

# Inaugural Issue

August 24, 2007

Former Superintendent  
Dr. Mildred Mason



The Pontiac News would like to acknowledge the positive contributions that were made to the Pontiac Community by Dr. Mildred Mason during her tenure as superintendent.

We thank her for efforts and wish her well in all of her future endeavors!

# The Pontiac News

A NEWS SOURCE WITH A LOCAL FLAVOR

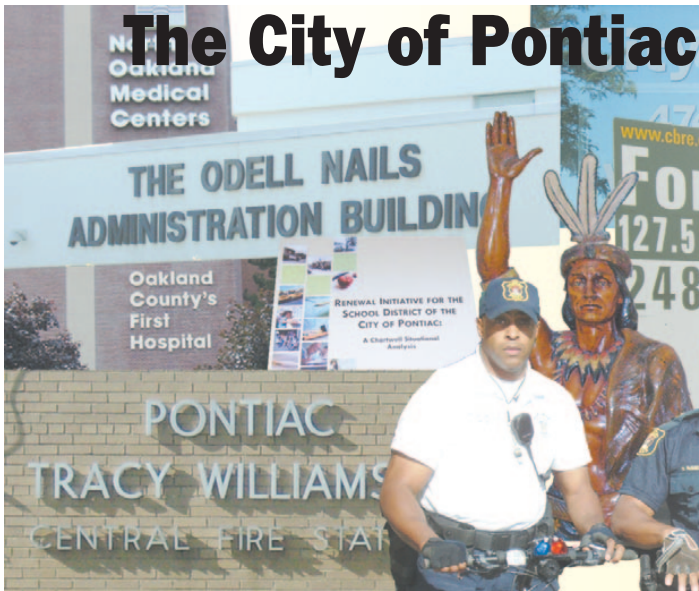
A BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION VOL.1 ISSUE 1

## The City of Pontiac at the Crossroads!

Can we come together and solve our problems?

- School District Concerns
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Student Achievement, Discipline and Decorum
- Parental Involvement
- Teacher Pay Equity, Training and Responsibility
- City Government Financial Problems
- Fire Department/Minimum Manning
- Police Department & Adequate Public Safety
- North Oakland Medical Center Survival
- Pontiac Silverdome Sale and Development
- Youth and Senior Citizen concerns

Find out if these problems can be solved by turning the page and reading the editorial inside the first issue of The Pontiac News!



## The Pontiac News Mission Statement

To serve The City of Pontiac and nearby communities as the leading information source that empowers our community, while never compromising the principles of truth and fairness in reporting. We measure our effectiveness based on the following core values:



**Publisher**  
**R. Frank Russell**

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

Several decades ago, Pontiac residents could pick up a newspaper and expect solid reporting from a locally owned newspaper business with a focus on this community.

However as Michigan participated in social and political change in the United States, its media outlets moved in the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

**A News Source  
 With a Local Flavor!**

**The Pontiac News**

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## —Editorial—

# Pontiac - The Former All-American City at the Crossroads

## *Can we come together and solve our problems?*

By R. Frank Russell

YES WE CAN!!! There is no question in my mind that we can and will solve the problems listed on the cover of this publication because we undoubtedly have the capacity to be a great city again! In this editorial we will attempt to describe what Pontiac was like in the past, what happened to cause the demise of the city and what can be done to revive our home town! Again, the purpose of this editorial is to briefly outline some of the issues and to explore and/or suggest possible solutions. Over the next several months future articles and editorials will fully explore these concerns! Please keep in mind that the information presented in this editorial is just the opinion of one person!

During the decades of the 50's, 60's, and 70's Pontiac was considered to be a Mecca of opportunity for southern blacks, whites and others from all over America and the world. During these three decades the City of Pontiac was a thriving community with plenty of jobs, an excellent school system, a booming downtown business district, contained vibrant neighborhoods with well functioning families, responsible and caring religious leaders and a responsive city government that resulted in the City of Pontiac receiving the designation as an All American City in the early 1970's.

In fact, my father "Jake Russell-Anthony", an unlettered former sharecropper from Denmark, Tennessee, with a 3rd grade education, migrated to Pontiac in the 1950's in search of an opportunity to realize his vision of the American Dream...that all of his children would receive an oppor-

tunity to pursue a quality education, get a good job, and have a chance to achieve according to our abilities and efforts. Before he passed in January 2000, his dream was realized because 9 of his 11 children had graduated from various institutions of higher learning throughout America and have had employment opportunities as teachers, General Motors salaried and line workers, furniture and auto upholsterer, solid waste and recycling coordinator, human resources analyst, college basketball coach, former City Council member & Director Alumni Relation for NBA team, dentist, Corrections Officer and NBA scout.

It is firmly believed by this writer that the stable environment that existed in the city of Pontiac during the 50's, 60's and 70's is directly responsible for the academic and social success realized by my family and many others who also were high achievers, including families with the last names of Shorters, Burch, Munson, Marshall, Cole, Hatchett, Northcross, Woods, Jones, Parker, Williams, Hayward, Milton, Martinez, Hawkins, McDonald, Gracey, Seay, and many others that are too numerous to mention in this editorial. I understand that Pontiac clearly had problems, but for many people this city provided a foundation to achieve on various levels.

### SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS FORMERLY GREAT ALL-AMERICAN CITY?

- Decision to not annex Pontiac Township (now Auburn Hills).
- Choice to place a loop (wide track drive)

around the business district.

- Forced Busing - The single biggest cause of the demise of this town in my humble opinion was the court ordered busing of our children to achieve integration of our school district. This terrible mistake has resulted in our school district going from one of the best in America to the worst in Oakland County. In addition to destroying our school system busing has also caused a significant migration/flight of segments of the community. In fact, our city population went from over 80 thousand in the early 1970's to under 66 thousand in 2007.
- Poor Academic, Political, Religious and Community/Family Leadership.

### THE SOLUTIONS

#### Educational Solution

- Elect individuals to the school board who are informed and willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work to make sure our children receive a quality education.
- Stop electing people to the Board of Education who are unqualified friends, relatives, and church or fraternity members!
- Establish a district wide Student Success Program.
- Conduct teacher training on how to motivate, stimulate, educate and cultivate Pontiac students.
- Institute a district wide Parent Involvement/Training Program.
- Hire a progressive knowledgeable Superintendent and charge him or her with a community agenda.
- Develop a community educational agenda with reachable goals and timetables.
- Make an assessment/evaluation of every

### PONTIAC'S CURRENT CONDITION

**School System ranked at the bottom in Oakland County with a declining student enrollment.**

**City Government on the verge of bankruptcy with a possible state take-over on the horizon.**

**Neighborhood blight WITH FAR too many rental properties.**

**The demise or plundering of NOMC (Pontiac General Hospital).**

**What to do about the Pontiac Silverdome?**

**Out-dated and dysfunctional City Charter.**

**Inadequate Police Protection.**

**Controversy regarding minimum manning within the Fire Department.**

school in the district and then create school improvement plans.

- Institute residency requirement/incentives that motivate teachers to live in the city and send their children to schools in the district.

- Establish at least one monthly meeting for school board members to hear and respond to community concerns.

#### Political Solutions

- Elect qualified and seasoned individuals as Mayor and City Council members.

- Stop electing people to these positions who are our friends, relatives, church or fraternity members.

- Establish a set of minimum qualifications for our elected officials.

- Revisit the city charter to include and/or exclude items that are needed to make sure that the City government can run smoothly!

- Establish monthly meetings for council members to hear and respond to community concerns.

- Establish at least one monthly meeting for Mayor and staff to hear and respond to community concerns.

#### Religious Solutions

- Get out in the community to 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 because there are too many churches for a city the size of Pontiac.

- Educate your congregation!

- Educate yourself and your ministers!

- Be aware of, sensitive to and tolerant of the faith of others!

*Future issues of the Pontiac News will chronicle some of this past history and offer solutions to many of these problems that plague our city. We welcome your input and suggestions and will provide a forum for your responses.*

## The Chartwell Report: A Perspective by Elaine Smith Wright

On May 31, 2007, the Chartwell Education Group released the Renewal Initiative for the School District of the City of Pontiac in the form of a 281 page situational analysis. Beginning with saluting the school district's Board of Education for its willingness to seek critical self-examination and being fully aware that such a thorough analysis would reveal "uncomplimentary" or "embarrassing" findings, they were still ready to face the "brutal facts" rather than trying to work around them. According to Chartwell, the board's leadership was committed to improving the performance of Pontiac's students and deserved another chance at revitalization.

According to their history, the Chartwell Education Group LLC, is an education consulting firm that was founded in 2005 by the former U.S. Secretary of Education, Rod Paige and his former Chief of Staff, John Danielson. After the Pontiac School Board released a request for proposal seeking an outside firm that would visit the district to assess its current state and future needs, provide a review and analysis of all financial and compliance audits and all administrative procedures along with an assessment of academic instructional practices, Chartwell was selected.

An organized team of experts in their respective fields were selected to observe and analyze the district and its needs and

provide recommendations for change, implementation actions and feasibility to enact the change.

There were four tasks outlined in the contract of November 21, 2006:

1. Chartwell Situational Analysis
- Examining instructional practices, Personal services, financial operations, ancillary management operations, reporting practices, community and civic outreach and student engagement efforts.
2. Pontiac District Renewal Strategic Plan.
- A strategic action plan for the short, medium and long term, developed in the context of local demographic, economic and structural trends
- Identification of essential and necessary changes.
3. Governance for District Renewal
- Creation of a customized renewal governance strategy for implementation of the strategic plan
4. Executive Coaching Services
- Execution of leadership workshops for the superintendent and the executive staff

In order to accomplish the four tasks outlined in the Pontiac-Chartwell contract and to ensure that the district was aware of how Chartwell planned to go about their work, a document was created that detailed their course of action. It outlined six separate but related and sometimes overlapping and concurrent phases. Chartwell used a well-defined methodology to gather and analyze qual-

itative and quantitative data. Their conclusions, commendations and recommendations outlined in the situational analysis were incisive and wholly grounded because of the rigorous methodology which was validated by evidence acquired through multiple sources and through the multi-modal election instruments and approaches.

**Conclusion:** The Chartwell Group took great care from the beginning to the end to devise a plan that would incorporate every area that needed to be reviewed concerning the Pontiac School District's efforts to successfully improve and revitalize their school system including the board, teaching staff, human resources, funding sources, finances, accountability, testing and areas where budgetary savings could be achieved.

I agree with Chartwell that the information and data sought and collected revealed a school district in dire need of change and in desperate need of restructuring which requires immediate attention. With Chartwell's assistance and following their recommendations which are realistic and attainable, the Pontiac School District can be successfully turned around. However, failure to comply quickly will see the district constantly sinking into a dismal hole of declining enrollment which will leave the district with only a few children to educate within the next ten years.

**—What's Happening In Pontiac—**

**Pontiac Politics**

**Mayor Clarence Phillips**



**Phillips**

The City of Pontiac has a strong Mayoral form of government. The Mayor is in charge of the Executive Branch of city government. The Mayor is responsible for the efficient administration of all departments of the city. It is also his responsibility to recommend an annual budget to the City Council. The Mayor appoints all department heads as well as the Police Chief and Fire Chief subject to the approval of the City Council. He also appoints members to Pontiac's many boards and commissions. The Mayor, or his representative attends all council meetings in order to address issues raised by council members and citizens

**The Pontiac City Council**

The Pontiac City Council is the legislative branch of city government. The council addresses citizens' concerns and complaints within districts.

City Council meets every other Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Pre-formal Council meetings are conducted at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room on those Thursdays. On the Thursdays in between, the Council meets for an Agenda Review at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Substandard Housing Meetings are every third Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers. These dates are subject to change

- Arthur McClellan, District 1
- President Pro Tem Joseph Hansen, District 5
- Kone' Bowman District 2
- Marc Seay, District 3
- Susan Shoemaker, District 4
- Lee Jones, District 6
- Everett Seay, District 7



**President Pontiac City Council - Arthur McClellan**



**McClellan**

The President of the council shall preside at meetings of the council. The President Pro-Tem shall perform the duties of the council president during the absence or temporary disability of the council president.

**—What's Happening In Oakland County—**

**About the Oakland County Executive**

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is entering his 13th year (fourth elected term) leading Oakland County into a time of unprecedented, robust economic growth and success. His leadership has resulted in escalating property values and a proliferation of job opportunities.



**Patterson**

Patterson has assembled a proactive and progressive staff committed to working with him in developing cutting edge technology and state-of-the-art programs that deliver quality solutions and services to the citizens, businesses and communities of Oakland County.

About the position of County Executive; the Oakland County Government is headed by an elected County Executive whose responsibilities are similar to those of a governor or the mayor of a large city. The County seat of Oakland County is Pontiac.

The County Executive administers the government on a day-to-day basis, proposes new programs and revamps existing programs. The Executive represents the interests of more than one million county residents.

Specifically, the Oakland County Executive is the head of the County Executive Administration Division comprised of the County Executive and the Executive Liaisons. The powers and responsibilities of the Oakland County Executive include:

- Supervise, direct and control the functions of County departments under Executive control
- Coordinate County activities and unify management of its affairs
- Enforce all orders, rules and ordinances of the Board of Commissioners and laws of the State required to be enforced by this office
- Prepare and submit to the Board a recommended annual County Budget and administer expenditure of funds
- Appoint directors to head various departments within the Executive Branch
- Veto resolutions

**—From the County Seat—**

Welcome to the column "From the County Seat." This column is designed for Pontiac residents who want to be informed about

Oakland County governmental services, programs, policies and issues. The focus of this column is to keep residents in the loop on legislative measures taken by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and Oakland County Administration.

Please share any questions, suggestions or insights with me. I can be reached at 248-802-0980 or write me at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Dept. 470, Pontiac, Michigan, 48341. Fax 248-338-7765 E-mail: [Mattiehatchett@aol.com](mailto:Mattiehatchett@aol.com). Best Wishes, **Mattie Hatchett, Commissioner District #10**

**By Oakland County Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett Criminal Justice**

**Coordinating Council Update**  
The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council continues to develop strategies to address the ongoing jail overcrowding issue. Looking at all aspects of this problem, the council is working towards changing amendments to the Jail Overcrowding Emergency Public Act 325 of 1982. These amendments would allow the judiciary (Chief Circuit/District Judges) and the Sheriff to address overcrowding, by allowing them to develop appropriate policy options which would give them more flexibility, during jail overcrowding emergencies. Another aspect of the council's efforts would be the adoption of a written jail population management plan as well as the reversion of personal bonds with supervised releases of specific non-violent misdemeanor offenders. If the amendments are supported, the judiciary would be able to make decisions outside of the scope of

the current law. For example, a non-violent offender, who is delinquent in paying child support and serving time in jail for this offense, may at the discretion of a judge be released early, when a jail is approaching overcrowded status or a jail overcrowding emergency has been declared.

**News & Updates  
Wireless Oakland's Phase I to be Completed in April**

The first phase of Wireless Oakland will be completed by the end of April 2007. Backhaul planning or installation has begun in five of the seven pilot communities, currently, Troy, Birmingham, Madison Heights and Oak Park. A small area in Troy has had full service available since early March. The remainder of the Troy Phase I area and the rest of the Phase I communities will have completed networks by the end of April. Over 75,000 residents will be able to use Wireless Oakland, with completion of the first phase. For more information and ongoing developments of Wireless Oakland, go to [www.wirelessoakland.org](http://www.wirelessoakland.org).

**Oakland County Board of Commissioners Seek Citizens to Serve**

The Oakland County Board seeks interested Oakland County residents to serve the community on various boards, committees and commissions through appointment. To apply or submit an application go to [www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com), click on the Board of Commissioners link, and click on the Boards, Commissions and Committees link. Call 248-858-0104, for more information.

**The 2007 vacancy deadlines are:**  
Michigan Department of Human Services Monday, September 17, 2007. Area Agency on Aging Monday, October 29, 2007. Specific qualifications may be required to be eligible for certain positions listed on the website.

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# - What's Happening In Lansing

## Lawmaker's Actions Focus on Jumpstarting Economy, Putting People First

By State Representative Tim Melton

LANSING – As House Democrats move to address the state's unprecedented fiscal crisis, State Representative Tim Melton (D-Pontiac) and the new majority have passed significant measures to jumpstart the state's economy and put Michigan residents' best interests ahead of the wealthy special interests.



Melton

"House Democrats and I have been working night and day to get Michigan back on track and make our state a great place to live, work and do business," Melton said. "Since the beginning of the year, we have passed many pieces of legislation designed to increase consumer protections, bring relief to our businesses and our working families, and jumpstart Michigan's economy." The highlights of House Democrats' successes include:

Developing and passing the new Michigan Business Tax. This comprehensive solution to replacing the Single Business Tax rewards businesses that invest in Michigan and create jobs for our workers.

Repealing the total immunity that drug companies enjoy in Michigan, even when their products harm or kill our residents. Repealing this one-of-a-kind law

will allow Michigan residents to hold drug companies accountable when their lives have been destroyed by dangerous drugs.

Passing a package of bills that will end the trashing of Michigan by slashing the amount of trash from Canada and other states that is dumped in our landfills. The plan attacks the economics of the trash trade by increasing the state's dumping charge and bans landfill expansion until 2012.

Passing a five-part ethics package that holds lawmakers to the highest ethical standards, curtails the influence of special interests and cracks down on conflicts of interest.

Reining in state spending by cutting the State House budget by 5 percent, ending free lifetime health care for lawmakers once they leave office and cutting lawmakers' pay by 5 percent.

Eliminating the so-called "pop-up" tax on home sales to help stimulate Michigan's real estate market and help more residents realize the dream of owning their own homes.

Ending "double-dipping" for retired state and public education employees by requiring them to freeze their pensions if they come back to work for the state.

Developing a 2007 budget solution that prevents deep cuts to local schools, health care for the most vulnerable, and police and fire protection while working

toward a bipartisan solution to the 2008 budget crisis.

Moving school board elections to the fall, which will save money for the state's classrooms. Passing legislation easing the consolidation of local governments.

Creating a Shared Services Study for school districts to show where they can be more efficient, thereby supplying needed resources to classrooms.

Initiating a wage and benefit study to cut government and ensure state and public employees' benefits plans are in line with the private sector.

All of these measures have passed the House and are awaiting action in the Senate.

House Democrats are also working on a series of fundamental reforms to resolve Michigan's budget crisis. They are examining ways to streamline government spending by, among other things, reforming pension and benefits packages for state employees and initiating performance audits to make sure Michigan is working as efficiently as possible.

"House Democrats and I will continue the fight to make this state better for our

residents and that means doing everything we can to secure Michigan as a magnet for the good-paying jobs and emerging industries of the future," Melton said. "There are difficult choices to still make. Michigan is at a crossroads, and it will take bold initiatives and strong leadership to turn our state around. My colleagues in the House and I recognize that fact and we are determined to make Michigan a powerhouse in the 21st century."

Contact: Rep. Tim Melton  
Phone: (517) 373-0475  
Toll free: 888-MELTON-4  
timwmelton@yahoo.com

*The Michigan State House of Representatives is the lower body of the Michigan Legislature. There are 110 Representatives, each of whom is elected from districts having approximately 77,000 to 91,000 residents, based on population figures from the U.S. Census. Representatives are elected in even-numbered years to 2-year terms, and take office on the first day of January following the election. Each Representative is limited to serving three terms.*

# -What's Happening In Washington-

This section of The Pontiac News will feature articles and information on national issues that impact the health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Pontiac and nearby communities. Including, information from Congressman Joe Knollenberg, Senator Debbie Stebanow, Senator Carl Levin and other national public servants.

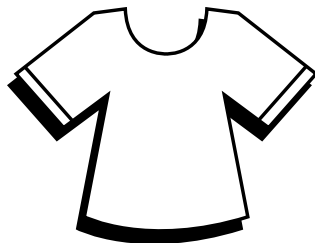
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## — Educational Matters —

# Parent, Student, and Teacher of the Year Announced

### *District Wide Teacher of the Year:* **Ruthie Winfield**

Mrs. Winfield teaches second grade at Alcott Elementary School in the School District of the City of Pontiac. She has been teaching for over 36 years. This teacher with “a heart of gold” has earned the respect of her students for her caring and all-inclusive approach to teaching. Ruthie clearly believes in the idea that “no student should be left behind”.

One of Ruthie’s colleagues Susan Leigh observes “Ruthie’s belief that all children have potential in their own unique way drives her instructional practices.

Ruthie is sure to provide her students with whatever they need to excel in her class. Whether it may be a pair of reading glasses, a shorter spelling list, a special hug, books or a little one-on-one time with her, students know that Ruthie is going to make them feel as if they are

the most important person in the world”.

According to parent Marlene Wadsack “Mrs. Winfield makes each and every student comfortable...her attitude towards her children is absolutely wonderful.” Second grader Joseph Lucio says about Ruthie, “she loves me and I love her, too.” The Pontiac News applauds this “master teacher” Ruthie Winfield.

### *Parent of the Year:* **Tashanna Smith**

School: LeBaron Elementary Principal: Donna Dulaney

Ms. Smith is a caring parent who became a daily parent volunteer this year. Ms. Smith started volunteering a few days at a time but soon became a room mother in her child’s 1st grade classroom. She once stated, “I must get involved if I want my children to be successful”. All of her children improved. Her 3rd grader scored a 2 on the Math

and ELA MEAP Test. She has become a success story and her children had a very successful school year. She has proven what research claims and that is, students are more successful when parents are actively involved in their child’s education.

### *Teacher of the Year:* **Jill Richman**

School: LeBaron Elementary

Principal: Donna Dulaney

Jill Richman is a 1st grade teacher at LeBaron Elementary. She has been teaching for more than 20 years. She is a very energetic and innovative teacher. She lives to teach. She never stops trying to improve her teaching ability and strengthen her knowledge base. Jill loves to research reform methods and best practices. She is dedicated to teaching in the Pontiac School District, and gives so much of herself. What is impressive about her is that Jill has

decided to teach a struggling student over the summer. She has made arrangements with the parent and looks forward to giving this student one on one attention in hopes to get him ready for September. Jill is a committed educator, who goes above and beyond the call of teaching.

### *Student of the Year:* **Lana Ton**

School: LeBaron

Elementary Principal: Donna Dulaney

Lana Ton is a 4th grader at LeBaron Elementary. Lana is an honor student and is respected among her peers. She is always concerned about her grades as well as her citizenship. She believes in LeBaron’s Community Agreements and strives to uphold them daily. What is special about Lana is that she is LeBaron’s Math Master. Lana is the winner of the school-wide Math Competition for 2007.

## The Six Habits of Fiscally Responsible School Districts

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



Moser



Johnson

### **Introduction: What is a Fiscally Responsible School District?**

Debate on state and local education finance policy over the past few decades has focused on expending increasing amounts of money for education. Here in Michigan, as in the rest of the country, school budgets have ballooned over time. In the 1969–70 academic year, Michigan spent \$3,665 per student for elementary and secondary education (in constant 1998–99 dollars). By the end of the century, the average per-pupil expenditure had more than doubled, leaving many to wonder why school budgets have swelled so significantly.

Even though per-pupil public school spending has increased every year, many districts are facing budget shortfalls. Not only are many school districts losing enrollment because of demographic changes in their communities, but parents are increasingly able to select alternative education options such as cross-district public schools, charter schools, private schools, and home schooling. Although these districts are experiencing very real problems, some are needlessly laying off teachers or other essential staff rather than

analyzing their overhead and other non-instructional budgets.

Parents, school boards, and district administrators should take a hard look at their local public school district’s budget to make sure that the maximum amount of public school funds are spent on classroom instruction instead of non-instructional overhead. Effective management of school resources is especially needed as public school districts are competing for students, not only with private and parochial schools, but now with other districts in the public schools-of-choice program and with public charter schools.

Providing non-instructional services has taxed many a public school district budget. Public school districts now are offering more busing/transportation services, food services, counseling/social services, and staff benefits than ever before. In recent years, the amount of money expended on these non-instructional expenses has begun to eclipse classroom expenses. Michigan is now only one of seven states that employ more non-teachers than teachers. Consequently, the state spends less than 50 cents of every education dollar in the classroom, less than the national average.

Two issues are central to this discussion of financing non-classroom expenditures. First, how are these goods and services provided? Historically, most schools and districts have provided these services themselves; for example, they have purchased their own school buses and hired their own drivers. They have sold their own municipal bonds and have built their own buildings. They have built their own central kitchens and cooked their own lunches.

Alternatively, school districts could outsource these services to private companies who specialize in transportation, food services, or janitorial services. In many cases, this simple task of re-assigning who performs these functions – the public school district or a private company – can save the public school district from a few thousand to several millions of dollars per year,

depending on the size of the district. The Michigan Legislature in 1994 gave school districts broad latitude to make unilateral decisions on outsourcing these non-instructional services by enacting Public Act 112.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, are there institutional impediments to reform in school districts? Collective bargaining agreements with school employees unions can hamper effective reform because the unions may object to any change in the status quo. Also, school districts that limit local competition for students may be slow to reform because of a lack of incentive to do so.

Public school districts of all sizes are experimenting with innovative ways of managing their schools, their contracts, their benefits, and their services. This report will highlight the best examples of innovative programs and solutions to common non-instructional problems districts face. From this research, six broad “habits” emerge that school districts should adopt to be fiscally responsible with their allocated tax dollars.

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

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

**Habit 3: Manage Employee Health Benefits Effectively.** The cost of staff and teacher health benefits has skyrocketed

over the past few decades for a number of reasons. First, some districts have allowed the Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA), a third-party insurance administrator controlled by the Michigan Education Association, to administer insurance benefits without a competitive bidding process. Second, the negotiated union health benefit structure is far superior to other locally available health plans. Even the most generous corporate benefits do not compare with the ones typically enjoyed by school employees. School districts that have reformed their benefit structure have saved millions of dollars while offering high-quality benefits for their employees.

**Habit 4: Structure Capital Costs Effectively.** With many districts needing new school facilities to cope with growth or to replace substandard ones, now is the ideal time to consider innovative and fiscally responsible ways to acquire classroom space. Instead of constructing new school buildings, some schools have opted to lease facilities, which can save the schools money in the long run, while leaving maintenance and major repair expenses to the private owners.

For those schools that decide to purchase or construct new buildings, more effective debt management and bonding policies would allow them to save money on their debt service.

**Habit 5: Participate in Michigan’s Schools-of-Choice Program.**

Participation in schools-of-choice provides the proper incentives for school districts to adopt reforms, because it spurs inter-district competition. Additionally, public schools that can successfully attract and retain students through Michigan’s schools-of-choice program can see more funding flow into their district.

**Habit 6: Reform Collective Bargaining.** School employee unions can and often do limit the ability of school districts to enact needed reforms. Schools should have more authority to hire and fire teachers, remove

*See Habit Page 12*

## — Educational Matters —

# A Perspective on Why Our Children Can't Read and Write! Illiteracy: An Incurable Disease or Education Malpractice?

By **Robert W. Sweet, Jr.**  
Co-Founder & Former President  
of The National Right to Read  
Foundation

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

"Learning to read is like learning to drive a car. You take lessons and learn the mechanics and the rules of the road. After a few weeks you have learned how to drive, how to stop, how to shift gears, how to park, and how to signal. You have also learned to stop at a red light and understand road signs. When you are ready, you take a road test, and if you pass, you can drive. Phonics-first works the same way. The child learns the mechanics of reading, and when he's through, he can read. Look and say works differently. The child is taught to read before he has learned the mechanics

— the sounds of the letters. It is like learning to drive by starting your car and driving ahead. . . . And the mechanics of driving? You would pick those up as you go along." —Rudolf Flesch, "Why Johnny Still Can't Read," 1981

Illiteracy in America is still growing at an alarming rate and that fact has not changed much since Rudolf Flesch wrote his best-selling expose of reading instruction in 1955. Illiteracy continues to be a critical problem, demanding enormous resources from local, state, and federal taxes, while arguments about how to teach children to read continue to rage within the education research community, on Capitol Hill, in business, and in the classroom.

The International Reading Association estimates that more than one thousand research papers are prepared each year on the subject of literacy, and that is very likely a low figure. For the past 50 years, America's classrooms have been used by psychologists, sociologists, educationists, and politicians as a giant laboratory for unproven, untried theories of learning, resulting in a near collapse of public education. It is time we begin to move away from "what's new" and move

toward "what works."

### The grim statistics

According to the National Adult Literacy Survey, 42 million adult Americans can't read; 50 million can recognize so few printed words they are limited to a 4th or 5th grade reading level; one out of every four teenagers drops out of high school, and of those who graduate, one out of every four has the equivalent or less of an eighth grade education.

According to current estimates, the number of functionally illiterate adults is increasing by approximately two and one quarter million persons each year. This number includes nearly 1 million young people who drop out of school before graduation, 400,000 legal immigrants, 100,000 refugees, and 800,000 illegal immigrants, and 20 % of all high school graduates. Eighty-four percent of the 23,000 people who took an exam for entry-level jobs at New York Telephone in 1988, failed. More than half of Fortune 500 companies have become educators of last resort, with the cost of remedial employee training in the three R's reaching more than 300 million dollars a year. One estimate places the yearly cost in welfare programs and unemployment compensation due to illiteracy at six billion dollars. An additional 237 billion dollars a year in unrealized earnings is forfeited by persons who lack basic reading skills, according to Literacy Volunteers of America.

The federal government alone has more than 79 literacy-related programs administered by 14 federal agencies. The total amount of money being spent on illiteracy by the federal government can only be guessed at, because there has never been a complete assessment prepared. A conservative estimate would place the amount at more than ten billion dollars each year, and growing steadily.

Why does America have a reading problem?

The question that must be asked is this: Why does America have a reading problem at all? We are the most affluent and

technologically advanced of all the industrial nations on earth. We have "free" compulsory education for all, a network of state-owned and -operated teachers' colleges, strict teacher certification requirements, and more money and resources dedicated to educating our children than any other nation on earth. Rudolf Flesch, author of "Why Johnny Can't Read," wrote the following in a letter to his daughter in 1955, after teaching his grandson to read:

"Since I started to work with Johnny, I have looked into this whole reading business. I worked my way through a mountain of books and articles on the subject, I talked to dozens of people, and I spent many hours in classrooms, watching what was going on.

What I found is absolutely fantastic. The teaching of reading — all over the United States, in all the schools, in all the textbooks — is totally wrong and flies in the face of all logic and common sense. Johnny couldn't read until half a year ago for the simple reason that nobody ever showed him how."

Time magazine called his book "the outstanding educational event of that year" and suggested that he represented "the devil in the flesh" to the education establishment.

There is an answer to "why Johnny can't read," but the answer is tough medicine to swallow. It requires education professionals, who for years have been engaged in a form of education malpractice, to admit that the methods of teaching reading they have vigorously advocated and staunchly defended ever since the 1930's are dead wrong.

If we are to seriously reverse the increasing number of illiterate adults in America and prevent the problem of illiteracy, we must swallow the medicine, as quickly as possible, and reject the instructional methods that have resulted in the widespread illiteracy we have today.

*This article continued in the next issue of TPN!*

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We would like to especially thank our sponsors including Chrysler Corporation Fund, Oakland County, Flagstar Bank, Pepsi, Miller Brewing Company, Local 4, Detroit News and Detroit Free Press, Michigan Lottery, Ontario Tourism, and many others. Our generous sponsors make it possible for Chrysler Arts, Beats & Eats to remain a FREE admission event. Please visit our sponsors page where we recognize all the great entities that make our festival possible.

We'd also like to thank the City of Pontiac for continuing to be the generous host and home of Chrysler Arts, Beats & Eats. One highlight of the event will be the City of Pontiac's new \$6 million streetscape. Our VIP charity preview event, the Arts du Jour Tour, will now be held in several venues in Downtown Pontiac, with more music, food, & excitement than ever before!

Once again, proceeds from Arts, Beats & Eats will be distributed among several key metro-Detroit charities. To date, \$2 million raised by Arts, Beats & Eats has been donated to charity.

**—People In The News—**

**Smart Board Selects Hayes Jones As New General Manager**

On May 29, 2007, the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Board of Directors voted unanimously in its selection of Hayes W. Jones as the new General Manager to replace the retiring Dan G. Dirks. A special Board of Directors Meeting was held at the S M A R T Administrative Offices in Detroit.



Jones

Hayes Jones, a Pontiac Central High graduate, has over 40 years of government and private business sector experience. Recently, Hayes Jones served a partial term as the Democratic State Representative in the 29th District. He also was the Director of Oakland County's Economic Development and Community Affairs and the senior advisor for Automation Alley.

"Hayes brings a unique set of skills and experience that will be invaluable in the role of General Manager," said Matthew Wirgau, Chairman SMART Board of Directors, "His experience in the private sector, transportation and Michigan State Legislature will be beneficial as SMART continues its success in obtaining the State and Federal funds it needs to continue operating quality transit service."

Early in his career Hayes Jones taught school in Detroit, but left his post when appointed by Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh to the Youth Employment Project, a program organized to train high school graduates in employable skills. In 1968, Jones

also was appointed by Mayor John Lindsay as New York's first Recreation Commissioner. Locally, Jones has had various management positions with Stroh's Brewery Company, Pro Air Inc. and American Airlines. He has been a board member of several organizations including the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce, Pontiac School District, Pontiac Area Urban League and Chairman of the Economic Development Committee-Oakland Business Roundtable. He is an honorary chair of the 2007 and 2008 Michigan Senior Olympics. Hayes Jones holds an Olympic Gold Medal for the 110-meter hurdles from the 1964 games in Tokyo, Japan and an Olympic Bronze Medal in the same event in the 1960 games in Rome, Italy.

The SMART Board also recommended the appointment of Steven M. Brown to serve in the previously unfilled position as Deputy General Manager. Steven Brown is the Director of Administration - Public Health for Wayne County, current part time Mayor of Lincoln Park and was a former SMART Board member.

"Working thirty plus years at SMART I have developed a great fondness for the organization and its employees," said Dan Dirks, SMART General Manager. "It is gratifying to know I am leaving the agency in the hands of two very capable people who should move SMART forward."

The SMART Board of Directors consists of two members from Macomb, Oakland, Wayne counties and one member from Monroe County. SMART is the suburban transit system for Southeast Michigan providing 12 million rides annually for commuters, entry level workers, senior citizens and people with disabilities.

**Keith W. Cooley appointed Department of Labor and Economic Growth Director**

Keith W. Cooley, a Pontiac Central High graduate, was appointed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as Department of Labor and Economic Growth Director effective on March 5, 2007. Known as an innovative problem solver, Keith Cooley was previously employed at Focus: HOPE since July 2002 where he melded his passion for community service with his corporate expertise. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2006, after serving four years as Chief Operating Officer of Focus: HOPE.



Cooley

Under his leadership, Focus: HOPE became ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certified under 9001, 14001 and TS 16949 standards for quality, environment and manufacturing, respectively; received the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Association ( MIOSHA ) Silver and Bronze Awards for accident reduction in 2005 and again in 2007; and developed robust strategic business planning and implementation processes.

Cooley began his professional career in 1968 as an experimental physicist with General Electric Corp. He joined General Motors Corp. in 1972 as a project engineer and became program manager and an engineering director in its Cadillac Motor Car Division in 1985. Cooley was appointed Director, Strategic

Planning, for the GM Corporate Communications Staff in 1994.

In 1997, Cooley founded Principia, Inc., a consulting company dedicated to helping organizations manage crisis and critical change. He later joined Motorola Corp. as Director, Telematics International Sales, GM account, in 2001.

His professional activities and affiliations currently include the Engineering Society of Detroit. Previously, he served on the boards of trustees for the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology (chair, research subcommittee) and for WIRED (Workforce Innovation for Regional Economic Development) West Michigan and on the board of directors for the University Prep Academy and Presbyterian Village Ministries.

Cooley's professional recognitions include the Who's Who in the World, Tau Beta Pi Eminent Engineer, and the General Motors President's Council Honors. He is also a life member of the National Black MBA Association and the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honorary Society.

Cooley received a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering physics and a Master of Science degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan (U-M) in 1967 and 1972, respectively. As a U-M graduate student, he founded the Minority Engineering Programs Office, College of Engineering. In addition, he was a gymnast - the first African-American to compete in that sport at U-M - and was a member of a U-M Big Ten Championship team.

A resident of Troy, he is married and has four children.



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# Lifestyles

By Mary Pietila,  
A longtime Pontiac resident

This first lifestyles article will discuss, how often we have wondered: what ever became of.... The young lady who babysat so we could have a night out or the neighbor boy who was always around when we needed someone to cut the grass...

In future articles I'd like to share with you what some of those good kids are doing of a positive nature. We often only hear if there has been some problem:

The first young person is someone dear to me. This young man was quiet and polite, yet like all others, never afraid to try to pull the wool over parent's eyes.... and probably got away with more than I'll ever know! After graduating from Pontiac Central High School in 2001 and moving west to attend College and play football for a small private college in Muskogee, Oklahoma, he graduated on May 5th with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation Management. Although this is a high accomplishment in his life, I'm sure his graduation, does not outshine his wedding or the recent birth of his first child.

It wasn't always an easy road for my son Shawn Pietila. Like many kids here in Pontiac, Shawn was raised in a single parent home, but in addition to the consistency of a strong loving mom, he had some great mentors in his coaches; especially.. at that all important age when a boy starts to develop into that young man! Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me to raise my son and steer him in the right direction. Especially, Tommy and Patrick Eason, and Jeff (Mike) Singleton and the many others who took time away from their own families and gave time to these kids, not just coaching but providing mentoring and rides home from practices as well as to and from games so the kids could play.

## -Feature-

# The World According to Joe Cool

Hello Pontiac - My name is Joseph P. Cool - YES, Joe Cool. Can you imagine what I have endured throughout my life? I tell people that I got even with society - by naming my oldest Son Joe Cool Jr., hence when I pass on, the world will still have a Joe Cool to endure! However, at the same time, my name has been a "door opener" for me throughout the world. I was born in the City of Pontiac many years ago, lived and raised on Collingwood St., educated in the Pontiac Public School System (McConnell Elementary, Eastern Jr. and Pontiac Central) and graduated from Oakland University School of Engineering. I was drafted into the military in 1969 and after successfully working in 54 countries during my career, I have returned to the "area of my birth to make a difference".

During the past 30 years, I have spent a considerable amount of time working and living in many cultures on this planet we call Earth and have learned a great deal about success. After serving in Germany and Korea in the US Army, I was employed by US Department of Defense at Fort Huachuca, AZ and after 3+ years, I worked in US companies in the telecommunications industry. I started like all engineers as a team member and designed and installed communication systems all over the world both

commercial and military. Like many others, I went through the ranks of Engineering Management and Program Management. In 1992, I left the workforce and became a Telecom consultant in Saudi Arabia. I signed for 1 year and it lasted 6 years - I tell people it was the longest year in my life!

Upon completion of the Consultant contract in Saudi Arabia, I was involved in many activities including in 1998, a member of the Joint US-Saudi Trade Delegation traveling throughout the US exploring business opportunities for US businesses in the Middle East and a trip to Bosnia and Latvia in 2004 as a member of the Michigan Civic Leaders Tour. Currently, I am invited to middle and high schools, universities, service clubs and Chambers of Commerce as a guest/keynote speaker providing presentations on how to be successful in MY world, the global marketplace. All my presentations include practical anecdotal stories and visuals about the given subject. I thoroughly enjoy the presentations at children's activities speaking about children's activities in other countries. I still maintain many of my international contacts and also am a VIP member of two International Registries for Executives and Professionals.

One thing I definitely learned during my career - the success of all societies is



Joe Cool

in the understanding and development of economic and educational ties between the cultures. For this reason, I am a member of many cultural organizations in SE Michigan. Is there an area or a topic that you would like to know more about? A specific country? How about a specific business opportunity? How about success in the global marketplace through synergy? Send your requests to Joe Cool at ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net and I will answer in future columns.

## ASK ELAINE.COM

Mrs. Smith-Wright started out as a Mass Communications major at Oakland University and now holds a B.A. degree in Nursing Home Administration and the Certificate of Gerontology and Sociology of the Aging from Wiley College along with a MBA Degree from East Texas Baptist University in



Management. She also holds a Certificate in Filmmaking, Screenwriting and Directing from the Motion Picture Institute of Michigan.

### Dear Elaine:

I have been happily married now for a year to a great guy who makes less money than I do. He believes that we should start putting all of our money into a joint account so that we are both able to keep up with how much we have at all times. I disagree and believe that there should be three accounts; one for him, one for me and a joint account for large purchases and paying bills.

What do you think?

### Signed, Married But Separate

### Dear MBS:

I'm glad that you're happily married because these two subjects are bound to put a strain on it! For one thing, if he makes less money than you do, he'll be contributing less money to the account. Second, things change. Everything may be wonderful and sweet right now, but you never know how things will turn out. Of

course I hope and pray that you will maintain a happy marriage but what if something SHOULD happen to your relationship?

Keep a separate account so that you are able to have your own money when you want to make a purchase or need emergency cash. And separate doesn't mean secret. If you want to tell your spouse how much money you have in your account, go ahead. Just agree that the same amount of money will be going into his account each month that goes into yours and that any money taken from the joint account has to be agreed upon by each party.

Nothing is more embarrassing than going through the checkout with a basket full of groceries only to find out that your Debit card doesn't work because there's no money in the account and you knew there was money there yesterday when you checked.

Good Luck!

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## Habit from Page 6

mandatory support/exclusive rights to bargain clauses, and strengthen other management rights that are often unwittingly ceded to the unions.

The following case studies document some of the experiences of schools and school districts in adopting these habits. The financial penalties for not following these practices are also discussed. This report will show how these habits can be applied to all Michigan school districts so that more money can be freed up and returned to the classroom.

**Methodology: Finding Innovation**

One of the benefits of Michigan's system of limited local control of education is that great ideas in how to educate children and administer non-instructional services abound. School districts from across the state are "thinking outside the box" and enacting money-saving reforms. This study has found some of these reforms and categorized six "habits" of fiscally responsible school districts.

Not all of these habits will be applicable for every public school district. For example, the recommendations in Habit 4 deal with leasing school buildings instead of buying them. This policy recommendation may not make financial sense for all districts, due to a number of factors: local market conditions, availability of appropriate space, willingness of private property owners to deal with school districts and the relative cost of leasing.

The fiscally responsible school district will explore all available options, analyze the costs and benefits, and make an informed decision. In short, business managers in the central administrative offices, working with the local school board and superintendent, should find the most efficient and effective way to maximize classroom resources and minimize non-instructional overhead.

This study strives to include examples of fiscal responsibility throughout the state, although some of the examples showcase innovative ideas that have worked in other states or even other countries. Also, this study is not a comprehensive assessment of how all of Michigan's school districts are operating; rather, this report is a selection of good ideas and their implementation.

The report also provides examples of fiscally irresponsible districts where costly policies continue in effect, despite evidence that there could be dramatic savings by implementing one or more of these habits. These cases demonstrate the financial penalty districts unfortunately bear when they do not enact sound fiscal policy.

As noted above, this report documents examples from every corner of the state, including the largest and smallest of the state's 554 public school districts. Adopting one or more of these habits can help save money no matter what the size or location of the district, so there is little excuse for districts not to explore one or more of these habits. As school districts in many areas of the state find their budgets in "crisis," school boards should look to these habits for ideas on how to shore up budgetary shortfalls before resorting to tax increases or teacher layoffs.

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The Next edition of *The Pontiac News* will continue this article by exploring - Habit 1: Minimize Administrative Costs.

## -Senior Citizens Matters

*This section of The Pontiac News will feature articles and information on issues that impact the health and welfare of senior citizens in the City of Pontiac and nearby communities. This week's topic is about promoting healthy lifestyles for seniors. We will also provide you with sources where you can increase your understanding of this important matter. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles For Seniors*

*"We are encouraging Americans of all ages to live healthier lives. Healthy living can prevent diseases and certain disabilities, and it can ensure that today's older persons - as well as future generations - not only live longer, but also better."*

-Josefina G. Carbonell

Great improvements in medicine, public health, science, and technology have enabled today's older Americans to live longer and healthier lives than previous generations. Older adults want to remain healthy and independent at home in their communities. Society wants to minimize the health care and economic

costs associated with an increasing older population. The science of aging indicates that chronic disease and disability are not inevitable. As a result, health promotion and disease prevention activities and programs are an increasing priority for older adults, their families, and the health care system.

Many Americans fail to make the connection between undertaking healthy behaviors today and the impact of these choices later in life. Studies by the National Institute of Aging indicate that healthy eating, physical activity, mental stimulation, not smoking, active social engagement, moderate use of alcohol, maintaining a safe environment, social support, and regular health care are important in maintaining health and independence.

Promoting the healthy lifestyles of older people is vital in helping them to maintain health and functional independence and lead healthy and independent lives. Providing information to you about disease prevention and health

promotion activities will help us help you and your loved ones become more knowledgeable about the health problems you may face and how you can prevent, delay, or manage them. We are using the Department's report called Healthy People as a framework for providing you with this information. The report, originally published in 1979 and updated throughout the past thirty years, identifies the most significant preventable threats to health and focuses public and private sector efforts to address those threats. The overarching goals of the most recent update of the report, Healthy People 2010, include increasing the quality and years of healthy life and eliminating health disparities. Within the report there are twenty-eight focus areas with goals and objectives within each area.

*Future articles in this section of TPN will provide detailed health information on a variety of topics that may be of interest to seniors, so stay tuned!*

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging

## -Voices in the Community

By Ken E. Corr



Corr

For ten years, starting in the early 90's, I have volunteered my poetic gifts in several of Michigan's finest penal institutions: from Ryan, Mound, Jackson, Macomb to Huron Valley. I'll never forget my first visit to the Ryan correctional facility in Detroit.

For weeks prior to going, I pondered over what to say. After all, I have never been incarcerated, not even an overnight stay in the county jail. Then Boo-ya, there it was - "Accountable" - one of my father's pet words. Raising four hard-headed boys was no walk in the park and, of course, mine was the hardest. Dad often warned us all that we would have to be accountable for our actions. If not, there would be consequences.

Going inside (prison walls) for the various programs, usually Kwanzaa or NAACP-sponsored, was very emotional at first often seeing guys that I had grown up with. It was especially difficult meeting young guys, some with no hope of ever getting out. Just the thought of those invaluable experiences led me to write about the made-for-TV story starring Lawrence "Larry" Lawson, the laid off automotive mechanical engineer who co-starred with Oakland County top prosecutor, David Gorcyca. Larry is the man Gorcyca dubbed the "courteous bank robber" who continues to make the news, recently doing an interview with Inside Edition.

Even Piston announcer and radio personality, John Mason, found the topic worthy of discussion on his early morning show, leaving people to wonder just who gave Gorcyca the power to issue a pass card to a convicted bank robber. I thought there was an automatic two-year sentence for the use of a gun in the commission of a felony. The entire legal

community should be outraged at the mockery Gorcyca is making of our judicial system.

Just a few months ago, they were outraged over what Nathaniel Abraham wore to court. Much too often, we pick our fights according to the odds of us winning. Sometimes we have to fight for the benefit of others.

I certainly have compassion for the homeless, but if the economy continues its downward spiral, there will be many more. After all, being homeless doesn't give anyone a license to walk into a bank with a loaded gun just for the sake of "three hots and a cot!"

Standing around the water cooler recently, one co-worker wondered if the courteous bank robber would have kept the 5 G's had he gotten away? Another wondered if he would have turned himself in. One person figured the bank robber certainly must know people in high places, perhaps a relative. Another figured Gorcyca must owe a big favor. Then, of course, I wondered if Oakland County's top prosecutor, the one who's developed a bleeding heart, would have shown the same compassion for Ray Ray, Bey Bey, Jose', Chico, Pookie or Nem? Please don't let the nicknames or the ebionics throw ya', see they are people too, many who need a new lease on life.

No wonder so many people of color ask the question, "Is it justice . . . or just us?"

Even I must admit I was pleased to see a softer, compassionate side of David Gorcyca. I only hope he'll better understand the meaning of freedom and justice for all.

Back to my poem, "Accountable", though it was dedicated to inmates world wide, it certainly is applicable to everyone from L. Brooks, Rudy Lazano, David Gorcyca, Brother Holt to yours truly, Ken E. Corr.

### Accountable

Three hots, your very own cot.  
Top shelf conditions . . . Not!

Would someone please tell me  
Just why you're all here?  
Why society says you're the  
ones we should fear?

Say you couldn't find work,  
you're poor or Black.  
Most of you losers cry,  
"I was on crack."

You've got more excuses  
than a pregnant nun.  
Left your fingerprints on  
a smoking gun.

Collect from Junior,  
please take the call.  
I need cigarettes . . . what?  
Five dollars, that's all?

Up and down the highway:  
Ionia, Jackson, Marquette.  
I could be living large,  
perhaps driving a vette!

Now the inmates described,  
don't have to be you.  
But you must be ACCOUNTABLE  
for what you do!

Dedicated to inmates around the  
world . . . I love you.

By Ken E. Corr

### Would You Like Your Voice Heard?

E-mail Your Ideas To: [ThePontiacNews@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:ThePontiacNews@SBCGlobal.net)

# - Health Watch -

This section of *The Pontiac News* will feature articles and information on issues that impact the health and welfare of citizens in the City of Pontiac and nearby communities. This week's topic is HIV/AIDS a disease that is the greatest pandemic of all times. Presented below is a definition of this deadly disease and a brief quiz that is designed to test your awareness of this deadly virus. We will also provide you with sources where you can increase your understanding of this important health matter.

## HIV/AIDS

### What is HIV/AIDS and why is it getting so much attention?

The short and very simplified explanation is that HIV is the virus that causes AIDS — an incurable and, if left untreated, lethal disease which has been found on every continent in such large numbers that it is now the greatest pandemic of all time. For those that prefer a more technical definition, the National Institutes of Health offers:

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)** The virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). HIV is in the retrovirus family, and two types have been identified: HIV-1 and HIV-2. HIV-1 is responsible for most HIV infections throughout the world, while HIV-2 is found primarily in West Africa.

**Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)** A disease of the body's immune

system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). AIDS is characterized by the death of CD4 cells (an important part of the body's immune system), which leaves the body vulnerable to life-threatening conditions such as infections and cancers.

### How is HIV is Transmitted?

HIV is spread by sexual contact with an infected person, by sharing needles and/or syringes (primarily for drug injection) with someone who is infected, or, less commonly (and now very rarely in countries where blood is screened for HIV antibodies), through transfusions of infected blood or blood clotting factors. Babies born to HIV-infected women may become infected before or during birth or through breast-feeding after birth.

In the health care setting, workers have been infected with HIV after being stuck with needles containing HIV-infected blood or, less frequently, after infected blood gets into a worker's open cut or a mucous membrane (for example, the eyes or inside of the nose). There has been only one instance of patients being infected by a health care worker in the United States; this involved HIV transmission from one infected dentist to six patients. Investigations have been completed involving more than 22,000 patients of 63 HIV-infected physicians, surgeons, and dentists, and no other cases of this type of transmission have been identified in the United States.

Some people fear that HIV might be transmitted in other ways; however, no

scientific evidence to support any of these fears has been found. If HIV were being transmitted through other routes (such as through air, water, or insects), the pattern of reported AIDS cases would be much different from what has been observed. For example, if mosquitoes could transmit HIV infection, many more young children and preadolescents would have been diagnosed with AIDS. — Source: Centers for Disease Control

## HIV/AIDS Ministry



Hall

*"I thought that I had no risk... I was saved, attending church regularly — and dating the choir director. I learned that HIV has no regard for anyone..." -Selvy W. Hall*

Her commitment to advocacy concerning HIV began in 1990 when she was diagnosed with HIV. Selvy was motivated & encouraged to spread the message about HIV/AIDS to a diverse group of people. Her mission was to educate the community about the importance of taking the necessary measures to avoid becoming HIV positive & to advocate for those living with HIV.

Selvy's passion is to "tell it like it is" with information & education along with her personal journey.

As Sojourner Truth once did, she has

carried her message to all ages in churches, substance abuse treatment centers, senior citizen centers, jails, prisons, schools, homeless shelters & national conferences. She is also featured in health videos to reach those who have not had the opportunity to be a part of her dynamic seminar. In addition, she has consulted with legislators, schools and represented those living with HIV in Washington, D.C.

Organization affiliation: New Mount Moriah Church HIV/AIDS Ministry which she implemented in February 1994, National Association of People Living With AIDS, Gilead Pharmaceutical Community Presenter, Michigan Positive Perspective Speakers Bureau, Lighthouse Of Oakland County Development & NAACP, AIDS Institute of Washington DC and many others.

Awards: 2005 Sojourner Truth Award, Michigan HIV Care Partnership & Leadership in Care Award, ASTHA 2000 Vision Award & many others.

Loretta Davis-Satterla, former MSA Director-Division of HIV/AIDS-STD said, "Selvy has worked tirelessly on behalf of people living with AIDS & incarcerated individuals. It is always evident that her efforts are motivated by sincere desire to make a difference in the lives of people who are often overlooked."

*Future articles in this section of TPN will provide detailed health information on a variety of topics.*

## THE PARENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP

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

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

#### THIS WORKSHOP WILL HELP PARENTS TO IMMEDIATELY

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

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AMAZING WORKSHOP INCLUDES

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

**TYPICAL PARENT COMMENT:** After participating and applying the material presented in this workshop my ability to help my child has increased significantly.

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

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

I am interested in enrolling in THE PARENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Student Age \_\_\_\_\_

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) - P.O. BOX 431016 - PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48343  
NON-PROFIT YOUTH SERVICE CONCEPT SINCE 1983 YDI

## THE STUDENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP

### HOW TO GET BETTER GRADES IN SCHOOL

A Workshop For Students  
By The Youth Development Institute

#### THIS WORKSHOP WILL HELP THE STUDENT TO IMMEDIATELY

- Get Better Grades In School
- Get Better Test Scores

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS INFORMATIVE WORKSHOP

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

**TYPICAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT COMMENT:** After attending and applying the material that was presented at this workshop my grades and study habits improved.

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

**IT WORKS:** Hundreds of students have already attended this workshop and are now getting better grades in School.

I am interested in enrolling in THE STUDENT SUCCESS WORKSHOP!

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Student Age \_\_\_\_\_

The Youth Development Institute (YDI) - P.O. BOX 431016 - PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48343  
NON-PROFIT YOUTH SERVICE CONCEPT SINCE 1983 YDI

## -It's Your Money-

# The 11 Best Money Saving Ideas of All Time - Part 1

At any time in history, no matter what the current state of the economy, no matter what the current trends, no matter what the unemployment rate is or where interest rates lurk, some money-saving ideas stay true.

Some of you may have heard of these ideas before, others may be entirely new to you. But whether you are familiar with these super secrets or not, it will be well worth your while to put them into effect in your own life. The magic they will work on your financial life is guaranteed.

I urge you to put them to work - any one of these could change your life! Big changes come from small steps. One plus one does equal two, so if you add one from eleven different places, you will see big results. This is a four part series giving you advice on saving your hard-earned money in a variety of down-to-earth ways. Nothing here is anything that anyone can't do on a daily basis.

### Amazing Money Tip #1:

The great scientist Albert Einstein once said, "It takes a genius to see the obvious." What he meant by that is that sometimes the simplest things in life are the most powerful ... but because they are so simple, we tend to ignore them, and not let them work for us.

One of the simplest but most powerful money making ideas is this: keep a daily log of everything you spend. Go to the dollar store and buy a little notebook and carry it with you wherever you go.

Write down every penny - every single penny - you spend. It's as simple as that. If you do this, you will find something magic happening in your financial life in just a few weeks.

There is something incredibly powerful about writing down all your expenditures. It makes the flow of money through your life more real and exact. It shows you simply and clearly just where you are spending your money, on what and why. Once you know that, it becomes much easier to control your spending. Many people who have taken up this practice have not only learned something about themselves which they never knew before, but they are often astounded.

For example, a person could realize through examining their notebook that they actually spent nearly \$2,000 throughout the year on diet soft drinks, snacks and candy bars! Since their job only brings in \$25,000 per year, they realized that 8% of their entire income was being frittered away on something entirely frivolous. The person gave up the snacks and drinks, and found they had enough money to go on vacation the following year. If you had the choice between snacks or a much needed vacation, which would you choose?

The point is, it was their daily expense log that helped achieve the insight and clarity they needed to get control of their finances. That's what a simple spending record will do for you - it will give you control over your spending, and thus your financial life. There may be nothing but a 75-cent notebook and a ball-point pen between your life of financial struggle and financial freedom.

### Amazing Money Tip #2:

Stop deficit spending! We all know how much trouble Uncle Sam has been creating spending more money than our

country takes in. It's called deficit spending. Well, don't fool yourself.

The same rules apply to you. Using those evil little plastic cards may be the "American Way," but it's a darn poor way.

Today, the average credit card holder is carrying \$8,000 in plastic debt! Spending yourself into debt with a credit card is unbelievably easy, as many of you already know. The reason is psychological. When you give that clerk a credit card, it's just not the same as handing over a stack of green dollar bills. Would you as readily hand over a fistful of ten dollar bills as flip a credit card across a counter? Probably not.

Credit cards put you in the hole and keep you there. Even for people with good incomes, paying your credit card debt down to zero is amazingly difficult. And make no bones about it, credit card debt will sap your financial strength just as readily as an open vein will deplete your physical body of its very life force.

Using a credit card by choice can quickly turn to using it for need. Once you get to that point, you are already in trouble.

There is no secret to freeing yourself from the credit card game. You must take out a pair of scissors today, cut your cards in half, and begin paying them back, slowly but surely. Be sure to always pay more than the minimum amount due, even if it is just \$10 more.

Once you stop adding to the debt, even small payments will eventually add up. You can get out of debt if you are patient and disciplined. Once your cards are history, you must adopt a strict pay-

as-you-go policy. Instead of buying now and paying later, save now and buy when you have the full amount.

Once again, this is not rocket science, but stopping credit-oriented consuming is one of the most powerful financial tools available to anyone today. Why not pick up this tool and use it?

### Amazing Money Tip #3:

Sell your junk. That's right, it's high past time for a major yard sale. Search through your house or apartment for every single item you don't need, and could sell at a flea market or yard sale. Take an inventory. The truth is, most people are astounded by what they own - and how much money they have tied up in useless stuff. Why let it collect dust in your attic while it could collect interest in a savings account.

You could easily be \$500, \$1,000 ... even \$3,000 richer by the end of the week. As an added bonus, you'd have your place cleaned up, and you will have a fresh feeling of starting over. A garage sale is an excellent way to not only clean out your house, but it often gives a psychological boost that helps people get control of their life and money.

The next of the 11 best money saving ideas of all time will be discussed in part 2. Until then, take note of what you have learned so far and put this information to good use. Read and reread this article; I bet you will notice a difference sooner than you think.

To be continued in the next issue of TPN

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palyn@futureinternetmarketing.com

## - Employment Opportunities -



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



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

**Oakland County Human Resources Department** executive office building 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328-0440 Telephone: (248) 858-0530 http://www.oakgov.com

The Pontiac News is in need of contributing writers and other staff - See list below!

Send your resume to ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net  
**DIRECTOR OF SALES**

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

### ADVERTISING MANAGER

The Pontiac News seeks, an advertising manager. The person who fills this position will be responsible for growing classified revenue through outbound sales (cold calling), handling incoming advertiser calls, and executing sales strategies. The candidate selected must be able to work independently, be well organized and work efficiently in a deadline environment. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record in sales either in an outside media sales capacity or inside sales business development environment.

### ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

The Pontiac News is looking for highly self-motivated, enthusiastic, strong customer skills individ-

uals to build our outside sales team. This position will report to the Advertising Manager. This is an Entry-level sales position with onsite training - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY BUT PREFERRED

### MANAGER, CIRCULATION

Reports to: Publisher  
Location: City of Pontiac  
Job Overview: Responsible for the Circulation function of our publications within the City of Pontiac and surrounding communities. Manage a staff of 7 Circulation Administrators in their day to day activities. Oversee the data management, circulation trends, circulation revenue tracking and circulation auditing of our publications.

### DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

The Pontiac News is looking for a Distribution Coordinator to work various hours in order to facilitate the distribution of this publication throughout the City of Pontiac and surrounding communities. This position is responsible for coordinating all operational aspects of the distribution of The Pontiac News, including monitoring of independently contracted personnel activities within the TPN and ensuring adherence to company rules and regulations.

### VOLUNTEER WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

The purpose of this bi-weekly publication is to examine and report on the various socio-political, educational and other issues affecting the City of Pontiac and surrounding communities. The Pontiac News will bring that relationship to print. Different formats such as articles, poetry, photographic essays, and artist profiles will be used to achieve this. Job Description: The Pontiac News is putting out an open invitation to anyone interested in being a part of this dynamic community publication. We are looking for written content, such as editorials, columns, artist profiles, interviews, creative pieces, and specifically article proposals for our bi-weekly issues. We are also looking for photography, layout design, and cover artwork for upcoming issues.

## Contact

**248-758-1411**

or

ThePontiacNews@sbcglobal.net

**To list your job opening**



**OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

is currently accepting applications for anti-cipated adjunct instructors to teach day and evening classes beginning August 30, 2007:

To apply go to www.oaklandcc.edu

- Anthropology,
- Biology (Cellular and Molecular)
- English (reading & writing)
- Film
- History
- Mathematics
- Nursing (Med/Surgical, Pediatrics and Maternity)\*\*
- Philosophy
- Sign Language\*
- Speech

The above list are the disciplines needed for the FALL, 2007 semester, however applications for all other disciplines are accepted on an ongoing basis.

### Minimum Qualifications:

1. Master's degree in the discipline.
2. Experience with multi-cultural students and staff preferred.
3. Ability to work as a team player in a multi-cultural diverse working environment.  
\*Arabic, Art, Emergency Medical Technician, German, Interior Design, Italian, Japanese, Medical Terminology, Russian, Sign Language and Wood Working
1. \* Master's degree in the discipline or Bachelor's degree in the discipline and 5 years experience or an Associate's degree in the discipline and 8 years experience.
2. \*\*Nursing Clinical Instructors: Master's degree in Nursing preferred; a Bachelor's degree in Nursing accepted; Valid Michigan License; 2 years recent clinical experience.

**-Sports**



OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Men's Basketball Program & The Youth Development Institute (YDI)**

Presents  
**The 1st Annual  
OCC Men's Basketball  
Team Golf Outing**

\$150 PER GOLFER  
(\$125 IF MEMBER OF FOURSOME)

**Friday September 14, 2007  
Shot gun start @ 8 A.M.**

PONTIAC MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE  
800 GOLF DRIVE - PONTIAC MI 48341

- 1st Place = \$1,000.00
- 2nd Place = \$500.00
- 3rd Place = \$ 250.00

*Prize Money Based on a minimum of 25 teams*

A Benefit Golf Outing that Supports  
OCC Men's Basketball Team Athletic Fund  
& Other Worthy Community Projects conducted  
by The Youth Development Institute

For Information Contact :

Frank Russell 248-522-3566 or 248-758-1411

Rahim Russell @ 248-421-8979

Chris Riley at 248-636-5054

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zir12@aol.com

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Scholarship - Graduates  
University of West Florida  
2006

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Team \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Other Team Members*  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**THE PARENT SUCCESS KIT**  
 How to Make Your Child a Success in School, Friendship & Athletics

THIS HANDBOOK WILL HELP PARENTS TO IMMEDIATELY:

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AMAZING HANDBOOK:

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

TYPICAL READER COMMENT:

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

REVIEWER COMMENTS:

- This handbook is a must for the concerned parent who wants to help their child succeed in school.

**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.

**THE STUDENT SUCCESS KIT**  
 How to get Better Grades in School

THIS HANDBOOK WILL HELP THE STUDENT TO IMMEDIATELY:

- Get Better Grades In School
- Get Better Test Scores

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AMAZING HANDBOOK:

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

TYPICAL READER COMMENT:

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

REVIEWER COMMENTS:

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

**IRON CLAD GUARANTEE:**

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

**IT WORKS!**

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

**Clip Coupon and Mail**

Please send Me \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of THE PARENT SUCCESS KIT AT \$14.95 each plus \$2.00 Postage and Handling.  
 Please send Me \_\_\_\_\_ Copies of THE STUDENT SUCCESS KIT AT \$14.95 each plus \$2.00 Postage and Handling.  
 It is my understanding that if I am not completely satisfied with the book after 10 days of receipt, I can return the book undamaged for a full refund. [ ] Money Order Enclosed [ ] Check Enclosed (Make Payable to YDI)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Community Events



Maria Delgado Laura & John Graham at Pontiac Pancake Breakfast



City Councilman Everett Seay with The Clown at Richardson Park



Frank Russell with Job Seekers at Richardson Park



Pancake Breakfast - Friends of Pontiac Library Foundation



Mike Lowe & Elizabeth Hang, OCEDC board members



Mike Dixon of Beaumont Hospital and Dr. Eugene Rogers, President NAACP



Brenda Causey Back to School Event at Phoenix Center



OCEDC Board Retreat Nancy Scarlet Chair OCEDC and Claudia Buckley Vice Chair