

# THE REVIVAL OF THE CITY OF PONTIAC

October 10, 2008 - October 24, 2008

# The Pontiac News

A NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

VOL.1 ISSUE 9

**PONTIAC  
COMMUNITY SUMMIT**  
Saturday November 1, 2008  
8 am until 3 pm

Baker College of Auburn Hills  
1500 University Drive  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

See Page 2 and  
Back Cover for Details



City of  
Pontiac  
rising up  
out of ashes  
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Church • School • Business • Community • The People



## AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS

See Page 7. President Bush Message  
regarding Financial Crisis & What  
others are saying about the Bailout!

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# The Pontiac Community Summit

## One On One Interview With Pastor Sylvester Thompson One Of The Organizers

Interview conducted by Clifton Walker



Pastor Sylvester Thompson

**Q:** Thank you Pastor Thompson for agreeing to this interview. Is there any opening statement before we begin?

**PASTOR THOMPSON:** No I don't have an opening statement per se, yet I

would like to thank Mr. Russell and The Pontiac News for taking the time to give some attention to the Pontiac Community Summit to be held on November 1, 2008 at Baker Community College at 1500 University Dr. Over the next three weeks we will be taking our message to the streets of our City. There are so many people that have dedicated time and resources to this

happening. I would like to take the privilege of personally and publicly thanking President Jeff Love of Baker College for being such a gracious host and an outstanding community partner. I guess I did want to make an opening statement after all. (Laughter)

**Q:** Exactly how did the Pontiac Community Summit come into existence?

**PASTOR:** The summit concept actually began with a discussion with members of the community and members of Messiah Missionary Baptist Church regarding the number of youth we were losing.

**Q:** What type of loss are you alluding to Pastor?

**PASTOR:** We are losing youth on many different levels. We have a consistent loss of student enrollment in our public school. We have abysmal test scores that don't appear to be getting better. And perhaps the most important loss is the loss of young lives to violence. So we began the dialogue greater than a year ago and these discussions began to evolve. With the indispensable work of Ms. Minnie Washington and Terry Fobbs and others the summit was expanded to not only address our youth but the entire community. In that all of the issues in the five challenge areas affect our youth. Therefore the summit now takes a holistic approach.

**Q:** And what are those challenge areas and how did they come to be the focus of the summit?

**PASTOR:** Our challenge areas are

Education, Economic Development, Workforce Development, Social Development, Urban Development, and Public Safety.

**Q:** The challenge areas seem to be clearly defined. The question I now have is what are the objectives?

**PASTOR:** The objectives are also clear. We will engage the citizens of Pontiac and stakeholders in conversations via committee form, to produce a community driven product with findings and recommendations. Everyone wins in this approach. In other words the healthier Pontiac is economically and socially the healthier Oakland County and the State are. Let us not forget that we are the County Seat and we should begin to emphasize that more as we seek to develop community assets. Retired Pastor Archibald Moseley told me once that Pontiac will always be relevant to a diverse population because many of our ancestors are buried here. I suspect that he has a point.

**Q:** So what happens after the findings and recommendations?

**PASTOR:** Implementations. For our community to be a better place to live...to have a better quality of life we must implement some of the ideas that are brought to the fore. And since the ideas are derived from the people it will be empowering for them. They will probably make even greater contributions to their community.

**Q:** Is there enough support in the community to make this really happen?

**PASTOR:** The response has been exceptional. People from all fa

cets of the community have come forward. Many have been systematically silenced in the past but not anymore. We are still welcoming more and more individuals each day. All are welcome to come to the table and no one will be rejected because everyone matters.

**Q:** There are so many different groups in the city do you think they will be able to come together for this important community conversation? And what if they don't bring their knowledge and resources to the table?

**PASTOR:** Our community is comprised of good, dedicated, hard working, God loving people who deserve better. I believe the people will come together and the leaders usually follow. This summit is about inclusion. I cannot emphasize that enough. You also asked what if they don't come to the table. Is that right?

**Q:** Yes, that's correct.

**PASTOR:** Well as I indicated I believe they will come to the table. And if they choose not to engage in this conversation then it is up to the constituents they serve to ask them what could be possible wrong with discussing the problems of our community in an open forum with no hidden agendas.

**Q:** Pastor our time is spent. In behalf of The Pontiac News we thank you for a stimulating and informative interview. Thank you so much.

**PASTOR:** Thank you for having me and don't forget November 1, 2008 The Pontiac Community Summit: Save Our Community, Save Our Families, Save Our Children. Thank you and the Pontiac News.

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## Editorial: State of Emergency



Publisher R. Frank Russell

This Issue of TPN features articles from a variety of thought provoking sources. These articles discuss two critical matters of concern; the current crisis in The City of Pontiac as it relates to Youth Violence and; the current meltdown of the financial institutions of America and the world!

Hopefully this insightful information will motivate all of us to contact our religious, business, educational and governmental representatives and stimulate them to work in harmony to solve these critical problems!

As it relates to the Pontiac issue, we are especially encouraged by the efforts of two pastors in the City of Pontiac (Rev. James H. Keys and Rev. Sylvester Thompson) who have decided in conjunction with Baker College, other pastors, community activist and other concerned local business men and women to get out of their churches and into the community in order to help solve the social, economic and educational problems of our city. TPN also want to offer kudos to Michael Reed and The Youth Development Institute and Quincy Stewart for their contributions and offerings of solutions to the Pontiac youth/educational/social crisis.

In the first issue of this publication back in August 2007, a few suggested solutions

were presented, we still think these ideas should be implemented by the community, we again offer them for your consideration.

### School/Educational Solutions

- Establish District Wide Student Success program that teaches students how to succeed in school.
- Conduct mandatory Teacher Education/Training on how to motive, stimulate, educate and cultivate Pontiac students (see details of such a program on page 3 of this issue of TPN)
- Institute District Wide Parent Involvement/Training Program
- Hire Dr. Linda Paramore as the permanent Superintendent and charge her with establishing a community educational agenda.
- Assist Dr. Paramore in the development of a community educational agenda with reachable goals and timetables.
- Make assessment/evaluation of every school in the district and then create school improvement plans.
- Institute residency requirement/incentives that motivate teachers to live in City and send and their children to schools in the district.
- Establish at least once monthly meeting for school board members to hear and respond to community concerns.

### Political Solutions

- Establish a set of minimum qualification for our elected officials

- Revisit city charter to include and or exclude items that are needed to make sure that the City government can run smoothly!
- Establish monthly meeting for council members to hear and respond to community concerns.
- Establish at least once monthly meeting for Mayor and staff to hear and respond to community concerns

### Religious Solutions

- Get out in the community help solve social, economic, political issues in the city.
  - Invest funds raised by the church back into the community by establishing businesses and other enterprises.
  - Become more informed about what's happening in the community.
  - Consolidate some of these churches – there are too many churches for a City the size of Pontiac.
  - Educate your congregations, "Our People Perish for the Lack of Knowledge"
  - Pastors educate yourself and your ministers.
  - Be aware of and tolerant of the faith of others, and be willing to form needed alliances with people from different religion.
- We welcome your input and suggestions and will continue to provide a forum for your suggestions and input. Together we can solve Pontiac's problems and make this community an All-American City again.

RFR - Publisher TPN

## The Pontiac News

**PUBLISHER & CONTENT EDITOR**  
R. Frank Russell  
**CONTENT & NEWS EDITOR:** Elaine Smith-Wright  
**AFRICIAN CORRESPONDENT:** Kofi Annorh  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:**  
Clifton Walker, Dianthia Spann,  
Elaine Smith-Wright, Rev. James Keys,  
Michael Reed, Quincy Stewart III, Michael Hohausen.

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** TBD  
**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Kashif Russell  
**CIRCULATION MANAGER:** Christopher Riley  
**OFFICE MANAGER:** Mary C. Russell  
**DESIGNER & PRINTER:** Michigan Web Press  
**CONTACT INFO:**  
 TELEPHONE: (248) 758-1411  
 FAX: (248) 451-1653  
 PO Box 431412, Suite #1  
 Pontiac, MI 48343  
 www.thepontiacnews.com  
 ThePontiacNews@SBCGlobal.net

# A Proposed Solution to Youth Crisis

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) In Conjunction with The Pontiac News, Inc. & Other Participating Organizations  
Presents The Educational & Business Conference & Workshop Series

## How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate & Cultivate A Valuable Untapped Resource

The Young Black Male and Female & Other At-Risk Students®

Coming the City of Pontiac/Oakland County In February 2009 A Black History Month Event

©YDI Non-Profit Youth Service Concept Since 1983

### “CONCERNED PROFESSIONALS COMING TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE CRISIS OF THE YOUNG BLACK MALE & FEMALE AND OTHER AT-RISK STUDENTS”

#### A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear clergy, parents, educators and other concerned citizens:

Did you know that recent studies have shown that a significant number of young black males, females and other at-risk students that enter our public schools and other institutions drop-out or fail because of an inability of professionals within these institutions to understand and connect with the issues that impact upon the growth and development of these children?

Did you also know that there are individuals who have dedicated their lives to finding ways and means of addressing the profound problems that cause a significant segment of our young people to fail or simply drop out of school?

With keynote addresses and expert presentations in the various areas related to 'Solving The Crisis of The Young Black Male & Female and Other At-Risk Students, you will emerge from this conference armed with practical tips that will make you a more effective Stimulator, Motivator, Educator and Cultivator of this most Valuable Untapped American Resource.

This conference will feature innovative, practical and common-sense ideas, advice and solutions from a dynamic panel of seasoned experts who have been successfully dealing with this crisis for years. Topics will include:

- The Proper Education for The Young Black Male, Female and other At-Risk Students for the 21st Century!
- How To Properly Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate, The Young Black Male, Female and other At-Risk Students!
- Adverse Environmental factors that negatively impact upon the Educational Development of Young Black Males, Females and other At-Risk Students.
- The impact of Nutrition and Ritalin on the Education of Young Black males, Females and other At-Risk Students!
- How To circumvent the disproportionate percentage of Black Males who are suspended, Expelled and/or placed in Special Education classes!
- How To Deprogram Young Black Males & Females and Other At-Risk Students from the Myth of Intellectual Inferiority!
- High Teacher Expectation as a Motivator!
- The Impact of Teacher Frustration and Administrative Inflexibility on Student Achievement!
- How School Fail Young Black Males and Females and other At-Risk Students!
- Black Children Their Roots, Culture and Learning Style!
- Bringing the Black Boy & Girl to Man & Womanhood!
- The Effects of Cultural Forces on the Self Concept of Young Black Males, Females and Other At-Risk Students!
- Towards a Relevant Curriculum Taught with the Appropriate Methodology!
- How To Stimulate and Motivate Parental Involvement!
- How To Motivate and Cultivate Student Achievement!
- The Impact of Technology on the Education of The Young Black Male, Female and other At-Risk Students!
- How To Awaken the Genius of the Black Child!
- A Model Parental training program that works!
- Why School Reform Efforts Have Failed and What Parents Need To Do!

Please Join The Youth Development Institute (YDI), The Pontiac News and other area organizations, businesses and agencies along with our Panel of Experts from across this Nation at this unique, timely and critical event to share ideas and perspectives on How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate - A Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male, Female and other At-Risk Students!

Do not hesitate - send your request for event brochure and registration information to YDI - P.O. Box 431016 - Pontiac, MI 48343, or email your contact information to YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com, or call Mike Reed at 248-758-1411 for more information. We look forward to seeing you at this educational events!

Sincerely,  
Mike Reed, Event Coordinator

#### CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

This Educational/Business Conference and Workshop Series is designed to help professionals and other individuals to understand and more effectively Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate this most Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male and Female and other At-Risk Students. This conference series will also serve as a forum whereby educators, social workers, policy makers and others can devise additional methods to solve the problems encountered by this population in the various institutions in this society.

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- School Principals, Teachers and other Educators
- Professors
- Administrators
- Counselors
- Youth Advisors
- Social Workers
- Police Officers
- Psychologist
- Sociologist
- Ministers
- Parents
- Protective Service Workers
- Coaches
- Boys & Girls Scout Leaders
- Child Welfare Workers
- Parole Officers
- Probation Officers
- School Board Members
- Students and the General Public

Over 15,000 professionals, the general public and other concerned parties from throughout Oakland County will gather at the conference site during Black History Month February 2009 for this most important conference and workshop series.

#### CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

In order to mitigate the crisis encountered by The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Students in the various institutions of America, The Youth Development Institute via this Conference Series proposes to:

1. Assist Teachers and other Educators, Professors, Administrators, Counselors, Youth Advisors, Social Workers, Psychologist, Sociologist, Ministers, Parents, Protective Service Workers, Coaches, Boys & Girls Scout Leaders, Child Welfare Workers, Police Officers and other professionals who work with the target group to understand and more effectively Stimulate, Motivate, Educate and Cultivate Young Black Males and Females and Other At-Risk Students.
2. Identify the specific problems encountered by The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Students in the various educational and other institutions in this society.
3. Recommend specific solutions to the problems encountered by The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Students.
4. Share and Exchange information with educators and other professionals who work with The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Students.
5. Bring media and public attention and awareness to this most serious problem.
6. Focus media and public attention on those experts who have developed ways and means of addressing this critical problem.
7. Stimulate and Motivate Educators and other professionals who work with The Young Black Male and Female and Other At-Risk Students to devise additional methods to solve this crisis.
8. Examine the role that various American Institutions (religious institutions, schools, media) can play in resolving this most critical problem.
9. Articulate to the appropriate local, state and federal officials suggestions resulting from this conference series that will facilitate the resolution of this grave crisis.

#### A LETTER TO POTENTIAL SPONSORS

Dear Sponsor:

It is with great pleasure that we announce and present the Educational/Business Conference & Workshop Series "How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate & Cultivate - A Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male & Female & Other At-Risk Students". This exciting event will be held in Oakland County/Pontiac, Michigan during Black History Month February 2009. It is anticipated that we will reach (as attendees) over 15,000 parents, youth, educators, childcare workers and other professional who work with our youth. In addition, we expect many more thousands of parents and caregivers will realize the benefits of this conference through video, television and other mediums.

As you know a segment of our population are not realizing the full benefits of our educational system and are being left behind as non-productive and unemployable members of the community. We here at YDI believe that this problem can be solved. Hence we have contacted and are presently in negotiation with educational experts from across this great country who have developed the ways and means of addressing the critical issues encountered by young black males, females and other At-Risks students within the public school system and other institutions of America.

In order to make this vision (conference series) happen we are in need of corporate, governmental and individual sponsors who will step up to the plate and provide YDI with the financial support needed to make this most worthwhile project a reality! Quite frankly, if you really want to show that you support education and our youth, there is no better way than serving as a sponsor of The National Conference & Workshop Series "How To Stimulate, Motivate, Educate & Cultivate - A Valuable Untapped Resource - The Young Black Male & Female & Other At-Risk Students".

Please call 248-758-1411 to receive Sponsors Information. We will provide complete Sponsor kit per your request, which details the various levels of Sponsorship Opportunities that are available to individuals, corporations, foundations and governmental agencies.

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) is a Michigan based non-profit, Corporation; therefore your contributions may be tax deductible. Our tax ID # is 38-2532902. If you have questions on how to proceed as a sponsor please call Mike Reed at 248-758-1411, you can also request information electronically, our email address is YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com

Sincerely,  
Mike Reed - Event Coordinator

**— What's Happening In Pontiac —**

Over the past 12 months or so the City of Pontiac has lost 30 plus young men (victims and doers) in the prime of their lives for senseless reasons. The articles on this page are in response to this tragic trend. This section will be a regular part of each issue of The Pontiac News, in our search to find and offer solutions to this serious problem! As always we welcome your input and responses. RFR Publisher TPN

# A Call to Arms!!!



**By: Michael Reed, Special Projects Coordinator, The Youth Development Institute**

*"Each one reach one, Each one teach one"*  
-Gil Scott Heron

Now that Arts, Beats and Eats and the Dream Cruise are over, it's time for the citizens of Pontiac to confront one of our most challenging issues; i.e. the youth crisis in our community.

The daily headlines report the violence and savagery being perpetuated by our young men and women. Most notably the recent senseless killing of a homeless man by three teens in downtown Pontiac. It is not only the violence but the complete lack of respect, character and moral values exhibited by too many of our youths. It points to a crisis of spirit and mind that is destroying our children.

In a world gone mad with money, materialism and technology, we must question as Martin Luther King Jr. did in wondering "whether our moral and spiritual progress has been commensurate with our scientific progress."

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention reports that each and every day 15 young people between the ages of 10 and 24 will be murdered and over 80% will be killed with a firearm. Among 10-24 year olds homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans and the second leading cause of death for Hispanics.

Over 700,000 young people ages 10-24 are treated in emergency rooms every year for injuries sustained from violent attacks. As a result of all this violence, our community is in chaos. Families and lives are being destroyed daily as a consequence of this madness. Our young people are being taken to the cemeteries or penitentiaries.

It has been reported that Fortune 500 companies are now investing in the penal system because of its profitability. The effect is to increase the mandate of the judicial system to "lock em up and throw away the key."

We as a community must rise up and reverse this trend that makes funerals a common place for family reunions. We must recognize that the "jails are the new slave ships and the penitentiaries the new plantations." Our kids are too valuable for us to sit aimlessly on the sidelines and watch our children, grandchildren and loved ones

destroyed.

I can remember a day when it was warm outside and we fell asleep with the windows and doors opened and unlocked. We had no fear of break-ins or violence. A day when if I did something wrong or disrespectful down the street, the neighbor had permission to chastise me and when my parents were told, I would get another spanking.

They took prayer and corporal punishment out of the schools. As a result, you see the high incidence of violence and disorder in our schools. I know our communities are no longer the same place and they never will be I know and I do not desire to go back. However, we are living on the boundary between one age and another. We stand at the crossroads. It is a time of risk. We as adults have a spiritual duty and role to play at such a time as this.

The current circumstances require us to have the courage and wisdom to readapt and reapply old concepts and moral values to meet the present need. We must create a new spiritual energy with which we as a community can confront our contemporary crisis and the anxiety of our youth.

We have learned to question the easy optimism of preachers, politicians and professionals who speak only to please. We know our demons are not so easily dismissed. We yearn for more than simply the ability to get through the day. We want to make a life worth living, not just existing. We know from ours and past generations experiences, that this battle requires courage.

The Youth Development Institute of Pontiac is committed to developing such creative and courageous programs and ideas to save our children.

The Youth Bank, with emphasis on economics and entrepreneurship for our young people is one such program. We at YDI encourage every citizen to think and submit ideas to confront the crisis and save our youth. Together we will develop, organize and create new programs and a new dynamic vocabulary in which to communicate and get positive results for our young people.

There is an old Chinese proverb that states "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." We know that our journey for the redemption of our youth has just begun. Let's take that first step together, united as a community to save our children and generations unborn.

Please contact us at: Youth Development Institute (YDI) Email Address: YDIyouthDevelop@aol.com. Phone Number: 248-758-1411

# Unity and Action!



**By Quincy Stewart III**

In response to the economic crisis, current school drop-out rate, increased violent crime statistics and incarceration rate of male youth in Pontiac, a call to any and all concerned African American men was made by Pontiac resident, activist and musician, Quincy Stewart during the last few Pontiac council meetings.

Pontiac has lost over 30,000 auto manufacturing jobs over the last two decades, resulting in a declining population, increased poverty, dwindling community resources and a host of other related problems.

Stewart believes that uniting men in the community around problem-solving, researching viable solutions and then acting on solid, doable planning could help alleviate the suffering that has seemed to grasp the community.

"To supplant the dwindling job market, we feel that entrepreneurship, cultural education around authentic values and seeing beyond landing a job as an only option could be the key", says Stewart. "Economic health in the community is absolutely critical to our overall health". Unfortunately, when there is a lapse in the above-ground economy, there is an upsurge

in the underground economy."

The discussions and planning sessions are every Saturday at the Monument of Faith Church on Auburn and Shirley streets in Pontiac at 10 AM.

"Eventually, we must open our session up to women", Stewart said. We can not conduct our resurgence with only one half the equation missing". "I only started with men because we need to set our priorities about dealing with our young boys. The entire community, regardless of gender is in trouble. The good news is that the situation is manageable with good planning, consistent follow-through and a common goal."

The sessions so far have focused on political accountability, both at City Hall and at the Pontiac School Board, and researching the successes and failures of other organizations both past and present to address social problems. Research is also being done to determine what resources in the community currently exist, that can be used to improve the quality of life in Pontiac.

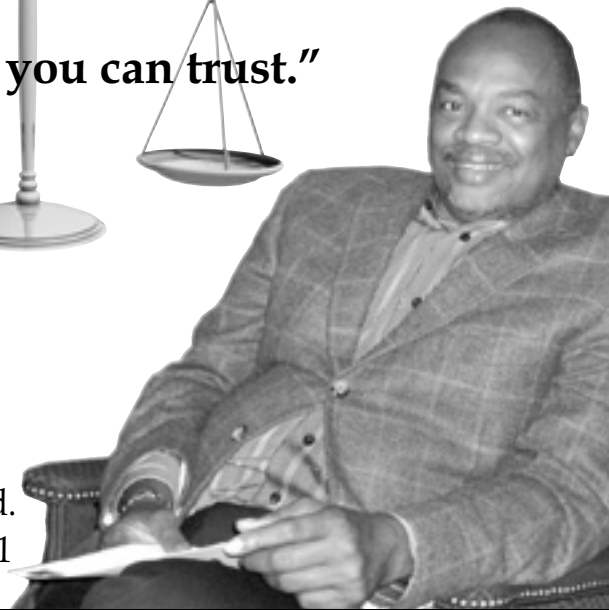
"By reaching out to all people, regardless of differences of opinion; and by eliminating any obstacle to open communication around the critical issues that face us, I believe we can make a strong impact and soon...what is important is follow-through", remarked Stewart.

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Dr. Harry L. Riggs Building  
149 Franklin Blvd.  
Pontiac, MI 48341

Office 248-333-0220 • Home 248-454-0762  
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## Pontiac Central High Class 1968 40th Class Reunion

Friday & Saturday October 17th & 18th  
Crown Plaza Hotel & Resort  
1500 Opdyke Rd - Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
To Register call: 248-758-1411

## — What's Happening In Oakland County —

### Patterson to Receive First Annual Lifetime Achievement Award From Statewide Business Organization



**L. Brooks Patterson**

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson received the 1st Annual Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Business and Professional Association (MBPA) and the Michigan Food and Beverage Association (MFBA) on October 3rd during the 4th Annual Michigan Business and Legislative Forum being held at Burton Manor in Livonia.

Patterson was presented the award because of his "outstanding and dedicated service to the state of Michigan and the business community and for his professionalism."

"We're delighted Brooks was here in person to accept the award," said Ed Deeb, MBPA president. "He certainly deserves the recognition because of his leadership and the outstanding contributions he has made, not only to Oakland County but to the entire state of Michigan."

Deeb said Patterson was selected for the award by the associations board of directors. The MBPA, which is the largest association in Michigan for small and mid-sized businesses, has 21,000 members who employ 160,000 people statewide.

### Oakland County Medical Branding Could Mean Billions in New Investment and Thousands of New Jobs

On September 24, 2008 Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announced the creation of a medical branding initiative among major hospital systems, medical device manufacturers and higher education in the county that could lead to billions of dollars in new investment and thousands of new jobs.

Oakland County is tentatively referring to this consortium of health care as "Oakland Medical."

The initiative focuses on the county's abundant medical and life science industry which boasts some of the top hospitals, universities and medical device companies in the United States. The county, along with William Beaumont Hospitals, McLaren Health Care Corp. and Oakland University, commissioned a study from the Lansing-based Anderson Economic Group to examine the strength of the life science industry in Oakland County and the potential for growth. It concluded the county could add 45,000 jobs in the next 10 years, making it one of the largest employment sectors in Oakland County.

"There is a trend here," Patterson said. "As we looked at our Economic Outlook report, coupled with the success of the Emerging Sectors program, it became clear that the medical sector should be targeted for expansion," Patterson said. "The study confirmed what we sensed. Life sciences could go right off the charts in Oakland County. It could mean billions of dollars of investment and thousands of new jobs."

The Anderson study predicted that the average annual wage for the 45,000 new jobs would be about \$50,000 but medical research jobs in the \$80,000-\$90,000 would be targeted. The county ranks first in the state in the number of pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing (10), medical equipment and supplies manufacturing (62) and medical office clusters (3,274).

"This report clearly shows that Oakland County is a leader in the health care and life sciences industry both within Michigan and a much larger geographic area," said Scott Watkins, senior consultant for the Anderson Economic Group and the report's author. "The county has the tools to build this industry and make it into an important part of the county's and the region's future economic prosperity."

Before announcing the initiative publicly,

Patterson met privately for 90 minutes with top officials from area medical providers to unveil his five-point branding plan. It includes targeting patients from outside the region or "medical tourists," commercializing technologies and products, development and training of future work forces to meet increased demand, seeking state and federal grants and partnering with existing companies to attract new businesses to Oakland County.

Deputy Oakland County Executive Ken Rogers, who is also Automation Alley executive director, said health care and life sciences are major industries in Oakland County.

"With over 4,300 establishments and 93,000 employees engaged in health care and life sciences in Oakland County, this medical center is second to none in the world," Rogers said. "Branding this dynamic medical community makes good business sense. Oakland County is a global force as a center for medical schools and facilities, research and development, pharmaceuticals as well as medical devices."

#### Those in the meeting included:

- Kenneth Matzick, president and CEO of William Beaumont Hospitals
- Michael Wiemann, president of the Providence Region, Providence Park Hospital
- Phil Incarnati, president and CEO, McLaren Health Care Corp.
- Nancy Schlichting, president and CEO, Henry Ford Health Systems
- Jack Weiner, president and CEO, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital
- Dr. Gary Russi, president, Oakland University
- Mark Dickman, chief financial officer, Ferndale Laboratories
- Rob Chioini, president, Rockwell Medical Technologies
- Bruce Barrett, president, Somanetics
- Paul Morris, director of operations, Lumigen Inc.
- Stephen Rapundalo, executive director, MichBio

There are several important medical projects underway or recently opened in Oakland County, including expansions of Henry Ford West Bloomfield, Providence Park in Novi, a Beaumont/Oakland University medical school, the proton beam therapy cancer center at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, McLaren Health Care Village in Independence Township and a surgical expansion at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac.

As a part of the initiative, Patterson is also creating an Oakland County Life Sciences Advisory Board.

### Oakland County Clerk Ruth Johnson: Copies Won't Contain Social Security Numbers - Bending Rules Will Help Safeguard Public Against Identity Theft



**Ruth Johnson**

Oakland County, Michigan, Beginning on September 9, 2008, the Oakland County Clerk's office will be removing Social Security numbers from every standard photocopy of Circuit Court documents provided by the Legal Division of the Clerk's Office, Ruth Johnson announced.

"We just can't wait for the bureaucrats to catch up with current technology - criminals don't wait," Johnson said. "When the rules don't make sense, they need to be changed. I will fight against criminals interested in mining public documents for private informa-

tion."

Michigan State Court guidelines currently authorize the Clerk's Office to black out or remove Social Security numbers from copies of court documents filed after March 2006. The problem, Johnson said, are copies requested from files recorded before March 2006 that still include Social Security numbers.

Under the new directive, Johnson has instructed staff in the Legal Division to black out Social Security numbers from all standard copies, whether paper photocopies or electronic copies provided to the public by their office. The Division provides residents with nearly 200,000 copies annually.

According to the FBI (www.fbi.gov), identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S., claiming "10 million victims a year." Access to Social Security numbers is a key enabler for criminals who steal identities.

"As an elected public official, I have a responsibility to do all I can to safeguard the private information of our citizens," Johnson said. She was joined by an Oakland County mom, Janie Giles, whose daughter, Gabriella, just 4-years-old, had her Social Security number stolen and used by thieves.

While Gabriella's Social Security number was not obtained from county files, it does show how vulnerable the public can be to identity theft. The family suspects the Social Security number may have been stolen shortly after the family had applied to the state for the MICHild program, which provides health insurance for their children.

The family was required to provide all of their Social Security numbers on the state application form. Later, a clerk told Janie Giles that two other families had complained about stolen Social Security numbers that week.

Giles, a mom of four, discovered the theft when the family had their taxes done and found out that someone had already claimed a dependent child using Gabriella's Social Security number.

The Groveland Township family has struggled because of Michigan's economy and job layoffs. Her husband is a machine tool electrician. The stolen Social Security number has prevented them from claiming Gabby as a dependent on their taxes or as a dependent for the economic stimulus check - costing them a total of \$2,000.

"It couldn't have happened at a worse time," Giles said. The family has tried to weather economic struggles by raising chickens and selling eggs locally, as well as cutting and selling firewood. The worst part is that while the state provided health insurance cards for her other three children - they didn't provide one for Gabby because her identity was stolen, her mom said.

"Gabby is just four years old and she may have to struggle with this her entire life," her mom said. "You need your Social Security number for everything - to get a job, get a license, to register to vote, sign up for phone and electrical service, everything."

The IRS has told her there is little to be done. Her tax preparer told her the same thing could occur next year, "and that whoever files their return with Gabby's number first will get to claim her as a dependent," Giles said. "We couldn't even put a fraud alert on her - they said she's too young to have a credit history and isn't eligible."

This action joins other initiatives Johnson has made over the last two years to fight identity theft, including the formation of an Identity Protection Task Force with Oakland Circuit Judge Joan Young, the county's IT

**See Oakland on Page 10**

## — What's Happening In Lansing — Melton: House Approves Taxpayer Home Protection Act

### Plan will help struggling homeowners facing foreclosures

State Representative Tim Melton - 29th House District



**Melton**

LANSING - On September 25, 2008 The Michigan House today passed a plan co-sponsored by State Representative Tim Melton (D-Pontiac) to establish the Taxpayer Home Protection Act, which will help homeowners at risk of losing their homes to tax foreclosure get extensions and exemptions on their property taxes.

"Michigan residents are facing difficult times and many of our hard-working families are struggling just to make ends meet," Melton said. "Too many of these families are losing their homes to foreclosures and we must lend them a helping hand. This plan is a giant step forward in the fight to put an end to the foreclosure crisis here in Michigan."

The bipartisan Taxpayer Home Protection Act aims to streamline the process of struggling homeowners applying for an exemp-

tion to the property tax, as well as adds additional notification requirements so homeowners know exactly when their property could be foreclosed on and what forms of assistance are available to them. The plan also will exclude water and utility bills from items that can trigger foreclosure; and give homeowners more flexibility in repaying delinquent taxes before foreclosure.

According to RealtyTrac, Michigan reported 136,000 foreclosure filings in 2007 - a 68 percent increase from 2006 and 282 percent increase from 2005. Since the beginning of 2008, Michigan has reported a total of 62,138 foreclosures, posting one of the top five foreclosure rates in the country.

"In these tough economic times we must put extra protections in place for our working families," Melton said. "This plan is not intended to bail out residents who simply don't pay their property taxes. It is meant to help residents understand this process and make them aware of their available options. By passing this plan today, we can help more of our residents remain in their homes as we work to get Michigan back on track."

— Africa - & World News —

# President Kufuor of Ghana Returns Home From US

**Kofi Annorh - African Correspondent**  
*Kofi provides TPN with news about events that are happening on the African Continent*



**Kofi Annorh with Mayor Brenda Lawrence and Mayor Clarence Phillips**

President John Agyekum Kufuor returned home October 1, 2008 after a state visit to the US on the invitation of President George W. Bush. He also attended the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Mr Andrew Awuni, Press Secretary to the President and Presidential Spokesman told journalists at the airport that following discussions between President Kufuor and President Bush, the US Government has pledged to assist Ghana with technical expertise on her oil discovery.

He said under the pledge, about 100 scholarships will be granted to Ghanaian

students to study in the US to enrich their knowledge on oil exploration.

Mr Awuni said US Government also agreed to assist Ghana with \$ 350 million dollars for rural electrification. He said President Kufuor addressing the UN General Assembly, pledged government's commitment to ensure free and fair Election 2008 and invited international observers into the country during the election period.

Mr Awuni said the death of Mr Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, Minister for Finance and Economic Planning took its toll on President Kufuor and his entourage. He described the late Baah-Wiredu as a hardworking and affable man, adding " his death is indeed a sad event."

President Kufuor was met on arrival by Vice President Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Ministers of State, Lieutenant-General J B Danquah, Chief of Defence Staff and Mr Patrick Kwarteng Acheampong, Inspector General of Police.



**President Kufuor**

— What's Happening In Washington —

# Knollenberg Statement Against Wall Street Bailout



**Joe Knollenberg**  
Washington, DC  
Congressman Joe Knollenberg (MI-09) issued the following statement on Monday September 29, 2008 regarding his vote against the proposed bailout for Wall Street:  
"I absolutely believe action must be taken to protect our economy and financial markets from further turmoil. Unfortunately the package we considered today was unnecessarily rushed and lacks critical protections for Michigan's families. Michigan taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for a rushed bailout.

"I still have serious concerns about this

package's cost to taxpayers and its protections against abuse, particularly in the form of 'golden parachutes' for Wall Street executives. This bill should include greater restrictions on executive payouts and more incentives for private lenders to bail out Wall Street. Some improvements were made to the bill in negotiations over the weekend - but not enough. The process was rushed, and I cannot in good conscience support a flawed bill that puts too much risk on the backs of families who are struggling under Michigan's six-year single-state recession. Oakland County's families shouldn't be forced to pay Wall Street bankers for their failures.

"I support quick action to stabilize our economy, but this plan is simply not the right solution."

## Mosaic Ghana Africa

In June 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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**149 Franklin Blvd**  
**Pontiac, Michigan 48341**  
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— What's Going On Around Us! —

# President Bush's Prime-Time Speech on Economic Crisis



**President Bush**

**September 24, 2008** Good evening. This is an extraordinary period for America's economy the past few weeks, many Americans have felt anxiety about their finances and their future. I understand their worry and their frustration. We've seen triple-digit swings in the stock market. Major financial institutions have teetered on the edge of collapse, and some have failed. As uncertainty has grown, many banks have restricted lending. Credit markets have frozen. And families and businesses have found it harder to borrow money.

We're in the midst of a serious financial crisis, and the federal government is responding with decisive action. We've boosted confidence in money market mutual funds, and acted to prevent major investors from intentionally driving down stocks for their own personal gain.

Most importantly, my administration is working with Congress to address the root cause behind much of the instability in our markets. Financial assets related to home mortgages have lost value during the housing decline. And the banks holding these assets

have restricted credit. As a result, our entire economy is in danger. So I've proposed that the federal government reduce the risk posed by these troubled assets, and supply urgently-needed money so banks and other financial institutions can avoid collapse and resume lending.

This rescue effort is not aimed at preserving any individual company or industry -- it is aimed at preserving America's overall economy. It will help American consumers and businesses get credit to meet their daily needs and create jobs. And it will help send a signal to markets around the world that America's financial system is back on track.

I know many Americans have questions tonight: How did we reach this point in our economy? How will the solution I've proposed work? And what does this mean for your financial future? These are good questions, and they deserve clear answers.

First, how did our economy reach this point?

Well, most economists agree that the problems we are witnessing today developed over a long period of time. For more than a decade, a massive amount of money flowed into the United States from investors abroad, because our country is an attractive and secure place to do business. This large influx of money to U.S. banks and financial institu-

tions -- along with low interest rates -- made it easier for Americans to get credit. These developments allowed more families to borrow money for cars and homes and college tuition -- some for the first time. They allowed more entrepreneurs to get loans to start new businesses and create jobs.

Unfortunately, there were also some serious negative consequences, particularly in the housing market. Easy credit -- combined with the faulty assumption that home values would continue to rise -- led to excesses and bad decisions. Many mortgage lenders approved loans for borrowers without carefully examining their ability to pay. Many borrowers took out loans larger than they could afford, assuming that they could sell or refinance their homes at a higher price later on.

Optimism about housing values also led to a boom in home construction. Eventually the number of new houses exceeded the number of people willing to buy them. And with supply exceeding demand, housing prices fell. And this created a problem: Borrowers with adjustable rate mortgages who had been planning to sell or refinance their homes at a higher price were stuck with homes worth less than expected -- along with mortgage payments they could not afford. As a result, many mortgage holders began to default.

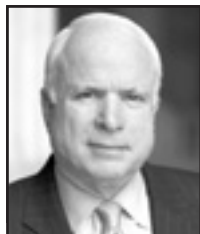
These widespread defaults had effects far beyond the housing market. See, in today's mortgage industry, home loans are often packaged together, and converted into financial products called "mortgage-backed securities." These securities were sold to investors around the world. Many investors assumed these securities were trustworthy, and asked few questions about their actual value. Two of the leading purchasers of mortgage-backed securities were Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Because these companies were chartered by Congress, many believed they were guaranteed by the federal government. This allowed them to borrow enormous sums of money, fuel the market for questionable investments, and put our financial system at risk.

The decline in the housing market set off a domino effect across our economy. When home values declined, borrowers defaulted on their mortgages, and investors holding mortgage-backed securities began to incur serious losses. Before long, these securities became so unreliable that they were not being bought or sold. Investment banks such as Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers found themselves saddled with large amounts of assets they could not sell. They ran out of the money needed to meet their immediate obligations. And they faced imminent collapse.

**See Bush on Page 10**

## What Other Are Saying about the Bailout Plan!

### McCain urges Treasury Department to take action



**Senator McCain**

Republican presidential nominee John McCain is urging the Treasury Department to intervene aggressively to limit damage from the financial meltdown, action that McCain says President Bush can take with the stroke of a pen.

Opening a business round-table Tuesday in Des Moines, Iowa, McCain said he has urged the Treasury to use its exchange stabilization fund "as creatively as possible" to backstop the market crisis. He says officials also should use the authority granted in a housing bill to purchase up to a trillion dollars in mortgages.

McCain decried the defeat of the financial bailout measure in the House, and he warned that the nation's political leaders will have to take risks even though solutions to the crisis may be unpopular.

The first thing I would do is say, 'Let's not call it a bailout. Let's call it a rescue,'" McCain told CNN. He said, "Americans are frightened right now" and political leaders must give them an immediate solution and a longer-term approach to the problem.

### Obama calls on Americans to support rescue plan

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on Tuesday September 30, 2008 called for Americans to get behind attempts to salvage a \$700 billion rescue plan for the financial sector, saying that if Wall Street fails ordinary people will also be



**Senator Obama**

hurt. "This is no longer just a Wall Street crisis. It's an American crisis, and it's the American economy that needs this rescue plan," Obama told about 12,000 people at a rally at the University of Nevada at Reno.

Obama said Congress should put aside politics and should act on the legislation quickly. "To the Democrats and Republicans who opposed this plan yesterday, I say: Step up to the plate and do what's right for this country," he said. "And to all Americans, I say this: If I am president of the United States, this rescue plan will not be the end of what we do to strengthen this economy. It will only be the beginning."

Obama issued a statement saying that significantly increasing federal deposit insurance would help small businesses and make the U.S. banking system more secure as well as restore public confidence.

### Lyndon LaRouche: There Is a Plan B



**Lyndon LaRouche**

Sept. 27, 2008 (EIRNS)--This release was issued on Sept. 27 by the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC).

Lyndon LaRouche today reiterated that the trillion dollar taxpayers bailout scheme, being peddled by Hank Paulson, Barney Frank, Chris Dodd, et al. is doomed to fail. "If the bailout

is passed, this will not solve anything. It will trigger Weimar hyperinflation immediately, will bring down the whole banking system, and, contrary to Gordon Brown's fantasies, will not save the hopelessly bankrupt British banking system."

LaRouche emphasized, "However, as many people inside Washington and on Wall Street perfectly well know, there is a Plan B. Plan B is my three-step solution, which begins with bankruptcy reorganization, rather than hyperinflationary bailout. First, pass my Homeowners and Bank Protection Act (HBPA). This viable proposal has been out there since Sept. 2007, and everyone serious, who has studied it, knows it will work. Had Congress shown the guts to pass my HBPA in 2007, this crisis would have been averted, and we would have already been on the road to a new, viable international financial order.

"Second, Congress, in coordination with the Fed, must establish a two-tiered credit system. The Fed must immediately increase short-term rates to 4 percent, to send a clear signal that the U.S. government is behind a strong dollar. At the same time, Congress, using its Constitutional authority, must issue trillions of dollars in low-interest credit for earmarked infrastructure projects, in the vital interest of the nation. We need high-speed rail and maglev, nuclear power, water management, new hospitals, repairs on our bridges and roads. These kinds of projects should be financed through capital budgeting, authorized by Congress at 1-2 percent interest."

LaRouche said, "And at the same time, the United States, Russia, China and India must take the lead in convening a treaty conference to establish a new international financial system, based on fixed exchange rates, along the conceptual lines of what Franklin Roosevelt did in 1944 with the original Bretton Woods System. We can and

must put the bankrupt current international financial system through bankruptcy reorganization, and launch, on a global scale, what I have proposed with the domestic capital investment in massive infrastructure."

LaRouche noted that prominent Italian officials have voiced their support for the convening of such a New Bretton Woods conference, and Russian leaders, including President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin, have voiced similar support, particularly if the United States takes the lead.

"So no one in good faith," LaRouche concluded, "can honestly claim that the current bailout scheme on the table of Paulson, Frank and Dodd is the only option. It is not the only option. It is the option of a dark age for civilization. My Plan B is available, is viable, and can and must be acted upon now. This week."

### Newt Gingrich



**Newt Gingrich**

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., on Sunday described Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's request for billions of dollars to buy debt from struggling Wall Street financial firms as "un-American" and said the secretary should have stepped down.

Gingrich even expressed concern with Paulson's connections to Wall Street. The treasury secretary served as the chairman of a major global investment banking and securities firm before joining the Bush administration.

"You have the former Chairman of Goldman Sachs asking for 700 billion dollars, and in his initial request, asking for it in such an un-American way that I think he should have resigned," said Gingrich. "I



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## Bush From Page 7

Other banks found themselves in severe financial trouble. These banks began holding on to their money, and lending dried up, and the gears of the American financial system began grinding to a halt.

With the situation becoming more precarious by the day, I faced a choice: To step in with dramatic government action, or to stand back and allow the irresponsible actions of some to undermine the financial security of all.

I'm a strong believer in free enterprise. So my natural instinct is to oppose government intervention. I believe companies that make bad decisions should be allowed to go out of business. Under normal circumstances, I would have followed this course. But these are not normal circumstances. The market is not functioning properly. There's been a widespread loss of confidence. And major sectors of America's financial system are at risk of shutting down.

The government's top economic experts warn that without immediate action by Congress, America could slip into a financial panic, and a distressing scenario would unfold:

More banks could fail, including some in your community. The stock market would drop even more, which would reduce the value of your retirement account. The value of your home could plummet. Foreclosures would rise dramatically. And if you own a business or a farm, you would find it harder and more expensive to get credit. More businesses would close their doors, and millions of Americans could lose their jobs. Even if you have good credit history, it would be more difficult for you to get the loans you need to buy a car or send your children to college. And ultimately, our country could experience a long and painful recession.

Fellow citizens: We must not let this happen. I appreciate the work of leaders from both parties in both houses of Congress to address this problem -- and to make improve-

ments to the proposal my administration sent to them. There is a spirit of cooperation between Democrats and Republicans, and between Congress and this administration. In that spirit, I've invited Senators McCain and Obama to join congressional leaders of both parties at the White House tomorrow to help speed our discussions toward a bipartisan bill.

I know that an economic rescue package will present a tough vote for many members of Congress. It is difficult to pass a bill that commits so much of the taxpayers' hard-earned money. I also understand the frustration of responsible Americans who pay their mortgages on time, file their tax returns every April 15th, and are reluctant to pay the cost of excesses on Wall Street. But given the situation we are facing, not passing a bill now would cost these Americans much more later.

Many Americans are asking: How would a rescue plan work?

After much discussion, there is now widespread agreement on the principles such a plan would include. It would remove the risk posed by the troubled assets -- including mortgage-backed securities -- now clogging the financial system. This would free banks to resume the flow of credit to American families and businesses. Any rescue plan should also be designed to ensure that taxpayers are protected. It should welcome the participation of financial institutions large and small. It should make certain that failed executives do not receive a windfall from your tax dollars. It should establish a bipartisan board to oversee the plan's implementation. And it should be enacted as soon as possible.

In close consultation with Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, and SEC Chairman Chris Cox, I announced a plan on Friday. First, the plan is big enough to solve a serious problem. Under our proposal, the federal government would put up to \$700 billion taxpayer dollars on the line to purchase troubled assets that are clogging the financial

system. In the short term, this will free up banks to resume the flow of credit to American families and businesses. And this will help our economy grow.

Second, as markets have lost confidence in mortgage-backed securities, their prices have dropped sharply. Yet the value of many of these assets will likely be higher than their current price, because the vast majority of Americans will ultimately pay off their mortgages. The government is the one institution with the patience and resources to buy these assets at their current low prices and hold them until markets return to normal. And when that happens, money will flow back to the Treasury as these assets are sold. And we expect that much, if not all, of the tax dollars we invest will be paid back.

A final question is: What does this mean for your economic future?

The primary steps -- purpose of the steps I have outlined tonight is to safeguard the financial security of American workers and families and small businesses. The federal government also continues to enforce laws and regulations protecting your money. The Treasury Department recently offered government insurance for money market mutual funds. And through the FDIC, every savings account, checking account, and certificate of deposit is insured by the federal government for up to \$100,000. The FDIC has been in existence for 75 years, and no one has ever lost a penny on an insured deposit -- and this will not change.

Once this crisis is resolved, there will be time to update our financial regulatory structures. Our 21st century global economy remains regulated largely by outdated 20th century laws. Recently, we've seen how one company can grow so large that its failure jeopardizes the entire financial system.

Earlier this year, Secretary Paulson proposed a blueprint that would modernize our financial regulations. For example, the Federal Reserve would be authorized to take a closer look at the operations of companies across the financial spectrum and ensure that their practices do not threaten overall financial stability. There are other good ideas, and members of Congress should consider them. As they do, they must ensure that efforts to regulate Wall Street do not end up hampering our economy's ability to grow.

In the long run, Americans have good reason to be confident in our economic strength. Despite corrections in the marketplace and instances of abuse, democratic capitalism is the best system ever devised. It has unleashed the talents and the productivity, and entrepreneurial spirit of our citizens. It has made this country the best place in the world to invest and do business. And it gives our economy the flexibility and resilience to absorb shocks, adjust, and bounce back.

Our economy is facing a moment of great challenge. But we've overcome tough challenges before -- and we will overcome this one. I know that Americans sometimes get discouraged by the tone in Washington, and the seemingly endless partisan struggles. Yet history has shown that in times of real trial, elected officials rise to the occasion. And together, we will show the world once again what kind of country America is -- a nation that tackles problems head on, where leaders come together to meet great tests, and where people of every background can work hard, develop their talents, and realize their dreams. Thank you for listening. May God bless you.

*This information taken from the website of - The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc. © 2008*

## Think From Page 7

think Paulson has terminally misunderstood the nature of the American system. Not just no review, no judicial review, no congressional accountability. Give me 700 billion dollars, 700 BILLION dollars! I'll be glad to spend it for you.' That's a centralization of power that is totally un-American."

## An Appeal From Reverend Jesse Jackson Of The Rainbow Push Coalition



Jesse Jackson

I am writing to invite you to help organize and join a March On Wall Street on December 10th (International Human Rights Day) to protest against the subprime mortgage scandal that is threatening two and half million Americans with the foreclosure of their homes.

Millions more face evictions while their neighbors are experiencing a drop in property values. The housing market has imploded because of a white-collar crime wave in which almost every major bank and hedge fund was complicit. So far, no one has been prosecuted. Obscenely, the people responsible want the Federal Reserve to bail

them out! We are in an economic emergency. The home foreclosure crisis amounts to nothing less than an economic tsunami. We have to stand up and be heard. Peace and Keep Hope Alive.

## Senator Harry Reid



Senator Reid

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said at his Sept. 17 press conference: "No one knows what to do. We are in new territory here. This is a different game. We're not here playing soccer, basketball, or football; this is a new game and we're going to have to figure out how to do it." Only LaRouche's proposals can solve this problem.

## L. Brooks Patterson - Oakland County Executive



L. Brooks Patterson

United States collapsing."

"They're going to have to do something," said L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County executive. "The bailout, as ugly as it looks and as ugly as it is, is probably less ugly than the entire financial system of the

## Oakland From Page 5

Division, the Oakland Circuit Court, Corporation Counsel and members of the Oakland County Bar Association.

The group is expecting to put several pilot programs into place to stop the inclusion of private information in public court files and streamline the removal of information already in the public domain. The programs could serve as a model for the entire state.

"Judge Young, the county's IT Division and the Circuit Court have worked so hard on these issues and we will be continuing to push for pilot programs to deal with these challenges - they should be commended," Johnson said. "They are true public servants."

Other measures Johnson has taken to fight identity theft include:

- With the assistance of the county's IT Division, the scrubbing of thousands of Social Security numbers from electronic court case

summaries.

- Creation of FRAUDCHECK, a free online service to fight property fraud, where homes are stolen on paper with forged documents.

- Revising forms; nearly 30 court documents approved by the State Court Administrator's Office now require Social Security numbers. Johnson is working with the SCAO to remove this requirement.

- "Government has a responsibility to protect families," Johnson said. "We have to make changes now - every day we wait leaves people vulnerable."

For more information or to interview Johnson, please call (248) 858-0560.

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# Oil Crisis & Energy Common Sense

## Move Over, Gasoline: Here Come Biofuels

If biofuels are done right, we could soon be filling our tanks with clean, renewable, homegrown energy.

Americans love automobiles. We love cruising down the open highway and the freedom of movement cars provide. But today, it's beyond argument that our gasoline habit is a road to ruin. Voices from across the political spectrum say oil dependence is bad for America's national security, economy and environment.

But what if there was a viable alternative to petroleum? What if there was a renewable, cost-competitive, global-warming-busting fuel that could be produced from plants grown right here on American soil? It may sound too good to be true, but it's not. Scientists, farmers and auto experts agree that, if they're grown and produced properly, biofuels can help free America from our oil dependence.

Simply put, biofuels are fuels made from plant materials. Right now, the main biofuel on the market is ethanol, made from corn kernels. But in order to maximize biofuels' carbon-cutting potential, we'll have to use more than just kernels. Cellulosic biofuels, made from the leaves, stems and stalks of a plant, promise even bigger global warming-busting benefits. Of course, much depends on how these fuels are produced. Chopping down forests to grow biofuel crops would be counterproductive; on the other hand, perennial prairie grasses like switchgrass can yield a lot of cellulose for biofuels and be good for the land as well.

This is not hypothetical technology of the

future. Biofuels are available now, ready to compete in the market with fossil fuels. The biofuels industry relies on real-world technologies that are improving by leaps and bounds every day. With technological advances that we could deploy over the next 10 years, biofuels could bring staggering economic and environmental benefits:

Biofuels can slash global warming pollution. By 2050, biofuels -- especially cellulosic biofuels -- could reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 billion tons per year. That's equal to more than 80 percent of current transportation-related emissions.

Biofuels can be cost competitive with gasoline and diesel. Economists estimate that by 2015, we could produce biofuels for sale at prices equal to, or lower than, average gas and diesel prices.

Biofuels will provide a major new source of revenue for farmers. At \$40 per dry ton, farmers growing 200 million tons of biomass in 2025 would make a profit of \$5.1 billion per year. And that's just the beginning. Experts believe that farmers could produce six times that amount by 2050.

Biofuels can offer major land-use benefits. Certain biofuels crops could actually improve land that's no longer productive. Switchgrass, a promising source of cellulosic biofuel, is a native, perennial prairie grass that doesn't require a lot of pesticides and fertilizers. It uses water efficiently, has low nitrogen runoff, very low erosion, and increased soil carbon, and also provides good wildlife habitat.

Making Biofuels Happen the Right Way: An Action Plan

A goldrush mentality has developed around biofuels, but not all biofuels are created equal. Biofuels producers need encouragement -- in the form of performance-based incentives and standards -- to ensure that the carbon-cutting potential of biofuels is maximized and their potential environmental damage is minimized. The rapid development of cellulosic biofuels will help get more and better fuels in our tanks, fast. Environmental performance standards and requirements can ensure that a jump in biofuels production doesn't destroy native forests or lead to an increase in water pollution from excessive fertilizer use.

Biofuels alone will not solve our energy and climate crises, but they're an important part of a toolkit of solutions that includes more efficient vehicles, more livable, walkable communities, cars that can also plug into electric power and other low-carbon technologies. Here's an overview of what we need to get biofuels to work for us:

- Incentives and standards for biofuels to make sure they deliver on their environmental promise. Just because biofuels can help solve global warming doesn't mean that they will -- unless we require them to. Creating standards based on performance, rather than technology, will unleash the power of competition on the market and result in biofuels that live up to their billing.

- Aggressive federal investment in research and development of cellulosic

biofuels. Producing a cheap and reliable alternative to oil will be lucrative business, but industry needs encouragement to develop technologies that are also sustainable and environmentally sound. The government can spur the development along through strategic investments and incentive programs.

- Meaningful choices at the pump for consumers. Today, drivers have a choice between oil and oil when they wheel up to the gas pump. Only one percent of gas stations around the country have a biofuel pump. Providing a real choice for consumers will take robust markets and infrastructure. To that end, the government should require that all vehicles sold by 2015 be flex-fuel vehicles that are able to use both traditional fuels and biofuels. Also, one-quarter of the nation's gasoline stations should have at least one biofuel pump. We should also work to give drivers other low-carbon energy choices such as electricity. We need super efficient flex-fuel vehicles that can plug in and run on electricity for at least part of the time.

- Improved fuel economy in cars and trucks and more independence from driving. We won't break our oil addiction without making our use of fuel more efficient, and so ramped up biofuels production must go hand in hand with improvements in fuel economy performance. We also need to build more livable, walkable communities so that we don't always have to jump in our cars for basic necessities, like getting to work or school, or buying a quart of milk.

© Natural Resources Defense Council

## We Must Take The Church Out Of The Buildings, And Into The Schools And Community!

Pastor James H. Keys, Sr.  
Monument of Faith Missionary Baptist Church



In light of the senseless and numerous violent deaths of young people in the City of Pontiac this year, as a pastor, father and resident of this city, I feel that it is not only my obligation, but also my duty to seek recommendations and solutions to a problem that has placed our city and a generation in danger. I have officiated over many of the funerals of those who lost their lives by violence. It saddened my soul as I watched as hundreds of young mourners, friends and families file by the caskets of those senselessly killed by violence. I often asked myself, what could I do as a pastor, what we could do as a

community, a church, and a City.

As a pastor, I have come to believe that we must approach this violent and apparently deadly issue from the "pulpit". It is the duty of men of God to serve not only in the church building, but the community, which is an important asset of the church.

First, we must take the church out of the building, and into the schools and community. The fact that prayer was removed from schools was the catalyst for much of our current school issues. These include the lack of personal desire to achieve, a false need to "fit in", engaging in physical and sexual activities that result in teen pregnancies and the most dangerous, gang violence.

Second, the urgent need to reach the parents regardless of their ages. There are social, economical and generational hardships on many families that leave the door open for quick solutions such as violence, drug sales and use, and the lack of reason and resolution. The need for real "grass-root" supportive services that can reach parents and provide them with the necessary skills to

successfully raise a productive child is crucial. These services can and should come from the religious community.

Third, we must salvage as many young people currently in the system as possible. It is important that young people in this criminal justice maze know that there are better and available alternatives. Not only should the church become a partnership resource to the criminal system, it should provide real resources to both the youth and the entire family.

Lastly, it is imperative that we properly guide the young people not yet in the system. Again, this is a must! By developing alternative ideas and concepts for proper growth, and development, we can effectively and

successfully save the remainder of this generation, and guarantee the future generation a more positive and successful adult. We must have something to offer our young people as an alternative to violence, drugs and crime upon each other. We must provide productive resources and outlets including recreation, educational and economic development opportunities.

It is my sincere belief and trust, that if we as pastors and leaders of this City, mobilize our resources, demonstrate productive partnerships crossing all religious lines and barriers, develop a real, grass-root plan of action, and focus on the diversity of cultures, needs and issues, we can with purpose and passion, save our youth.

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Pontiac Northern High School Band



Football Team in Action

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Jeff Love President of Baker College



Members of Community



Members of Community

## NAACP Dinner



NAACP Keynote Speaker Elizabeth Atkins and Judge Cynthia Walker



Sandy McDonald and Former Detroit Lion Great Lomas Brown



Attorney H. Wallace Parker & Family

## —Voices in the Community—

# An Introduction



**Michael Hohausler**

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a middle-aged guy who moved to Michigan over 40 years ago. I came from a place called Newark, New Jersey. When I moved to Michigan, I became familiar with a town called Pontiac.

Parallels between Newark and Pontiac are evident. Both are old cities, by American standards. Both have been vibrant, creative communities in their day. Some famous people originated in both towns. Both communities have lived in the shadow of larger communities. Both cities are considered "rust belt", living in the dream of glories past.

Recently I learned about Frank Russell and his Pontiac News. The mission of The Pontiac News is precisely what towns like Newark and Pontiac need. Not reflections upon glories past, but community building vehicles with good news and optimism.

So I volunteered to write articles for The Pontiac News. Frank was kind enough to accept. This is my introduction.

A writer should write about those things he/she knows. I am a lawyer. I own a Law Firm. We focus our practice on insults to the

human body. Law and its relationship to medicine and science are probably what I know best. That is a misstatement. The things I know best revolve around home and family. All of my children live in the area. All are educated, successful, well-adjusted adults. I may never know any subject better than the glory of raising beautiful children. But I have been a committed lawyer for 35 years, President of the Oakland County Bar Association in 2000, Commissioner of the Michigan State Bar for six years, Adjunct Professor of Law, among other things. So my columns will address legal issues in a local and humane context.

From time to time, I would also like to write about other legal personalities in the Pontiac area. Many of you already know my dear friends Judith Gracey at the 50 District Court, Eli Escobedo, whose office is on Huron Street, and many other wonderful people I have come to know in the practice of law, living and working in this area over so many years.

It will also be my pleasure to answer your questions from time to time, as best as I am able. You can always reach me by e-mail at m\_hohausler@yahoo.com. If we are unable to put your answer in this column, I will make an effort to reply to you via e-mail. From time to time, I will call upon my wonderful staff in that regard. No man is an island and that is particularly so for a lawyer

in this age of specialization. I am blessed to have wonderful lawyers on my staff, including Sarah Kuchon, who knows a tremendous amount about No Fault First Party Law.

That is my introduction. I hope that my readers will enjoy and benefit from my writing in The Pontiac News. I would like to thank Frank Russell for his faith and courage in allowing me to do so.

In closing, there is a short story I would like to relate which reflects the attitude of my Firm to the practice of law.

Many years ago there was in this area a man named Emmanuel Merzon. I always thought of Manny as Rabbi Merzon. He was an observant, devout man with a great heart and soul. When I was a young lawyer, Manny (who was also a lawyer) represented a family who had the opportunity to inherit from a deceased uncle. The uncle left a will. The will named two nephews as the uncle's inheritors. Manny's clients wanted him to interpret the will in such a manner that they would inherit. But Emmanuel Merzon was a person of both great intellect and great character. We met. He told me that the proper interpretation of the will was that my client

would be the sole inheritor. He rendered that opinion to his clients. Subsequently, in the early 70s, we found hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars in the deceased uncle's estate. Such was the integrity of Manny's word to his clients, that they never sought any other input, never went to another attorney, never sought to have a different interpretation, never made a claim upon any of the funds. They accepted the wisdom, strength, and both intellectual and moral integrity, of the man they trusted. Manny gave me a set of keys that had belonged to the deceased uncle. I have kept those keys in my desk for 35 years practicing law to remind me of the qualities that make a great lawyer. Some day I will pass those keys on to a young person in the practice of Law. That anecdote, and the character of Mr. Merzon that has infused my practice all these years, has led to our Firm motto: "Strength and Honor". I hope that we can bring information to you by means of this column, while, at the same time, living up to that motto.

**All the best,  
Michael S. Hohausler**

## 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:**

When my husband and I were in the market for a new vehicle, the one we chose came with a very nice navigation system. It was actually the reason we picked this particular SUV. We take a lot of road trips and usually my husband drives while I take on the job of being the navigator. I have the Atlas and map out our trip so that we know where we're going and don't get lost. My husband has always been the type that thinks he knows where he's going and automatically knows the way. He refuses to let me do my job that he has assigned me to do so when we were going to buy a new truck, I suggested; no DEMANDED that we get a navigation system so that we will KNOW where we're going because the high-tech computer installed in the truck will tell us where to go. Please answer me one question: WHY does my husband refuse to believe the navigation system and still insist that HE knows where he's going regardless of what this high-tech piece of equipment says?

I am at my wit's end! My directions can't be correct and neither is the navigation system. HELP!

**Signed:**

**Where O' Where Has My Husband's Mind Gone**

**Dear WOW- HM- HM-G: (That could stand for WOW Him Him Gone!)**

Men always think they know where they're going even though they really don't even know where they are! I think it's the desire just to be correct about everything whether it's the way to go somewhere or anything else. They want to believe that they know how to fix everything (but say they don't have the tools to do it with), they know how to get there (but say they don't know the name of the streets to go down and can't remember if they are supposed to take a right or a left), or that they know where everything is (even though they can only say they know it's around here somewhere). I know it may be asking a little too much, but if you can, be patient. If he says he knows the way regardless of what the navigation system says, go along with him. I'd get myself a notebook and every time he makes a decision that is NOT correct, I'd log it in my book. If he asks you what you're doing, tell him; "I'm keeping track of every time you say you know where you're going but it turns out that you actually don't". When you write down enough times to prove him wrong, he'll start using the system so that he can once again be right! (They hate to be wrong for long!) Good Luck!

## ENCOURAGER'S CORNER: HOPE! Holding On Patiently Enduring<sup>©</sup>

This morning I woke up with the word hope on my mind. As I lay there I began to toss words around to create an acronym for hope that best characterized my interpretation, feelings and outlook of what it means and represents to me. I grabbed my journal to pen my feelings, which led to a time of deep soul searching. What absolutely amazes me is when we truly seek answers to the questions of life the answers are there to be found. I wanted to know the definition of hope or what hope meant to me, not how someone else may view it or what any book said but personally embracing the word and then being able to share the revelation with you my readers. After considering all that I have experienced on this life journey, the many occasions knowing that it was only my faith and hope which got me through, this is what I came up with. It is my desire that it touches you as it has me. HOPE!



**Dianthia Spann**

### HOLDING ON PATIENTLY ENDURING

HOPE according to Heritage Dictionary is defined as, \_to wait for something with expectation of its fulfillment, \_to have confidence; trust. The theological virtue defined as the desire and search for a future good, difficult but not impossible to attain with God's help. Hebrew 11:1 affirms; "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen" or Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".

I know what the bible says about hope but in this season I needed it in its simplest common denominator, the key to this hope, according to Dianthia's acronym (holding on patiently enduring), to attain this difficult but not impossible thing with God's help. I will interject here to tell you that I am still yet learning this process, holding on patiently enduring. Now what becomes the challenge is to really get the difference between hope and faith. The difference to me is faith believes that God can do, that's how you can hold on, while hope believes that God will do and it is then that I can patiently endure. I am now getting it as I struggle through each and every trial and test, because with each a greater degree of understanding and wisdom is released if the test is passed. I'm passing many more tests these days, which is a glorious sign that I am finally moving from the kindergarten to greater revelation as a first grader.

I've discovered that by faith we begin but it's by hope that we can continue. Faith is in the present, accepting, while hope is in the future, expecting. Faith is the General, teaching and giving direction. Hope is a soldier and fights against tribulations, despair, and waits for better things to come in the midst of evil. Are we holding on patiently enduring no matter what the test with a confident assurance that better days are ahead? As I press through my own trials in this season I admonish you to also rejoice in hope (holding on patiently enduring) in all things and know that God has equipped you with the tools to live a victorious, peaceful life full of joy, sure with expectant hope that the fulfillment of the things you and I are both hoping for will come to past. Know this, that tribulation works patience; patience, experience and experience, hope and hope makes one not ashamed. Hold your head up, hold on and patiently endure. We will be doing it together and as one with hope we can do this.

**I would love to hear from you  
Dianthia**



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# -Community Calendar-

**Pontiac Central High School Class of 1968**  
 Presents Their 40th Class Reunion  
**Friday October 17** - Meet & Greet 6pm until 10pm  
**Saturday October 18** - Dinner & Program 5pm until 1am  
 Crown Plaza Hotel & Resort  
 1500 Opdyke Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
 Tickets still available - **Call 248-758-1411**

**Golden Opportunity Senior Club**  
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