Yes, it is definitely possible. Believe me, everyone has to start somewhere. Many dealerships are happy to work with first-time buyers.

*“Will my auto payments be reported to the credit bureaus?”*

- Wow! Terrific question! Stay away from any dealership who deals with finance companies that don't report to the credit bureaus. When you have established good credit patterns, you want it to be a part of your credit record. Make sure your dealership has relationships with finance companies that report to credit bureaus.

That's about it for this week. If you've got a question I didn't cover in this column,

please contact me by writing this newspaper, or by phone (800) 758-4606, or calling me direct at (248) 431-2955, or through my website, [www.reginaw.com](http://www.reginaw.com). I would like to meet my readers. You are always welcome to stop by Auburn Pontiac-GMC at 500 S. Opdyke Rd. (about a mile south of the Silverdome) and ask for Regina. If you're in the market for a new Pontiac or GMC product, or a clean, dependable pre-owned vehicle, let me put my 13 years of experience to work for you.

In the meantime, here are a few safety tips for driving on these icy roads you'll find in Michigan this year.

1. Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. Allow at least three times more space than you would normally leave between you and the car in front of you.

2. Turn your lights on to increase your visibility to other motorists.

3. Please keep your lights and windshield clean.

Safe-driving, everybody!

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## — Africa - &amp; World News —

# Text of Obama's speech in Ghana



**Kofi Annorh**  
African Correspondent

**Kofi provides TPN with news about events that are happening on the African Continent.**

## US Presidents in Ghana

On Saturday July 10, 2009 President Barack Obama arrived in Ghana with his family, they were welcomed by thousands of people angling for a glimpse of the first black U.S. president. Obama is the third U.S. president to visit Ghana in little more than a decade. President Bill Clinton made the trip to Ghana in 1998 and President George W. Bush, who has a highway named after him, in 2008. Photo below show US Presidents in Ghana.



Former President Jerry Rawlings , President Obama. Current President John Evens Atta Mills and Former President John Kufuor



April 1998: President Bill Clinton meets President Jerry Rawlings



July 2009: US President Barack Obama speaks with Ghanaian President John Atta Mills during a meeting at the Presidential Castle



Feb 2008: President George W. Bush meets with President John Kufuor

*Text of President Barack Obama's speech Saturday in Accra, Ghana, as provided by the White House:*

OBAMA: Good afternoon, everybody. It is a great honor for me to be in Accra and to speak to the representatives of the people of Ghana. I am deeply grateful for the welcome that I've received, as are Michelle and Malia and Sasha Obama. Ghana's history is rich, the ties between our two countries are strong, and I am proud that this is my first visit to sub-Saharan Africa as president of the United States of America.

I want to thank Madam Speaker and all the members of the House of Representatives for hosting us today. I want to thank President Mills for his outstanding leadership. To the former presidents , Jerry Rawlings, former President Kufuor , vice president, chief justice , thanks to all of you for your extraordinary hospitality and the wonderful institutions that you've built here in Ghana.

I'm speaking to you at the end of a long trip. I began in Russia for a summit between two great powers. I traveled to Italy for a meeting of the world's leading economies. And I've come here to Ghana for a simple reason: The 21st century will be shaped by what happens not just in Rome or Moscow or Washington, but by what happens in Accra, as well.

This is the simple truth of a time when the boundaries between people are overwhelmed by our connections. Your prosperity can expand America's prosperity. Your health and security can contribute to the world's health and security. And the strength of your democracy can help advance human rights for people everywhere.

So I do not see the countries and peoples of Africa as a world apart; I see Africa as a fundamental part of our interconnected world ... as partners with America on behalf of the future we want for all of our children. That partnership must be grounded in mutual responsibility and mutual respect. And that is what I want to speak with you about today.

We must start from the simple premise that Africa's future is up to Africans.

I say this knowing full well the tragic past that has sometimes haunted this part of the world. After all, I have the blood of Africa within me, and my family's ... my family's own story encompasses both the tragedies and triumphs of the larger African story.

Some you know my grandfather was a cook for the British in Kenya, and though he was a respected elder in his village, his employers called him "boy" for much of his life. He was on the periphery of Kenya's liberation struggles, but he was still imprisoned briefly during repressive times. In his life, colonialism wasn't simply the creation of unnatural borders or unfair terms of trade , it was something experienced personally, day after day, year after year.

My father grew up herding goats in a tiny village, an impossible distance away from the American universities where he would come to get an education. He came of age at a moment of extraordinary promise for Africa. The struggles of his own father's generation were giving birth to new nations, beginning right here in Ghana. Africans were educating and asserting themselves in new ways, and history was on the move.

But despite the progress that has been made , and there has been considerable progress in many parts of Africa , we also

know that much of that promise has yet to be fulfilled. Countries like Kenya had a per capita economy larger than South Korea's when I was born. They have badly been outpaced. Disease and conflict have ravaged parts of the African continent.

In many places, the hope of my father's generation gave way to cynicism, even despair. Now, it's easy to point fingers and to pin the blame of these problems on others. Yes, a colonial map that made little sense helped to breed conflict. The West has often approached Africa as a patron or a source of resources rather than a partner. But the West is not responsible for the destruction of the Zimbabwean economy over the last decade, or wars in which children are enlisted as combatants. In my father's life, it was partly tribalism and patronage and nepotism in an independent Kenya that for a long stretch derailed his career, and we know that this kind of corruption is still a daily fact of life for far too many.

Now, we know that's also not the whole story. Here in Ghana, you show us a face of Africa that is too often overlooked by a world that sees only tragedy or a need for charity. The people of Ghana have worked hard to put democracy on a firmer footing, with repeated peaceful transfers of power even in the wake of closely contested elections. And by the way, can I say that for that the minority deserves as much credit as the majority. And with improved governance and an emerging civil society, Ghana's economy has shown impressive rates of growth.

This progress may lack the drama of 20th century liberation struggles, but make no mistake: It will ultimately be more significant. For just as it is important to emerge from the control of other nations, it is even more important to build one's own nation.

So I believe that this moment is just as promising for Ghana and for Africa as the moment when my father came of age and new nations were being born. This is a new moment of great promise. Only this time, we've learned that it will not be giants like Nkrumah and Kenyatta who will determine Africa's future. Instead, it will be you , the men and women in Ghana's parliament , the people you represent. It will be the young people brimming with talent and energy and hope who can claim the future that so many in previous generations never realized.

Now, to realize that promise, we must first recognize the fundamental truth that you have given life to in Ghana: Development depends on good governance. That is the ingredient which has been missing in far too many places, for far too long. That's the change that can unlock Africa's potential. And that is a responsibility that can only be met by Africans.

As for America and the West, our commitment must be measured by more than just the dollars we spend. I've pledged substantial increases in our foreign assistance, which is in Africa's interests and America's interests. But the true sign of success is not whether we are a source of perpetual aid that helps people scrape by , it's whether we are partners in building the capacity for transformational change.

This mutual responsibility must be the foundation of our partnership. And today, I'll focus on four areas that are critical to the future of Africa and the entire developing world: democracy, opportunity, health, and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

First, we must support strong and sustainable democratic governments.

As I said in Cairo, each nation gives life to democracy in its own way, and in line with its own traditions. But history offers a clear verdict: Governments that respect the will of their own people, that govern by consent and not coercion, are more prosperous, they are more stable and more successful than governments that do not.

This is about more than just holding elections. It's also about what happens between elections. Repression can take many forms, and too many nations, even those that have elections, are plagued by problems that condemn their people to poverty. No country is going to create wealth if its leaders exploit the economy to enrich themselves ... or if police , if police can be bought off by drug traffickers. No business wants to invest in a place where the government skims 20 percent off the top ... or the head of the port authority is corrupt. No person wants to live in a society where the rule of law gives way to the rule of brutality and bribery. That is not democracy, that is tyranny, even if occasionally you sprinkle an election in there. And now is the time for that style of governance to end.

In the 21st century, capable, reliable and transparent institutions are the key to success , strong parliaments; honest police forces; independent judges ... an independent press; a vibrant private sector; a civil society. Those are the things that give life to democracy, because that is what matters in people's everyday lives.

Now, time and again, Ghanaians have chosen constitutional rule over autocracy and shown a democratic spirit that allows the energy of your people to break through. We see that in leaders who accept defeat graciously , the fact that President Mills' opponents were standing beside him last night to greet me when I came off the plane spoke volumes about Ghana; victors who resist calls to wield power against the opposition in unfair ways. We see that spirit in courageous journalists like Anas Aremeyaw Anas, who risked his life to report the truth. We see it in police like Patience Quaye, who helped prosecute the first human trafficker in Ghana. We see it in the young people who are speaking up against patronage and participating in the political process.

Across Africa, we've seen countless examples of people taking control of their destiny and making change from the bottom up. We saw it in Kenya, where civil society and business came together to help stop post-election violence. We saw it in South Africa, where over three-quarters of the country voted in the recent election , the fourth since the end of apartheid. We saw it in Zimbabwe, where the Election Support Network braved brutal repression to stand up for the principle that a person's vote is their sacred right.

Now, make no mistake: History is on the side of these brave Africans, not with those who use coups or change constitutions to stay in power. Africa doesn't need strongmen, it needs strong institutions.

Now, America will not seek to impose any system of government on any other nation. The essential truth of democracy is that each nation determines its own destiny. But what America will do is increase assistance for responsible individuals and responsible institutions, with a focus on supporting good governance , on parliaments, which check

abuses of power and ensure that opposition voices are heard ... on the rule of law, which ensures the equal administration of justice; on civic participation, so that young people get involved; and on concrete solutions to corruption like forensic accounting and automating services ... strengthening hot lines, protecting whistle-blowers to advance transparency and accountability.

And we provide this support. I have directed my administration to give greater attention to corruption in our human rights reports. People everywhere should have the right to start a business or get an education without paying a bribe. We have a responsibility to support those who act responsibly and to isolate those who don't, and that is exactly what America will do.

Now, this leads directly to our second area of partnership: supporting development that provides opportunity for more people.

With better governance, I have no doubt that Africa holds the promise of a broader base of prosperity. Witness the extraordinary success of Africans in my country, America. They're doing very well. So they've got the talent, they've got the entrepreneurial spirit. The question is, how do we make sure that they're succeeding here in their home countries? The continent is rich in natural resources. And from cell phone entrepreneurs to small farmers, Africans have shown the capacity and commitment to create their own opportunities. But old habits must also be broken. Dependence on commodities, or a single export, has a tendency to concentrate wealth in the hands of the few and leaves people too vulnerable to downturns.

So in Ghana, for instance, oil brings great opportunities, and you have been very responsible in preparing for new revenue. But as so many Ghanaians know, oil cannot simply become the new cocoa. From South Korea to Singapore, history shows that countries thrive when they invest in their people and in their infrastructure ... when they promote multiple export industries, develop a skilled work force and create space for small and medium-sized businesses that create jobs.

As Africans reach for this promise, America will be more responsible in extending our hand. By cutting costs that go to Western consultants and administration, we want to put more resources in the hands of those who need it, while training people to do more for themselves. That's why our \$3.5 billion food security initiative is focused on new methods and technologies for farmers, not simply sending American producers or goods to Africa. Aid is not an end in itself. The purpose of foreign assistance must be creating the conditions where it's no longer needed. I want to see Ghanaians not only self-sufficient in food, I want to see you exporting food to other countries and earning money. You can do that.

Now, America can also do more to promote trade and investment. Wealthy nations must open our doors to goods and services from Africa in a meaningful way. That will be a commitment of my administration. And where there is good governance, we can broaden prosperity through public-private partnerships that invest in better roads and electricity; capacity-building that trains people to grow a business; financial services that reach not just the cities but also the poor and rural areas. This is also in our own interests, for if people are lifted out of poverty and wealth is created in Africa, guess what? New markets will open up for our own goods. So it's good for both.

One area that holds out both undeniable peril and extraordinary promise is energy. Africa gives off less greenhouse gas than any

other part of the world, but it is the most threatened by climate change. A warming planet will spread disease, shrink water resources and deplete crops, creating conditions that produce more famine and more conflict. All of us, particularly the developed world, have a responsibility to slow these trends, through mitigation, and by changing the way that we use energy. But we can also work with Africans to turn this crisis into opportunity.

Together, we can partner on behalf of our planet and prosperity and help countries increase access to power while skipping, leapfrogging the dirtier phase of development. Think about it: Across Africa, there is bountiful wind and solar power; geothermal energy and biofuels. From the Rift Valley to the North African deserts; from the Western coasts to South Africa's crops, Africa's boundless natural gifts can generate its own power, while exporting profitable, clean energy abroad.

These steps are about more than growth numbers on a balance sheet. They're about whether a young person with an education can get a job that supports a family; a farmer can transfer their goods to market; an entrepreneur with a good idea can start a business. It's about the dignity of work; it's about the opportunity that must exist for Africans in the 21st century.

Just as governance is vital to opportunity, it's also critical to the third area I want to talk about: strengthening public health.

In recent years, enormous progress has been made in parts of Africa. Far more people are living productively with HIV/AIDS, and getting the drugs they need. I just saw a wonderful clinic and hospital that is focused particularly on maternal health. But too many still die from diseases that shouldn't kill them. When children are being killed because of a mosquito bite, and mothers are dying in childbirth, then we know that more progress must be made.

Yet because of incentives, often provided by donor nations, many African doctors and nurses go overseas, or work for programs that focus on a single disease. And this creates gaps in primary care and basic prevention. Meanwhile, individual Africans also have to make responsible choices that prevent the spread of disease, while promoting public health in their communities and countries.

So across Africa, we see examples of people tackling these problems. In Nigeria, an interfaith effort of Christians and Muslims has set an example of cooperation to confront malaria. Here in Ghana and across Africa, we see innovative ideas for filling gaps in care, for instance, through E-Health initiatives that allow doctors in big cities to support those in small towns.

America will support these efforts through a comprehensive, global health strategy, because in the 21st century, we are called to act by our conscience but also by our common interest, because when a child dies of a preventable disease in Accra, that diminishes us everywhere. And when disease goes unchecked in any corner of the world, we know that it can spread across oceans and continents.

And that's why my administration has committed \$63 billion to meet these challenges, \$63 billion. Building on the strong efforts of President Bush, we will carry forward the fight against HIV/AIDS. We will pursue the goal of ending deaths from malaria and tuberculosis, and we will work to eradicate polio. We will fight, we will fight neglected tropical disease. And we won't confront illnesses in isolation, we will invest in public health systems that promote wellness and focus on the health of mothers and

children.

Now, as we partner on behalf of a healthier future, we must also stop the destruction that comes not from illness, but from human beings, and so the final area that I will address is conflict.

Let me be clear: Africa is not the crude caricature of a continent at perpetual war. But if we are honest, for far too many Africans, conflict is a part of life, as constant as the sun. There are wars over land and wars over resources. And it is still far too easy for those without conscience to manipulate whole communities into fighting among faiths and tribes.

These conflicts are a millstone around Africa's neck. Now, we all have many identities, of tribe and ethnicity; of religion and nationality. But defining oneself in opposition to someone who belongs to a different tribe or who worships a different prophet has no place in the 21st century. Africa's diversity should be a source of strength, not a cause for division. We are all God's children. We all share common aspirations, to live in peace and security; to access education and opportunity; to love our families and our communities and our faith. That is our common humanity.

That is why we must stand up to inhumanity in our midst. It is never justified, never justifiable to target innocents in the name of ideology. It is the death sentence of a society to force children to kill in wars. It is the ultimate mark of criminality and cowardice to condemn women to relentless and systemic rape. We must bear witness to the value of every child in Darfur and the dignity of every woman in the Congo. No faith or culture should condone the outrages against them. And all of us must strive for the peace and security necessary for progress.

Africans are standing up for this future. Here, too, in Ghana we are seeing you help point the way forward. Ghanaians should take pride in your contributions to peacekeeping from Congo to Liberia to Lebanon ... and your efforts to resist the scourge of the drug trade. We welcome the steps that are being taken by organizations like the African Union and ECOWAS to better resolve conflicts, to keep the peace and support those in need. And we encourage the vision of a strong, regional security architecture that can bring effective, transnational forces to bear when needed.

America has a responsibility to work with you as a partner to advance this vision, not just with words, but with support that strengthens African capacity. When there's a genocide in Darfur or terrorists in Somalia, these are not simply African problems, they are global security challenges, and they demand a global response.

And that's why we stand ready to partner through diplomacy and technical assistance and logistical support, and we will stand behind efforts to hold war criminals accountable. And let me be clear: Our Africa Command is focused not on establishing a foothold in the continent, but on confronting these common challenges to advance the security of America, Africa and the world.

In Moscow, I spoke of the need for an international system where the universal rights of human beings are respected, and violations of those rights are opposed. And that must include a commitment to support those who resolve conflicts peacefully, to sanction and stop those who don't, and to help those who have suffered. But ultimately, it will be vibrant democracies like Botswana and Ghana which roll back the causes of conflict and advance the frontiers of peace and prosperity.

As I said earlier, Africa's future is up to

Africans.

The people of Africa are ready to claim that future. And in my country, African Americans, including so many recent immigrants, have thrived in every sector of society. We've done so despite a difficult past, and we've drawn strength from our African heritage. With strong institutions and a strong will, I know that Africans can live their dreams in Nairobi and Lagos, Kigali, Kinshasa, Harare, and right here in Accra.

You know, 52 years ago, the eyes of the world were on Ghana. And a young preacher named Martin Luther King traveled here, to Accra, to watch the Union Jack come down and the Ghanaian flag go up. This was before the march on Washington or the success of the civil rights movement in my country. Dr. King was asked how he felt while watching the birth of a nation. And he said: "It renews my conviction in the ultimate triumph of justice."

Now that triumph must be won once more, and it must be won by you. And I am particularly speaking to the young people all across Africa and right here in Ghana. In places like Ghana, young people make up over half of the population.

And here is what you must know: The world will be what you make of it. You have the power to hold your leaders accountable, and to build institutions that serve the people. You can serve in your communities and harness your energy and education to create new wealth and build new connections to the world. You can conquer disease and end conflicts and make change from the bottom up. You can do that. Yes you can ... because in this moment, history is on the move.

But these things can only be done if all of you take responsibility for your future. And it won't be easy. It will take time and effort. There will be suffering and setbacks. But I can promise you this: America will be with you every step of the way, as a partner, as a friend. Opportunity won't come from any other place, though. It must come from the decisions that all of you make, the things that you do, the hope that you hold in your heart.

7Ghana, freedom is your inheritance. Now, it is your responsibility to build upon freedom's foundation. And if you do, we will look back years from now to places like Accra and say this was the time when the promise was realized; this was the moment when prosperity was forged, when pain was overcome, and a new era of progress began. This can be the time when we witness the triumph of justice once more. Yes we can. Thank you very much. God bless you. Thank you.

## Mosaic Ghana Africa

In October 2009, **Mosaic Ghana Africa** will lead a business development, investment and cultural tour to Accra, Ghana in West Africa. The delegation will include various Oakland County, State of Michigan and other U.S. based executives of small, medium, and large U.S. firms representing a variety of business sectors.

The overall focus of the trip will be commercial, cultural and investment opportunities for Oakland County, State of Michigan and other U.S. companies, including joint ventures, presented by the continuing market liberalization and privatization underway in this country. In Ghana briefings and one-on-one business appointments will be arranged for members of the government, business and cultural delegation. For information regarding this trip contact 248-758-1411 or email [thepontiacnews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thepontiacnews@sbcglobal.net)

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## — Health Matters —

# DHM Family Medicine Residents Spearhead Rocking Chair Program

## *New Mothers Receiving Medical Care Plus Rocking Chairs for Home*

Pontiac, MI - Medical Residents from the Family Medicine program at Doctors' Hospital of Michigan ([www.dhofm.com](http://www.dhofm.com)) take patient-centered family medicine seriously. Over the past two years the second-year residents have volunteered to be one of thirty-six residency programs in the country to take part in "The Rocking Chair Project (RCP)." For their part in the RCP, participating residents not only follow the progress of new mothers throughout their pregnancies, delivery, and aftercare of both mothers and their babies, but they also deliver and set up a brand new rocking chair in the homes of their new moms. Since 2007, DHM residents have delivered and assembled 12 rocking chairs within Pontiac and the surrounding areas

Research compiled in 2007 by the Edward Zigler Center for Child Development and Social Policy Child Study Center at Yale University reinforces the importance of the RCP in supporting normal brain development for infants, the postpartum recovery for mothers, and bonding between mothers and their infants. Family Medicine Resident, Dr. Sameer Ohri, discovered the RCP at a medical conference three summers ago and introduced it to the DHM's Family Medicine Residency program. Dr. Tracy Juliao, Director of Behavioral Medicine & Health Psychologist

within the Family Medicine Residency, has spearheaded the coordination of this program at the local level.

The RCP, founded by Dr. Michael Magee and his wife, Patricia, began as a local program in a Rhode Island residency program in 2000. In 2004 the RCP partnered with the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation to expand the program nationwide. The nationwide efforts of the RCP create opportunities for economically disadvantaged mothers to receive rocking chairs and home visits from the second year resident physicians who are caring for them.

*Doctors' Hospital of Michigan (DHM), [www.dhofm.com](http://www.dhofm.com), is accredited by The Joint Commission and is Michigan's first physician-owned acute-care hospital with a unified mission to deliver the highest quality, cost-effective, and compassionate healthcare in northern Oakland County. DHM is home to a variety of health-related services including: Family Medicine Residency Program, family medicine practices, Acute Medical Surgery, Physical Therapy, Radiation Oncology, Emergency Centers (Pontiac and Waterford), and several out-patient clinics. In addition, DHM is home to Euro-Peds ([www.europeds.org](http://www.europeds.org)), the first hospital-based Intensive Pediatric Physical Therapy program*



**DHM Family Medicine Resident Dr. Frank Adjei assembles a rocking chair in a Pontiac mother's living room – made possible by the Center's participation in a national project that provides new mothers with the rocking chairs and home-centered care.**

# Avoid the Risks of Blood Sugar Imbalance and Diabetes with These Simple Herbal Solutions

**Dr. Michael Cutler, MD**

Consider these staggering statistics: according to the American Diabetes Association, about 24 million people suffer from diabetes and a whopping 5 million people are undiagnosed and don't even know they have the disease! Overall, 54 million Americans suffer from some degree of blood sugar imbalance and insulin resistance. Most of these people have type II diabetes, which is largely preventable with a healthy diet low-carb, low-sugar diet.

As a practicing physician, I was never taught any primary preventative measures for my patients. At most, I was given some detective tools, such as screening blood sugar in "at risk" patients. It baffles me, as I look back, that I couldn't see the huge gap in my medical school and residency training. We did nothing to prevent diabetes and did very little to address the underlying mechanisms that stimulate abnormal sugar metabolism!

The main focus of conventional medicine today is still all about using prescription drugs to lower blood sugar, which is too late if you want to reverse the disease itself. There is no question that people with diabetes experience an elevated risk for a variety of other illnesses including heart disease and stroke, blindness, peripheral nerve disease and pain, kidney damage and failure, impotency and skin disorders.

In a 2003 report, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, childhood obesity rose to 16% of children between ages 6 and 11 (95th percentile of

body mass index for age) plus an additional 14.3% were from the 85th to the 95th percentile. This report pointed out that as these children's body weights increased, so did their consumption of fast foods and soft drinks, trending up by nearly 300%!<sup>2</sup>

I shudder when I read articles like the one reported in the October 2005 Annals of Internal Medicine, which tracked 4,000 adults over 30 years for the development of obesity. It verified that becoming abnormally overweight now has a current trend such that nine out of 10 men and seven out of 10 women will become overweight! With obesity playing such a huge role in diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, hypertension, depression and many cancers -- no wonder the researchers concluded, "more effective prevention and treatment strategies are urgently needed."

### Herbs to Help with Diabetes Control

If you have been diagnosed with insulin resistance or high blood sugar levels, there are certain nutrients you can take to help control and even lower your blood sugar level.

Several herbal preparations have been used to control blood sugar levels beginning as early as 1550 B.C.<sup>3</sup> Here are a few of the herbs that have been adequately studied to determine their actual effects and potencies.

- *Gymnema sylvestre* (leaf). This age-old herb from tropical India destroys sugar taste when the leaves are chewed and is often promoted as an appetite suppressant for weight-loss. More importantly, several small

placebo-controlled trials show that gymnema extracts lower blood sugar levels by enhancing the action of insulin. Animal studies indicate that gymnema can double the number of insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, and bring blood sugar levels to normal. Research findings also indicate that gymnema can improve blood sugar control so that smaller doses of oral diabetes drugs are needed. Several human trials clearly show quite a significant improvement in

blood sugar levels with gymnema.<sup>4</sup>

- Fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*). Fenugreek has been found to improve glucose levels, presumably by decreasing absorption of glucose in the small intestine. One large fenugreek study examined participants with poorly controlled Type II diabetes and found an average fasting blood sugar decrease from

See Diabetes page 15

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- Educational Matters -

# Droppin' Out: The Real American Crisis

By Casey Gane-McCalla



Casey Gane-McCalla

Gane-McCalla is a writer, editor, rapper, producer and actor. He is a Columbia University Graduate and previously worked in the non-profit sector.

There is a major crisis going on in America. If we do not avert this crisis we may see the destruction of America as we know it. We will no longer be able to compete with other countries, thousands more people will be unemployed, our cities will become centers for poverty, violence and drug addiction.

No, this crisis is not our financial crisis or the collapse of the auto industry. This crisis is way more severe than either of those. The crisis is the collapse of the urban educational system, a crisis has been swept under the rug by the American media and government for years.

The urban education crisis is hardly a new one for years the American government has neglected the educational needs of the poor African Americans and Latinos who

occupy many of our city centers.

It is no coincidence that the cities with the highest drop out rates also have the highest crime rates and highest murder rates. Students who are unable to obtain quality educations find opportunities in the world of drugs and crime. The cycle continues from one generation to another, in poor neighborhoods with poor schools plagued by crime and no opportunity gives birth to another generation with the same problem.

Bailing out the urban educational system is not just a money problem. For too many years Americans have fought against things, communism, drugs poverty isn't it time to fight for something? If Americans are to solve this problem first we must realize what a major problem it is and realize that the future of our country is at stake. As in most problems the solution must come from hard work, innovation as well as funding.

By bailing out the urban education system we would not only reduce the crime rate, relieve our overcrowded jails and provide jobs for inner cities, we will also be breaking the cycle that keeps poor people of color in the same neighborhoods, repeating the same cycles of violence, drugs and poverty.

We have seen the heights a person of color can reach when given the proper

education and opportunities in Barack Obama. How many future leaders, innovators, artists and businessman turn to crime or despair because of a lack of educational opportunities.

As someone who has worked in the some of the worst schools in Boston and the South Bronx, I've seen the overcrowded classrooms, the over-stressed, unprepared teachers, the metal detectors at the door, the gangs and lack of art and athletic programs to keep students interested in school. However I've also seen the desire to learn, the thirst for knowledge and the belief in the USA as a beacon of opportunity.

In Baltimore last year, students went on a hunger strike to protest the cuts in after school programs. John McCain said one thing that I agreed with during the campaign and that was that education is the civil rights issue of the 21st century. While de jure segregation has been gone for more then 50 years from our public school system, the system is still inherently separate and unequal.

The few blacks and latinos lucky enough

to live in neighborhoods with decent school systems have a fair chance at the American dream, the masses who are trapped in inner cities with few routes out. Because property taxes fund school systems, rich neighborhoods get lots of money to fund their schools while poor neighborhoods are forced to suffer, creating a class and race based form of de facto segregation.

Bailing out the urban education system will take more than money. It will take people willing to sacrifice and believe in the future of this country. If Obama can inspire people to work for him to get elected hopefully he will be able to inspire people to follow his lead and work as community organizers in urban neighborhoods.

Here's some of the national High school Drop out Rates According to The Wall St. Journal

- Baltimore: 65% of all students drop out
- Chicago: 45% of all students drop out
- Columbus: 60% of all students drop out
- Detroit: 75% of all students drop out
- Los Angeles: 43% of all students drop out
- New York: 53% of all students drop out

**The Pontiac Schools are having the 50/50 Summer Reading Theater again this year at the Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.**

**The Date is August 20, 2009 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

**All children Must be accompanied by an adult.**

**The children will have a Spelling Bee Competition, A Talent Show, Word Bingo, Storytelling, Readers, Scrabble Games, Essay Contest, Children Games, Puppetry, Art Contest.**

**All Children who attend will get a Book.**

**Prizes: Bikes and gift cards, etc for Children and Adults.**

**Children can not receive a prize without an Adult.**

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- Help Your Child With His/Her Homework.

**TYPICAL READER COMMENT:**

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

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

**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.

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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.

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- Get Better Test Scores

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AMAZING HANDBOOK:**

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- 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+).

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**IT WORKS!**

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# Retirement: The Retirement Crisis in the Labor Market

By Christian E. Weller

The United States is in the middle of a severe retirement crisis. Data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics today show that older workers are hanging on to their jobs longer and are struggling more to find a new job if they lost their old one than at any time in almost three decades.

The retirement crisis is largely due to massive losses in retirement wealth. Total retirement wealth losses in all retirement savings plans amounted to an inflation-adjusted \$2.8 trillion—in 2008 dollars—between 2007 and 2008. But these massive financial market losses only apply to those lucky enough to have retirement savings. Even before the crisis hit, only 45.1 percent of all private sector workers participated in a retirement plan—a traditional pension or an individual savings account—through their employer, down from 50.3 percent in 2000. The remainder of the workforce must make due with Social Security and a job well past the retirement age—if such a job can be obtained.

Workers in their prime earnings years have not been spared from this decline. Among workers between the ages of 45 and 54, the share with an employer-sponsored retirement savings plans was 57.4 percent in 2007, the most recent year for which data are available, down from 63.8 percent in 2000.

The lack of access to retirement savings coupled with a massive financial market crisis leaves older workers scrambling for other sources of income. Social Security still remains the bedrock of retirement income security in the United States, but benefits for those retiring today are less than they were

for previous generations due to benefit cuts—a higher normal retirement age—enacted in 1983. This leaves wage earnings as the primary pressure valve for cash-strapped retirees.

The irony that our current answer to the retirement crisis is to work longer should not be lost on anyone. We are only now reaping the fruits of decades of failed retirement income policies that place too much emphasis on individual responsibility and too little emphasis on income security.

Today there are more older workers in the labor force than was the case in the past. The employed share of the population 65 and older, for instance, was 15.9 percent in the second quarter of 2009. This was slightly below its last peak of 16.4 percent in the second half of 2008, but well above any levels since 1971 prior to the current crisis.

Older workers also seem to be better situated to hang on to their jobs than younger workers amid the turmoil on Wall Street and the massive layoffs on Main Street. The employed share of workers between the ages of 55 and 64 was 61.1 percent in the second quarter of 2009—down from 62.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007—the last quarter before the recession started. The employed share of workers 65 and older stayed the same, standing at 15.9 percent in both the fourth quarter of 2007 and the second quarter of 2009.

In comparison, the employed share of workers between the ages 25 and 54 dropped from 79.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007 to 76.1 percent in the second quarter of 2009—a decline that was 200 percent larger than the decrease in the employed share of the population between

the ages 55 and 64.

Older workers clearly are able to maintain their position better than younger workers in this crisis, often because of a phenomenon known as job lock. They are keenly aware that finding a new job in the current situation is somewhere between very difficult and near impossible and thus continue to work in their current employment to find more income support than in the past.

Those older workers who lose their jobs, though, do not go quietly into retirement any more as had been the case in the past. The unemployment rate for older workers has reached record highs as job seekers remain large unsuccessful in finding new employment. The unemployment rate for workers between the ages of 55 and 64 averaged 6.5 percent in the second quarter of 2009, its highest level since the first quarter of 1983. And the unemployment rate for workers 65 and over was 6.2 percent in the second quarter of 2009, its highest level since the first quarter of 1977.

Older men are especially vulnerable in the current labor market. The unemployment rate for men between the ages of 55 and 64 averaged to 7 percent and that of men 65 years of age and older averaged to 6.5 percent in the second quarter of 2009, compared to 5.9 percent for women in the same age groups.

There are also substantial racial differences in the employment prospects of older workers. In the second quarter of 2009, the employed share of whites between the ages of 55 and 64 was 62.3 percent compared to 52.3 percent for African Americans in the same age group. The employed share of

workers 65 years old and older was 16.1 percent for whites and 14.7 percent for African Americans.

Older African Americans also struggled more than whites in finding a new job. The unemployment rate for African Americans between the ages of 55 and 64 was 7.9 percent in the second quarter of 2009, compared to only 6.2 percent for whites. And the unemployment rate for African Americans 65 years old and older was 7.0 percent in the second quarter of 2009 compared to 6.2 percent for whites in this age group.

The double onslaught of a financial crisis and a major recession has left older workers between a rock and a hard place. The decimation of their life savings has them hanging on to their jobs longer or unsuccessfully looking for a new job to a larger degree than was the case in the past.

Using employment as a pressure valve if the best laid retirement savings don't work out as planned is not a viable solution. The answer to the current retirement crisis has to come from policies aimed at helping workers build more retirement wealth in traditional pensions, in individual savings accounts and in Social Security. Working longer will not become the new retirement, but saving more will.

*Christian E. Weller is an Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston's Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, and a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress.*

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# -Voices in the Community-

## Get Up and Get Moving

### Discover Your Dreams & Purpose in Life

*By Jerry Walker*

My purpose for writing this book is to reach all those out in this world who are hurting and to meet them where they are with the message that, "Yes you can make it."

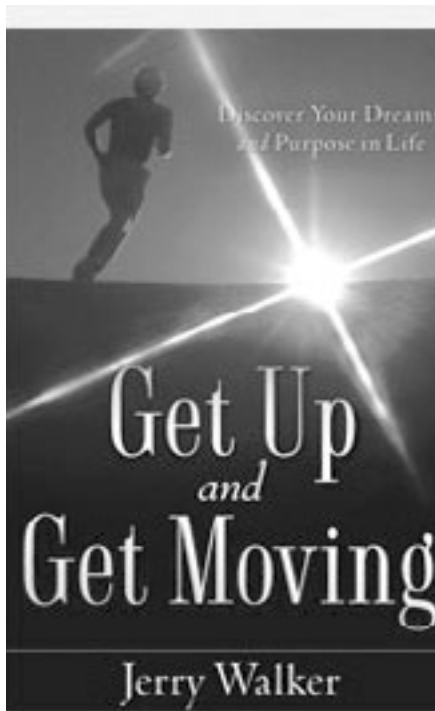
The road map to your success begins in your head." We must take control of our thoughts if we ever hope to do something different with our life because our thoughts go on to shape our attitudes, which in turn give way to our goals and how we see them through to fruition. The mind in all its intricate details will work for you or it will sabotage all your good intentions. We must be very careful what we feed into our subconscious mind.

I want this to be a book that reaches people from every socio-economic stratum and gives them the confidence and direction that is needed to sustain consistent growth. Then, I believe we as a nation will be in a better position to make this world a more desirable and safer place to raise our families.

In today's world it is obvious that we need someone we can turn to for help. Sometimes we try everything we know how to do and find that it is still not enough. In those more trying situations we need a savior; we need someone who is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent and knows what we're going through. We need someone with the power to orchestrate an answer to your issues and who will be there for you through thick and the thin. I believe that someone is my Jesus. He is truly the only one we can turn to for the answer to the questions we face today, tomorrow and everyday we wake up.

In this book, Jerry shares many examples of people who overcame various obstacles to become successful. You will definitely find a common thread that will get you up and get you moving!

As you journey through this life, the successes Jerry shares will help you navigate the minefields and allow you to move from where you are to where you want to be.



### Biography

Jerry J. Walker an ordained minister since 1996 has traveled to various states ministering to people. God's will for their life. He ardently believes that God has a desire for people to reach their highest potential in life.

Jerry was born and raised in Pontiac Michigan, served in the military in the United States Army in the early 70's and received an honorable discharge. He is a successful business owner, married for over 16 years, a devoted husband, father and grandfather

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## 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,**

My husband has been offered a new job in Texas that doesn't pay as much as the job I still have here in Michigan. Right now we are depending on my income and his unemployment to meet our expenses and we have really cut back on our spending so that we are still able to put something in our savings. He really believes that we should try to sell our house, pack up our children and have me leave my job which does not transfer. He feels that with my background I should easily be able to get another job in this new state. That may be true but my reservations include all of the hassle that would be involved in moving. With the housing market being in the shape it's in, I don't think we'll be able to sell our home any time soon so that could mean paying two notes or in order to sell it we may have to take one heck of a killing to get rid of it and sell it for less than what we owe. Then to uproot our children from our family and friends when two of them are in high school and looking forward to prom and graduation with their peers seems so heartless. I think if we were to weigh the pros and cons, the cons outnumber the pros in moving right now. I'm trying to be sensible and rational and he just wants to get out because he's a man who wants a job so he can provide for his family. I don't think he realizes that when you add it all up the income we have right now would still be more than what we would have with his new job and me receiving unemployment. I want to support my man but he is really not looking at this thing with a critical eye. Any suggestions?

Signed,  
Settled Down

**Dear Settled,**

Believe it or not, you seem to be the one who's thinking clearly right now. You have a number of valid points for remaining right where you are. If you had said that your husband was being offered a salary which would increase your income far beyond what you are receiving right now or even matched what you now get, I might have a second thought about your situation. But as you know, if you decrease your income you will have to find another way to supplement your income just to meet your expenses. That will bring a lot more scenarios you will need to take a look at. Sit down with your husband and outline all of your pros and cons on paper so that he can actually SEE the problems that you will inherit with the kind of move he is suggesting. You could suggest that you put your home up for sale and if you're able to sell it for what you need to get out of it then you will consider moving or say that you would be more willing to move once your teens have finished school and are off to college. Believe me; either way you look at it, the two of you have really got some more planning to do before you make such a big decision and move. Good Luck!



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# Oakland County Clerk's Office Going on the Road

## First-ever Mobile Office Will Visit Novi on Tuesday, July 28



**Ruth Johnson**

Oakland County Clerk Ruth Johnson is taking her show on the road with a new Mobile Office that will provide clerk services - including access to millions of birth, marriage and death certificates, court records and property documents - in an effort to reach out to all of Oakland County communities.

The pilot project kicks off 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28 when the Mobile Clerk's Office stops at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

"Our office in Pontiac can be a long way for people, especially with gas prices today," said Johnson. "We've put most of our services on our website, but we realize that there are people without Internet access or those who may be more comfortable with personal service. Our Mobile Office pilot project will offer convenient one-day stops in each of the western, eastern, northern and southern portions of the county."

Mobile Office employees will have computer access and printers so they can provide customers with on-the-spot copies of birth certificates, death certificates or other public records. Normal copy fees will apply. The pilot project, modeled after a successful program in Macomb County, will offer many

services, including:

- Certified Copies of Birth, Death and Marriage Records,
- Marriage License Applications
- Notary Public Applications
- Registration of Assumed Names and Co-Partnerships
- Military Discharge Forms
- Passport Applications & Photos
- Copies of Property Records and Deeds
- Oakland County Circuit Court Records
- Identity Protection Information
- Voter Registration
- Absentee Ballot Application Forms

Johnson said she hopes that the Clerk's Mobile Office stop in Novi on July 28 will prove convenient for residents in the southwest portion of Oakland County. "Anyone is welcome to join us to take advantage of this one-stop service," Johnson said, stressing that there is no additional expense associated with the Mobile Office because resources, including employees and computers, are simply being redeployed in regional locations.

Additional Mobile Office stops will be announced shortly.

"Our job is to get citizens the best possible service at the lowest possible cost, whether we are serving them at our main office in the Oakland County Courthouse in Pontiac, online at [www.oakgov.com/clerkrod](http://www.oakgov.com/clerkrod) or with our Mobile Office," said Johnson.

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# Playmakers U presents "Christmas in July" A Black Tie Charitable Affair

## Pontiac Sports Performance company supports local youth organization with fund raiser

The first annual "Christmas in July Ball" is scheduled for Saturday, July 25, at the Playmakers U Facility located at 1150 Featherstone on the grounds of the Pontiac Silverdome.

The formal event will benefit the Pontiac Youth Assistance Organization which is chaired by Mr. Bruce Turpin with other board members including Pastor Douglas Jones, Mrs. Juanita Green, Mr. Eugene Hawkins and PYA Director Ms. Mary Stewart. The Pontiac Youth Assistance Organization helps children and families prevent delinquency and child neglect within the community. Funds provide direct benefit to youth and their families for activities they may not otherwise be able to afford such as family counseling, parenting classes, skill-building, recreational programs, and tutoring.

Christmas in July will incorporate a Christmas theme displaying images of a wintry wonderland including trees, lighting, decorations and Santa's helpers, all benefiting at-risk children in the City of Pontiac

where attendees will demonstrate that the spirit of giving is year round.

"This event promises to be both exciting and inspiring," said Derek Denham, one of the Playmakers U founders and owners. "We're looking to raise a record amount of money to assure that the Pontiac Youth Assistance Organization can continue providing excellent services and quality programs to the at-risk youth in the City of Pontiac."

The Black Tie affair will be hosted by former television news personality and current WJLB on air talent, Mr. Charles Pugh with a National key note speaker to be named.

The event will include complimentary champagne, a strolling buffet, a dessert station, a silent auction, live entertainment and a sizzling fashion show sponsored by Vintage Prodigy of Royal Oak.

For more information on becoming a sponsor or a volunteer, please contact Mrs. Juanita Harper at 248.841.3962

Ticket cost is \$75 and tables are \$725

# Community Calendar

**PALACE SPORTS and ENTERTAINMENT  
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## **Bloomfield Hills/Woodward Estates Neighborhood Association Meeting**

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**Saturday August 8, 2009 - 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Franklin Elementary School**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Open Forum to Meet & Greet all Candidates that are running  
for political offices in the City of Pontiac in 2009!**

Please attend and voice your concerns  
Velma Stephens - President

### Diabetes from page 10

151 mg/dL (baseline) to 112 mg/dL after 24 weeks.<sup>5</sup>

- Ginseng root (Korean and American ginseng). Ginseng has been studied and used as a treatment for infections and diabetes generally for up to three months with repeated courses. One study showed a significant reduction in post-prandial glucose versus placebo in Type II diabetes.<sup>6</sup>

- Citrus aurantium (orange bitters). This herb stimulates the sympathetic nervous system, thus increasing metabolism and lowering appetite.

- Milk thistle (Silybum marianum). Milk thistle is extremely good at cleansing the liver, an important factor in diabetes. In doses over 1,500 mg per day, loose stools as a result of increased bile flow and secretion can occur.<sup>7</sup> This desired effect makes it the herb of choice for any liver-related diseases, including liver toxicity associated with acetaminophen, anti-psychotics, halothane, and alcohol.<sup>8</sup>

- Green tea. Green tea helps increase metabolism and reduce chronic disease. It significantly reduces food intake, body weight, cholesterol and triglyceride levels. In one study, green tea increased insulin activity by about 15-fold, an effect of the active ingredient, EGCG.<sup>9</sup>

- Bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus). Bilberry leaves have a reported weak anti-diabetic activity and have been shown experimentally to lower blood sugar levels consistently by 26% in rats.<sup>10</sup> In folk medicine, its blood sugar-reducing effect is touted so that it is a common constituent in "anti-diabetic" teas.<sup>11</sup>

- Cinnamon. This spice increases sugar metabolism in rodent fat cells 20-fold according to a report in Diabetes Care. Researchers found that less than one-half teaspoon of cinnamon daily for 40 days significantly dropped blood sugar levels in 60 study participants with Type II diabetes.

- Devil's claw (Oplopanax horridum). The Devil's claw plant reportedly contains insulin-like substances, but its chemistry is still under investigation. The root can be made into a tincture and just five drops on the tongue can help stop sugar cravings.

Blood sugar imbalance and diabetes are

both treatable without risky prescription medications if you are willing to take an honest look at what you eat, examine how active you are, and monitor how much stress you experience every day. To help normalize elevated blood sugar levels, consider one or more of the supplements recommended in this article.

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[Ed. Note: Michael Cutler, M.D. is a board-certified family physician with more than 17 years of clinical experience. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and Tulane Medical School. Dr. Cutler's practice focuses on integrative solutions to health problems, and behavioral and nutritional medicine. For more information, visit [www.truehealth.com](http://www.truehealth.com).]



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# “Cruising for Education”

## POH Riley Foundation to host “Cruising for Education”

**PONTIAC** - The POH Riley Foundation invites the community to come aboard the spectacular Ovation Yacht in St. Clair Shores July 25, 2009 for the “Cruising for Education” charity event.

All proceeds will benefit the Pontiac Promise Scholarship Fund to assist the Pontiac School District in raising dollars to ensure that all students have an opportunity for a brighter future.

In early June, the POH Riley Foundation hosted a “Cruising for Education” kick-off reception to announce the initiative. Nearly 100 Pontiac alumni, community supporters and city activists gathered on the 4th Floor Terrace of POHRMC to learn how they can join the POH Riley Foundation in helping Pontiac students receive a FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION.

Dr. Linda Paramore, Interim Superintendent of the Pontiac School District, calls the POH Riley Foundation a “catalyst” for its efforts to raise money for the scholarship fund.

“I am proud of the POH Riley Foundation for stepping up to be the leader in this effort,” Dr. Paramore said. “Sometimes, we sit back and wait for someone else to take the lead. But when you have a foundation make this type of commitment, you begin to make things happen. Teresa’s energy and passion for this cause is contagious.”

### POH Riley Foundation: A Proud Community Partner

“Cruising for Education” was organized by Teresa Rodges, Executive Director of the POH Riley Foundation. A proud graduate of Pontiac Central High School, Rodges said the foundation’s goal is to raise \$50,000. To date, the foundation has raised \$30,000 for the Pontiac Promise Scholarship Fund.

“Many students from Pontiac are low-income,” Rodges said. “But I truly believe if we give them the opportunity to receive a free college education, they can achieve anything.”

Congressional Liaison Paul Turner III attended the kick-off reception on behalf of Congressman Gary Peters. Taniesha Clanagan, Office Manager of State Representative Tim Melton, was also in attendance.

“We applaud the POH Riley Foundation for spearheading this initiative, and we are excited to partner with you in raising dollars to benefit Pontiac students,” Turner said.

Clanagan added: “We are excited and proud of the POH Riley Foundation and POH Regional Medical Center for demonstrating their leadership in this effort. The commitment to the Pontiac School District by POH has been tremendous.”

### Margaret Elam, a Role Model for Pontiac Students

Margaret Elam, an 18-year-old Pontiac Central High School graduate who will attend Michigan State University in the fall, served as the guest speaker of the evening.

Margaret is a two-year participant of the Osteo-CHAMPS scholarship program, where local students attend a pre-college enrichment summer program at Michigan State University sponsored by the POH Riley Foundation.

“I stand before you as living proof that students from Pontiac can succeed,” Margaret said. “Before attending the Osteo-CHAMPS program, I was very shy. But because of the POH Riley Foundation, I was able to attend MSU, and now I am one step closer to achieving my dreams.”

### Benefitting the City

Pastor Douglas Jones, Chair of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition and Committee of 50, said providing a free college education for Pontiac youth will be just as beneficial to the city as it will be for students.

For that reason, he and the Committee of 50 have endorsed the POH Riley Foundation as a credible fundraising body for the initiative. Teresa Rodges will serve as the Pontiac Promise Scholarship Fund Chairwoman on the Committee of 50.

“I view this as a great opportunity for our students, and as a motivating factor for improving the city’s overall image,” Pastor Jones said. “Having the POH Riley Foundation as a leader in our fundraising efforts is outstanding. This foundation has established itself through its successes and performance as a credible organization to help the Pontiac School District.”

Dr. William D. Strampel, D.O., Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University, said he is eager to see the city of Pontiac thrive.

“POH is one of our 30 major partners,” Strampel said. “The MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine started in Pontiac in 1968, then moved to MSU in 1969. So this is like home to us. Just like the residents of Pontiac, we want to see the city grow and thrive. The way to do that is by providing a future for the city’s youth.”

“I am originally from Kalamazoo,” said Dr. Brian Yancey, Principal of Pontiac Central High School. “If that effect is replicated here, it definitely has the ability to revitalize the city and retain our talent.”

### Giving Back to the Community

Patrick Lamberti, President & CEO of POHRMC, reminded community leaders that it is their responsibility to help local youth succeed.

“We need to find ways to help our children educate themselves,” Lamberti said. “Having a quality of life without furthering your education no longer exists. For those of us who have reached success, it is time to give back.”

Dr. Tressa Gardner, E.R. Director at POHRMC and Chair of the POH Riley Foundation Board of Trustees, was born and raised in Pontiac. She is a graduate of Pontiac Northern High School.

“The one thing that connects us all is the future of our students,” Dr. Gardner said. “I’m a product of Pontiac schools, and I want to make sure the students who come from Pontiac have the same opportunities that I did, to attend college and achieve their dreams.”

QTMC (Quest To Make a Change) Music Group, led by father and son duo David and Steve Coleman, performed a song at the event titled “Feels Good.”

“This song is about being in a position to have a positive change in the community,” said Tachunda Burkes, who collaborates with QTMC. “Having a positive impact on our youth and being able to inspire them is what we’re all about.”

If you would like to make a donation or attend the POH Riley Foundation’s Cruising for Education event, please contact Teresa Rodges at (248) 338-5385 or visit [www.pohregional.org](http://www.pohregional.org) and click on POH Riley Foundation Events.



Dr. Brian Yancey, Pontiac Central High School Principal; Ellen Ferguson, former Pontiac Northern High School Teacher; Magaret Elam, Pontiac Central High School Graduate; Dr. Linda Paramore, Interim Superintendent of the Pontiac School District; and Gina Elam, mother of Margaret Elam.



Tiffany Sharp, POH-Clarkston ER Employee; Forrest E. Milzow, POH Riley Foundation Board of Trustees; Rochelle Loyer, POHRMC Community Educator; and Dr. David Kellam, Cruising for Education Honorary Committee Member.



N.Z. Bryant of Patterson-Bryant, Inc.; Pastor Douglas Jones, Chair of the Committee of 50 and Cruising for Education Honorary Committee Member; and Dr. Bruce Turpin, Chair of the Pontiac Youth Assistance Board of Trustees.



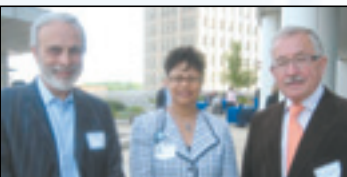
Dr. Tressa Gardner, Chair of the POH Riley Foundation Board of Trustees and Cruising for Education Honorary Committee Member; Anthony Morton of Oakland University; and Liz Allen, POHRMC Physician Liaison.



Rodger Davis of Cobb's Funeral Home; Judge Leo Bowman, Chair of the POHRMC Board of Trustees and Cruising for Education Honorary Committee Member; and Melvin Lee of Xerox Corp. and Pontiac Youth Assistance.



Leah Searcy, Director of Operation for POHS; Patrick E. Lamberti, President and CEO of POHRMC and Cruising for Education Honorary Committee Member; and Laura Gibbard, POHRMC V.P. of Human Resources.



Rick David of United Way for Southeastern Michigan; Teresa Rodges, Executive Director of the POH Riley Foundation; and Dr. William D. Strampel, D.O., Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University.



David Coleman, Tachunda Burkes, and Steve Coleman of QTMC (Quest To Make a Change) Music Group.



Leona Patterson, OLHSA (Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency); Paul Turner, Congressional Liaison to Congressman Gary Peters; Dr. Robert Brewington of Oakland Primary Health Services; Karen Brewington; and Dr. Preston Thomas of Oakland Primary Health Services.



Carol Turpin, wife of Dr. Bruce Turpin; Nellie B. LaGarde, POH Riley Foundation Board of Trustees and husband Ted LaGarde.



Walter Moore, former Pontiac Mayor and current Committee of 50 Vice-Chair; Fran Fowlkes of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition; and Sandy-Michael McDonald, Pontiac Downtown Development Authority Director.



Arthur Fowlkes of Chief Financial Credit Union; Larry & Teresa Rodges, Executive Director of the POH Riley Foundation; Pastor Douglas Jones, Chair of the Committee of 50 and Cruising for Education Honorary Committee Member; and Walter Moore, former Pontiac Mayor and current Committee of 50 Vice-Chair.

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