



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

SEPTEMBER 2010

VOLUME ONE, ISSUE TWO

John Mellencamp fights against homelessness with

words of truth and songs of reality – page 3

\$1

Your donation directly benefits the vendors. Please buy only from badged vendors.

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GROUNDCOVER NEWS MISSION:

Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

Ann Arbor, Michigan

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Groundcover News takes root in Ann Arbor



Susan Beckett
Publisher

Groundcover had some great successes this month. Many of you read the terrific article about Groundcover in the September issue of the Ann Arbor Observer and some of you heard radio interviews about us on Michigan Radio. Most exciting is the impact we have had on the lives of our vendors.

Tony, featured in this issue and the Observer story, has moved from the shelter into his own apartment. His caseworker

found the apartment but it was his job selling papers that enabled him to meet the income requirement. His shelter bed is now available for someone else who has been living on the street.

Several other vendors have found a renewed sense of purpose and camaraderie through their work and are striving to improve their situations and prepare for the future. Twenty eight people have received training to sell Groundcover and sixteen of them are actively selling.

Our goals for next month include adding more volunteers to all aspects of our operation, securing office space, and offering mini-classes and socializing

opportunities to our vendors and volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help with writing, editing, artwork, fundraising, marketing, business administration, vendor support and events. We are also seeking mentors. Community meetings to fill out our organization are scheduled for 7:00 pm on September 28 and November 2. Both will be in the lower lounge at the First Baptist Church, located on Washington between State and Division. Please join us if you see a volunteer job that appeals to you.

Please email:

contact@groundcovernews.com and indicate your interest so you can be kept abreast of new developments.

John Mellencamp walks the walk of people, not money

By Ken Leslie

*Oh, but ain't this McMerica, you and me
Ain't this McMerica, sidewalks to see baby
'Cause ain't this McMerica, home of the FEE.*

Little pink SHELTERS for you and me.

America has become an insatiable nation of "more." But "more" is never quite enough. How much money does a company need to make next quarter? More! Always "more!"

Extrapolate that. Where will it end?

McBusiness has abandoned all moral decency, ravaging the American Dream, all in the search for "more." The mentality of McBusiness in the last two decades would have sounded something like this, if they had ever dared to say it out loud: "Hey boss, I have an idea. Let's give the masses a ton of money they don't need and probably cannot repay. We will just tell them to take our money and buy something really nice that they can't afford with it. They will have to pay us a monthly fee to use the money. Check this part out, boss: then we can sell their loan that they cannot repay to some other sucker. We will make money both ways! Cha-freaking-ching!"

Then the whole house of cards (housing) toppled over, and tens of thousands of American FAMILIES got chewed up and spit out, losing their domestic autonomy and ending up on the streets and in the shelters.

How many families are on the streets?

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, because of foreclosures and job losses, the number of families on the streets and in shelters is up 30%. The unhoused of today is the same family who lived right next door to you yesterday.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, for the McMusic BUSINESS, the pur-

suit of "more" goes on as usual. Committees come together to create "pop songs," short for "popular songs," which are then recorded and overdubbed on 100 plus audio tracks.

Ignoring the critics (people who don't like what YOU do with YOUR time, YOUR money, and YOUR effort); there is a small cadre of musicians who don't write those formulaic songs.

These musicians write about truth, and sometimes the truth about the other side of McMerica is really in darkness. Certainly, this dark truth is the last thing McBusiness wants the masses to hear, due to the risk of it becoming "popular."

Throughout John Mellencamp's entire career, he has written about the "injustice for all" wherever he saw it.

But this man has not just written about injustice, no; he has worked to fight injustice. He has put his time, money and WORK toward helping those in need.

He has been doing this since the beginning, from age 13 or 14 with his first band, to today. October 3rd will be make the 25th year of Farm Aid, in which he has long been a participant. I would call

that commitment; wouldn't you?

For the cynical – I don't know about you, but if I wanted publicity, I would have picked one of the established mainstream publications, rather than a bunch of street papers the masses never see. But Mellencamp isn't about publicity. When he came to our Homeless Awareness Project Tent City in 2007, his visit was explicitly preconditioned on no advance publicity. Period.

No, Mellencamp doesn't give a rip about publicity; never has, never will.

He chose this interview in this venue JUST so those of you selling this street paper would be able to make enough jingle in your front pocket to make some folding money for your back pocket.

He did this here so just maybe people will find the fight inside of them to do the hard work necessary to get into financial and domestic autonomy.

Yes, it's hard work, very hard work; I know all too well. I was one of those who was living in my car because I was a "victim" of <insert your own reason here>, NOT because I used all my cash last night to buy some "whatever" I

could get to escape.

That may not be your reason, but no matter the reason, it is hard, hard work to achieve financial and domestic autonomy in McMerica for anyone, housed or unhoused.

John Mellencamp did this interview here for you hoping it just might help you achieve both.

He did this interview here because YOU do matter.

THIS is our country, because every 1 Matters, don't they?



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Letter to the Editor

GOP Casts Fear and Doubt for Midterm Election

The GOP is desperate to regain its former Congressional majority. The party of Joe McCarthy and Watergate is now targeting 'weak' Democratic seats with blatant fear and smear campaigns. Just as in the McCarthy era, rumors and half-truths are considered far more important than real facts. The Tea Party 'movement' is now used for handy deniability of factual distortions and fear mongering. While President

Obama and the Democratic Congressional majority have been working to better the lot of the average American, the GOP continues to favor the interests of the wealthy. No party with such a focus is worthy to make economic or political policies for our society. As always, America's better future will be gotten through the pursuit of greater human equality.

Paul Lambert
Ann Arbor



John Mellencamp talks to Street Newspaper organizations about homelessness

By Ken Leslie

To most people the “homeless” are nothing more than vague faces of poverty reflected in the mirror of a society afraid to even look, much less help.

Over a career spanning 25 albums John Mellencamp has written about who he is. Then, more importantly, John Mellencamp has always walked his talk. This is called integrity.

Thrust into superstar status by the music machine in the 80’s, he got a taste of the soulless part of the music business. So he said “Whoa, screw that! That’s not who I am, ‘Cougar’ out!”

Rejecting this money-making machine, his walk tells us he cares more about people than money. He has always worked for those without a voice. Everyone matters! That’s why John did this interview.

There were no conditions for this interview, nor the public service announcements for 1Matters and World Homeless Day, October 10th. None. He literally said, “I will do what ever you need.” Complete unconditional trust.

Why here instead of the mainstream press which would have garnered much more publicity? His single and absolute intent here is to talk to those in the middle of the struggle directly. His hope is vendors of street papers worldwide, having an exclusive interview no one else has, will achieve financial and domestic autonomy.

His hope is each one of the 640,000 people on the streets of the United States and in its shelters on any given night never give up. He hopes they do whatever hard work necessary to overcome any and all obstacles between themselves and domestic autonomy.

His hope is all reading this interview will support your local street paper with your time and dollars. If there are none in your city, you can direct your support to the North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA). Your support today allows us, those currently and formerly on the streets, to encourage each other and share the hope of our successes in one collective voice.

Ken Leslie: On behalf of 1Matters, Toledo Streets and the street paper movement, and everyone who has lost domestic or financial autonomy in our country, thank you for your time today.

We first met two years ago or so when you made an un-promoted stop at the annual Tent City, Project Homeless Connect in Toledo. You just wanted them to know they matter. Bob Merlis (Mellencamp’s publicist) told me you were touched by the experience. How so?

John Mellencamp: When you see what progress can produce, and also what progress can discard, it makes a feller wonder... calling it progress does not make it right. In this country right now there is no middle class, no place for middle class. You are either really rich or you are really down and out. It’s hard times in this country right now.

KL: When you were on stage at Tent City, you spontaneously decided to invite everybody there to your concert, all of the unhoused people.

JM: Right.

KL: 60 – 70 people went and I understand you talked to them from the stage about hope. As you know, one of the guests came back from the show and said “Ken, John talked to us from the stage – I guess I really do matter.” That was the founding moment of 1Matters and actually that’s why we’re here today. Your whole career, you’ve had the compassion for and worked for those with little or no voice. What is the root of that compassion in John Mellencamp, where does it come from? Was there something in your childhood maybe that started this feeling of compassion?

JM: Well for me, it started with race. I was in a band when I was 13-14 years old and it was the mid-60’s and it was a racially mixed band. I was the lead singer and this black kid was a singer he was a couple years older than me, really good. We’d play every weekend at fraternities and in hotels and stuff like that. It was a soul band. And I saw the way people treated him. Ya know, it was like wow, really? Wait a minute, you loved him on stage, but now he’s gotta go wait outside? And so I think that made quite an impression on me as a young guy.

KL: How’d you respond?

JM: Well, there were times that there were fist fights. I remember in a little town in Indiana there was a fist fight in between one of our breaks because of his race. So, ya know. I’m Sisyphus myself; I’m always the guy who’s rolling the rock up the hill. Ya know, and every time I get too close to the top I either let it roll back down on purpose or it just rolls back, catches on fire and rolls down at

someone. So I know what it’s like to have to work at something. My struggle is obviously different than some folks’ struggle, but, nevertheless, we all have our problems.

KL: How would you define your struggle?

JM: Um, well I’ll answer it like this: A man writes to what he strives to be, not what he is.

KL: The crucible that caused me to get involved in this movement in 1990 was seeing more and more people on the streets. It

was the statistic that 60% of them were families with children that forced me to act and do something. For you, with Farm Aid, tell me about that one moment that caused you to be a part 25 years ago and to maintain it even today.

JM: I had written a song with a friend of mine called Rain on the Scarecrow and I had just made an album about what I had seen. Ya know, what prosperity had done to the small towns. How they had leveled them out and devastated small town America. So we made this record called Scarecrow and then when Willie called, there was like, it took me about a second to decide I wanted to be a part of Farm Aid. When Willie called up, he had like a vague notion of what Farm Aid was gonna be. It was no more than just a vague notion and we really had no idea it was gonna last. We have our 25th anniversary coming up October 2nd.

KL: Each night there are 640,000 unhoused Americans who have lost domestic autonomy and are living on the streets and in shelters, 15% are veterans.

Some of those will be selling the very

street papers which are carrying your words right now. What are your words of hope to all of our brothers and sisters who are living on the streets of our country?

JM: Well, I’ve always, ah, I’ve always had a bunch of dumb cliché things that my family taught me that my grandfather passed them on to me and they’ve always provided some sort of hope in my life.

They’re not very eloquent, but the greatest advice I ever got in my life and, it’s not very eloquent, but “If you’re gonna’ hit a c*ck-s*cker, kill him.” And what my grandfather meant when he said that was if you’re actually going to do something, don’t talk about it, don’t brag about it, just go do it and do it to the best that you can possibly do. And that’s what he was saying, don’t be threatening, don’t be talking, don’t be bragging. I think that as un-eloquently as it was said, it was probably one of the most important things said to me in my life.

KL: Which is a perfect thing to say to the people on the streets, because if you’re gonna get off the streets, you can.

JM: You can, you need to! See the problem is most people give up too early and I’m not talking about just the people on the street, I’m just talking about people in general. They give up on relationships too early, they give up on themselves too early, they give up on life too early. I think that’s a problem, and I think that’s a problem our country has. Over the decades it was allowed to happen by the work ethic and through capitalism, a lot of things that affect this country that allow people to think that way, that the world owes them a living. And as soon as you start thinking that somebody owes you something, forget it man, you’re done. And as soon as you start thinking you’re right and everybody else is wrong... It’s like the guy who was married six or seven times, hell, I think it might be me – I think this could be me, I’m starting to think this is my problem.

*“Save some time to dream,
Cause your dream could save us all,
Oh yeah,
Your dream might save us all.”*

- Save Some Time to Dream -

Ken Leslie has been throwing starfish back in the ocean since 1990 and can be contacted at 1Matters.org.

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“The problem is most people give up too early and I’m not talking about just the people on the street. I’m just talking about people in general. They give up on relationships too early, they give up on themselves too early, they give up on life too early.”

– John Mellencamp

Why does that woman always play the violin on the streets?

By Lily Au

Why does that woman always play violin on the streets? The posters on the wall tell you the answer: "Delonis Shelter is full. Homeless Camp has been busted three times within a year. Sanctioned land is asked on humanitarian grounds."

Homeless people are arrested. Do you know that it is illegal to be homeless? See "Criminalization of the Homelessness" by the National Law School.

I was shocked when I first heard that people have been sleeping out in the cold. I was furious knowing that for years some of the homeless slept on chairs in the shelter. I didn't know how to respond when the homeless man showed his leg, swollen from deep vein thrombosis.

MISSION* members went to address the City Council many times. In response, in December 2009 the chairs in the warming center were replaced with sleeping cots. Still, sleeping in a crowded room that is quiet from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am does not afford the kind of rest that leaves a person ready to interview.

The root of the problem is, 'Where is our affordable housing?' Several years ago, the city government demolished over 100 low-income housing units (the old YMCA), and they have not been replaced. Some of the tenants from the old

Y are still sleeping on the streets. On the other hand, due to limited funds, the shelter has no choice but to set a two week limit stay for local homeless people at the warming center.

In addition to the warming center, there are places which can house people for three month stays. The reality is that the real demand for shelter is over ten times what the facility can provide.

We have several tent cities in Ann Arbor. Some are by the highway, under the bridge. Some are in the wooded areas. "Camp Take Notice," now has over 25 homeless campers hiding there. We call them the "Invisible Community." They're still living without lighting, electricity, running water or any facilities. Visit www.tentcity.org to read more stories about them.

People might ask, 'Lily, you've lots of free time to help out the homeless issue?' No, I'm the mom of two young sons. I'm struggling to balance the time. Being a mom, it sharpens our feelings of seeing people cold, wet, hungry, sick and painful.

"Hey, they're bums. That's the lifestyle they choose!" People tell me. I respond, "The longer you're with them, the more you will know the truth!" Based on research data from Washtenaw County, 20-25% of the homeless population are veterans and another 30-35% are men-

tally-ill patients, disabled and people with chronic diseases. There are also unemployed people, working poor and those fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault among them. Of course, substance abuse is also an issue for about 20-25% of homeless people.

When I played violin on the streets, people talked to me, and then they knew that the state had shut down many medical facilities for the mentally-ill and put patients on the street. That's why I advocate for "Emergency Housing." If we don't lend a hand to the most vulnerable, they will end up chronically homeless. People might say, "Housing is the job of Department of Housing & Urban Development," as they hold the federal funds." Some might say, "That's the job of the City, as the City Government is in charge of the city development, planning and facilities." I'd like to say that's everyone's job. In Romans 13:8 "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

Last month, I met Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm by chance. I asked, "Is it possible to make it a law to allocate a certain percentage of the City budget



Lily Au, playing her violin on the streets of Ann Arbor to raise awareness of homelessness issues.

each year for Emergency and Affordable Housing?" She replied, "Yes, you can if you can get the community on board!"

So, next time, when you see me play violin on the street, please pick up and sign the petition. Your signature can help free many people from the threat of hypothermia and frostbite and keep them dry on rainy nights. If you'd like to reach the bottom to help the needy, www.tentcitymichigan.org can offer you the channel. Your donation will go buy tents, tarps, bus-token, food, garbage bags (rain gear) for them. I love Isaiah 58 very much. That's the chapter which strengthens our faith community to work more for the vulnerable. I'm honored to be one of them, and you?

***MISSION** is a not for profit partnership between homeless and homeful Washtenaw county residents to support the efforts of Camp Take Notice to build and strengthen a homeless tent community through self-governance and accountability.

Groundcover News is grateful to those who have supported its endeavors

We at Groundcover deeply appreciate our support we from individuals and local businesses, agencies and places of worship, especially in this early phase while we are getting established. Some gave us money or equipment we needed, while others helped us with outreach or set up opportunities for our vendors to sell on their premises.

IMatters

Back Door Food Pantry

Ed and Ellie Davidson

Elmo's T-Shirts

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor

St. Andrew's Breakfast Program

St. Francis Catholic Church

Zion Lutheran Church

Tom Abdelnour

Advertising income has been crucial for funding our second issue. You will soon find links to our advertisers websites on our website, www.groundcovernews.com and our Facebook page, Groundcover News. Please patronize our advertisers and mention you saw their ad in Groundcover. Our heartfelt thanks go out to:

Complete Chiropractic and Bodywork Therapies

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And thanks to the thousands of you who took a chance on us and bought a paper.

Groundcover Wish List

- Office space within walking distance of downtown. Even a 6 x 6 space would suffice
- Cell phone and calling plan
- Digital cameras, or cell phones with cameras, and cords for uploading
- Handcarts, rolling coolers or rolling suitcases for newspaper transport
- Waterproof bags
- Office supplies like receipt books and laminating pouches.
- Jobs for hard workers

If you have something to donate, please let us know.
email contact@groundcovernews.com

Tax credits can mean the difference between home-sweet-home or on the street

By Lester Wyborny

Bethany Reed cried when she realized extra cash from expanded tax credits for families would help keep a roof over her 9-year-old's head. "We are all just one accident, cut job or pay away from being in trouble," said Reed, 30, a part-time assistant property manager pursuing a communications degree. "I would probably be in foreclosure without that additional money to help make my house payments and other bills."

But the clock is ticking on the additional aid, which expires at the end of this year. The US economy is sluggish and many people are still out of work, particularly here in Michigan, which was particularly hard-hit by the recession. The middle and upper class tax cuts which were enacted under Bush back in 2001, and tax cuts and credits for the lowest earners which were enacted in the Recovery Bill for 2009 and 2010 under Obama, are set to expire at the end of 2010. Increasing taxes in 2011 could slow an economic recovery, while extending them will add to the deficit which will drain our economy in the future.

Studies show that tax cuts for the lowest earners result in more than a \$1.50 stimulus for every dollar returned to the poor – thus a very good economic stimulus. However, tax cuts for the rich amounts to less than 50 cents of economic stimulus on each tax dollar returned to the rich – a poor stimulus.

One of the tax cuts for lower earners is an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC. The EITC was started in 1975 and it was designed to reward those with low incomes for working by providing a tax credit which could even exceed the taxed amount. In 2009, the EITC lifted 6.6 million people out of poverty – over 3 million of them were children, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. The EITC was also increased for married couples, ending the "marriage penalty", and increased the amount of the EITC benefit for families with 3 or more children.



Another stimulus is the Child Tax Credit or CTC. The CTC provides a maximum child tax credit of \$1000 per child which phases out at \$75,000 for single parents and at \$110,000 for married parents, but there was no CTC those earning less than \$13,000. Under the stimulus bill, the CTC increased and it was extended for those earning between \$3,000 and \$13,000 per year – which makes a lot of sense since children of these families are the most vulnerable. If the increases expire, a working parent raising two kids could see his or her child credit cut from \$2,000 to \$547.50.

"This (extension) is needed desperately in Michigan and around the country," said Sharon Parks, president and chief executive officer of the Michigan League for Human Services. Without the extension 584,000 Michigan families with children will see their child tax credits reduced or eliminated. Putting money in the hands of the working poor not only

stimulates the economy, it helps them hold onto their residences. It is much more cost effective and less disruptive to keep people in their homes than to provide services and find alternative shelter once they have been evicted. Those making \$3,000 - \$13,000 per year are already coping with working multiple part-time jobs that lack benefits, frequently on off-shifts that make finding child care a challenge. Informal child care arrangements among neighbors and families must often be relied on and become impractical when a family has to move.

Congress will be acting on the tax cuts this month. Michigan representatives hold some key positions on the committees that oversee tax policy. Anyone can call their representative and share their views, toll free, by calling the Congressional Switch Board, 800-220-0044 and asking for their Member of Congress by name. Representatives from Washtenaw County are John Dingell (Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti), Mark Schauer (Scio Township and west), and Mike Rogers, Whitmore Lake.

Groundcover Vendors Code of Conduct

While Groundcover News is a non-profit organization, and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the follow-

ing code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other

Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, other vendors, respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will

not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.

- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.
- I understand that Groundcover strives to be a paper that covers topics of homelessness and poverty while providing sources of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: contact@groundcovernews.com

Groundcover vendor Tony sees better days ahead

By Susan Beckett
Publisher

Chances are you've already met Tony, especially if you got your copy of Groundcover News while heading to your downtown office or strolling to your favorite Main St. restaurant or coffee shop. He and his display cart are downtown fixtures as he greets people and delivers the weather report or chats about latest Tigers or Lions game. After receiving many requests for directions, he suggested putting a map in the paper so he could better direct visitors. (See page 8)

Tony knew he could sell newspapers – he started hawking the Shopping News when he was 11 and by 13 won a trip to Washington, D.C. as a top seller of the Detroit News. His earnings afforded him a new stereo and bicycle and a bank

"It's good to be clean. It's a great feeling. It's better to be looked up at than to be looked down at!"

– Tony the vendor

account as well as the chance to buy presents for his Mom, the classic picture of dogs sitting around a poker table playing cards being the one he remembers most fondly.

Always a hard worker, his first encounter with the police came during a blizzard when he was 10 and went out to shovel snow for neighbors. They found him still shoveling 24 hours later. He was a high-spirited boy determined to lead in everything, which sometimes got him in trouble. The 10th of 14 children and the 7th son of a 7th son, he managed to channel most of his energy into rescuing animals, earning him the nickname "Bird."

Tony was 12 when one of his brothers who had survived a tour in Vietnam was shot and killed in Detroit, and Tony started to drink. When his father died four years later, he drank a lot and got in some serious trouble. He completed his GED in a juvenile detention center and upon his release tried returning to high school at Sacred Heart but relapsed into heavy drinking. A farsighted judge sent him to a Washtenaw County recovery

program in 1978 as a last chance to stay out of prison.

Tony stayed sober for 25 years. He worked at the Ypsi paper mill for several years before relocating and enjoying the economic boom in Texas. There he found employment as a rod man on a surveying team then moved into construction, chimney framing, brick and cement work, and landscaping, learning and working his way up until he started his own landscaping business. He recalls dumping the day's grass clippings in the meadow of his cow-raising friend. "It got so they'd see my truck pull up and 15 or 20 cows would come running right to me."

On a visit to Michigan, he met his future wife who eventually convinced him to move back north to be close to family. There he started Tony's Handyman and utilized the skills he'd learned in Texas. His wife eventually left, relieving him from the constant temptation of drinking with her.

He held various jobs, stocking shelves, loading steel and even as a UAW machine operator for a Big 3 parts manufacturer but got laid off when the plant was automated. During this time he bought a house in Eastpoint and remarried into an instant family of three children who he still considers his own. The cat he rescued from a dumpster loyally brought offerings to his door each day, including the memorable day she presented seven perfectly preserved rats, head to toe in a straight line.

The dark period of his life included buying a second house up north and taking out a loan so his wife could return to school. The economy soured, loan payments soared and though he worked two jobs, he could not keep up with the payments and eventually lost everything. Despair and drinking led to his wife divorcing him. A neighbor in his rental apartment introduced him to crack at a time when he was desperate to feel good. After a Detroit area treatment facility released him, he was attacked in Detroit while attempting to score more crack.

He returned to the Washtenaw County program where he had sobered up as a teen and was greeted like an old friend. He was directed to a three-quarter house where he could live for three months in a substance-free environment. He slept a lot and did little but it was not until his three months were nearly over that he finally went to the hospital and learned he had emphysema and pneumonia.



Groundcover vendor Tony, selling papers at the corner of Liberty and Main

The Delonis Center afforded him three more months of shelter and a sleeping bag to use when he left. Tony's ditty from this time goes,

"You don't know you're homeless

Until you realize that the roof over your head

Is the stars and the moon...

And you pet the raccoon."

While sleeping in fields and under bridges he made friends with Bandit the raccoon, a woodchuck and a skunk. During the early winter he acquired a second sleeping bag from the lieutenant at the Salvation Army where he had been attending Bible Study classes and AA meetings. He prided himself on being the best bottle collector in Ann Arbor and was able to buy personal items with the proceeds.

On his bike one night looking for bottles, he was stopped by police for not having a light on his bike. They arrested him on an outstanding warrant for non-

payment from his business failure and he spent six months in the Macomb County jail, saving him from the most brutal part of winter. Released with nothing but his bike, he went to the nearest Salvation Army and stayed a few days. He found his stepson nearby and stayed with him for a month during which time he attended AA meetings, felt depressed and kept hearing Jesus on TV. His son helped him get back to Delonis where he got a blanket and returned to his old tent which Bandit had shredded in his absence. Luckily, he soon got a room at Delonis and substantial help from his caseworker, Cameron. He regularly attends mass, AA meetings and a "12 Steps to God" program and his depression has lifted.

Cameron helped him secure temporary work at the Art Fair and that 45 hours helped him get on his feet. He heard about Groundcover and got started selling papers as soon as the Art Fair ended. Along with saving most of his money for a down payment on the apartment he just moved into, he bought some small

see Selling Groundcover, page 9

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Serving with a smile

St. Andrews celebrates 28 years of serving a daily community breakfast



Fittingly, vendor Kay sold the first copy of Groundcover during the community breakfast at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to a volunteer

This past August, the St. Andrew's Breakfast program celebrated 28 consecutive years of serving a community breakfast every morning, without fail. From the 35 people who attended the first breakfast, they have grown to 150 guests today. When there was a blackout, they served outside with candles, and there have always been people to serve.

For the volunteers preparing and serving the meal, it is a life changing experience.

"If you get to know people on a face-to-face basis, rather than as a group of homeless people, you realize that people are people. We all have our own problems, and some have been dealt more, but people are basically the same," said Deacon Svea Gray, who has directed the program for 25 years.

Sunday through Thursday, Gray arrives at 6:00 am and prepares for the 7:15 arrival of the kitchen volunteers and 7:30 arrival of the guests. The program runs on a shoestring budget and only the janitorial staff is paid. Guests pitch in washing tables and stacking chairs at the end of the meal and some fill in serving on those rare occasions when there are not enough volunteers. Generous people and organizations respond to the fundraising letters sent out in May and November. Last year a benefit concert helped replace withdrawn city funding and the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop gave them a grant for a new stove. Memorial donations and bequests also supply critical funding.

Friendship with the community and the

camaraderie of the volunteers and guests keep Gray going.

"The great spirit of people who walk a difficult path energizes me," Gray said.

She is a task master without being stern to the volunteers. She sees to it that the place is spotless and runs efficiently. Following Gray's initiative, volunteers are very kind in talking and dealing with the guests.

"In four years I have never observed one guest complain about how they are treated at St. Andrew's," said Martin Stolzenberg.

"They are invariably polite and appreciative. They say that the St. Andrew's Breakfast is the best meal in Ann Arbor.

"I notice that the guests often tend to linger, sometimes to avoid the weather outside, but I think often to just chat with friends. I suspect many of them are isolated during the day. The Breakfast is a place that they can renew contacts and maintain a sense of humanity."

"There is a kind of community that has emerged among the volunteers in our Thursday morning group," Stolzenberg continued. "We discuss sports, the economy, politics and our kids. We also socialize with outings and parties. The Breakfast Program makes us appreciate how we have been blessed with much."

The Breakfast Program is about bringing people together and building relationships.

"It is about the friends at St. Andrew's and the generous community that have come together through these 28 years to support us with wonderful volunteers and generous donations," said Gray.

New guests and volunteers from the community at large are welcomed warmly. Celebrating the birthdays of volunteers and guests as well as special breakfasts on holidays contribute to the feeling of extended family.

The Breakfast family dynamic extends to solving problems. In all 28 years, they have never had to exclude anyone from

the breakfast. When someone is having a hard time getting along, other guests separate them and work to calm them down. Occasionally a volunteer asks someone to move to the far side of the room.

St. Andrew's has opened its space to related organizations that provide services to the guests and all appreciate the safe space St. Andrews has become. The Writers Group meets Tuesdays from 8:30–10:00 a.m. during the school year. A diverse group drawn from the community at large, breakfast guests and U-M volunteer facilitators, share their work and offer each other suggestions. Project Outreach Team for the County (PORT) conducts various groups after breakfast several days each week, and Groundcover News distributes papers to vendors toward the end of breakfast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"We're all in this together and there are more ways we're alike than different – and we don't need the barriers we've

created with racism or ostracizing groups," Gray said. "It has been a religious experience getting to know guests and volunteers. I see God in everyone. Or I should!"

"If you get to know people on a face to face basis, rather than as a group of homeless people, you realize that people are people. We all have our own problems, and some have been dealt more, but people are basically the same."

– Deacon Svea Gray

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8	9		6					
6		4	1				3	5
						7		
	7				4	2		
			3		2			
		8	9				6	
		2						
7	4				5	1		9
					9		4	7

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

- ACROSS**
1. *A Study in Scarlet* author
 6. Pertaining to the ear
 10. Believability; reputation (slang)
 14. _____ Peninsula
 15. _____ the Explorer
 16. *Les Misérables* author
 17. Former U.S. president and general
 19. River of Spain
 20. Japanese manufacturer of car parts
 21. Cremation receptacle
 22. Less empty
 24. Former Colorado governor
 26. Dusk
 27. Beverage
 29. Type of software engineering (abbr.)
 31. Downwind, nautically
 32. Allen or Rumsey
 33. NBA's Shaq
 35. High cards
 39. Land parcel
 40. Fabric
 43. Gibbon, for example
 44. Egyptian goddess
 46. Belief
 47. Soak flax
 48. Sea level change
 51. Website featuring environmental news
 52. Legume
 53. Phone accessory
 55. Portal
 57. Anne _____, photographer
 58. Christopher Carson's nickname
 60. 1960s pop singer
 63. Armenian village
 64. _____ United Football Club
 67. Cheese variety
 68. Tropical plant
 69. Site
 70. Beer foam
 71. Fishing equipment
 72. Brief

- DOWN**
1. Two-part harmony
 2. Sheriff Taylor's son
 3. Demetrius _____
 4. _____ Chandavarkar, Bollywood actress
 5. Eagle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18						19			
20					21			22	23					
		24		25				26						
27	28			29		30		31						
32				33		34					35	36	37	38
39				40				41	42		43			
44			45			46					47			
			48	49	50			51			52			
	53	54						55		56				
57						58	59			60		61	62	
63					64	65				66				
67					68					69				
70					71					72				

6. Fragrance
7. Village
8. Anger
9. Vehicle packed with people
10. Former First Daughter
11. 100 kopecs
12. Wading bird
13. Portal
18. Compassionate
23. One, in French
25. Debatable
26. Salt solution
27. Anklebones
28. Grandson of Adam and Eve
30. _____ Manley, former NFL star
34. Consumed
36. Woodworker
37. Fencing sword

38. Bristle; hair
41. Measurement of a sort
42. Mountain of Italy
45. Sports venue
49. Grosse _____
50. Mole, native to Europe
53. Ms. Reese
54. Lazy person
56. Sample food
57. Singer Barry, Robin, Maurice or Andy
58. Gordian _____
59. Frozen treats
61. Birds of New Zealand
62. Group of anti-Sandinistas (abbr.)
65. Beer
66. Time zone (abbr.)

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond

Cryptoquotes

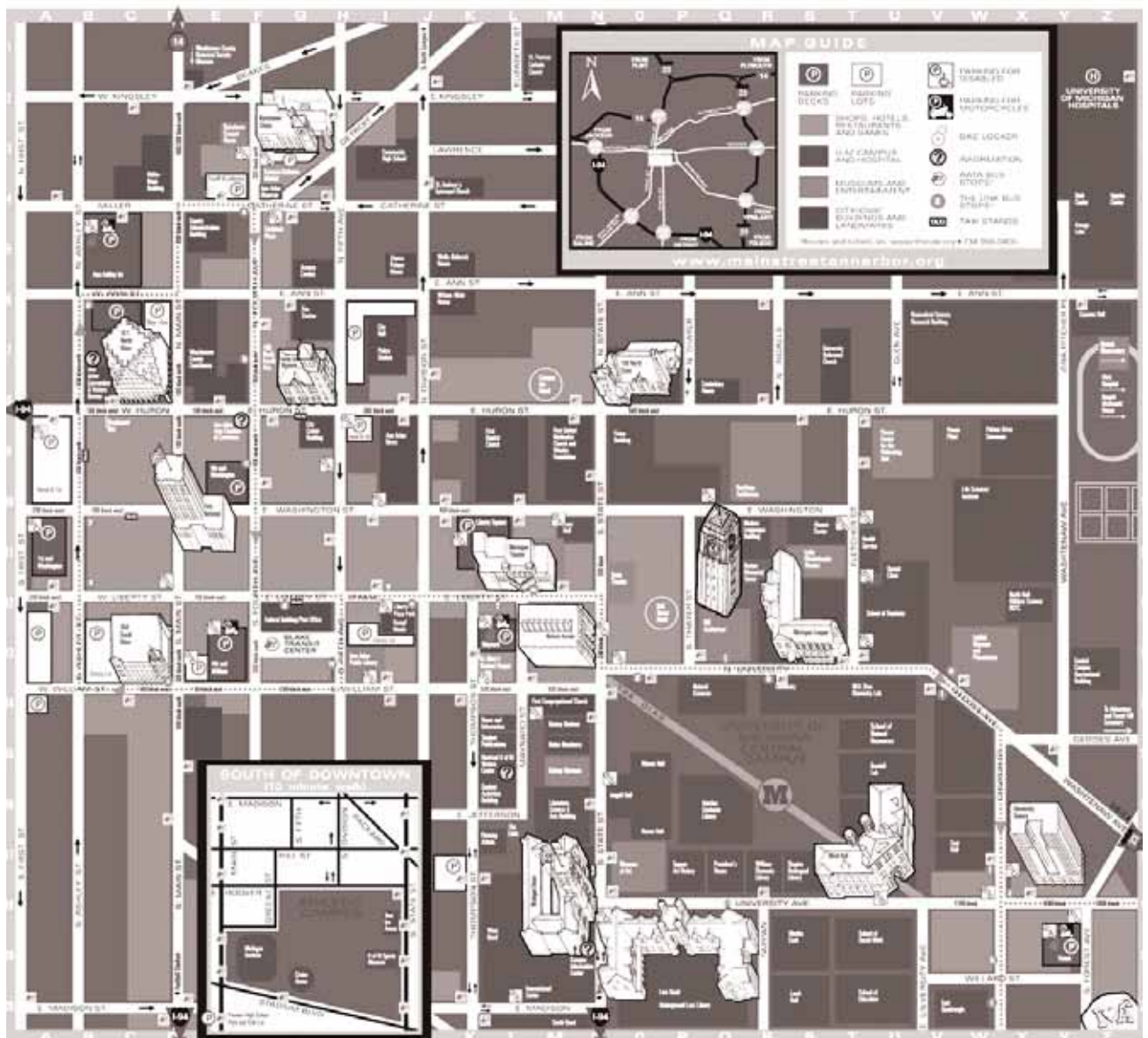
Figure out the encryption code to solve the puzzle

WDEBOYQ DMYBS HBWOCEBU F ZFS DM FJJ
 UWCOCY FSH ECOYVB; CY CU IFOH MDO FS
 BZWYQ AFX YD UYFSH VWOCXIY.”
 — *ABSKFZCS MOFSPJCS*

UKV FV BJH MVNVF J B JF RM TRNVFUE.
 CJEAV UKV FV BJH J HYOFCHK RM TRNV-
 FUE.
 — *JMXFVB LZRCR*

solutions on page 11

Ann Arbor City Map



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Roasting coffee and meeting people... a good blend for John Roos

Alicia Beckett interviewed John Roos, local entrepreneur and artist. He can be spotted at his store on Rosewood, Farmer's Market booth or trike on State Street serving Pour Over Honk for Service coffee.

AB: How did Roos Roast first come into existence?

JR: I had moved back to Michigan and I couldn't find any good coffee. I had just by chance taken a job selling cars at Dunning Subaru... and the coffee there was terrible. In my spare time I had started roasting coffee a little bit. So I started bringing my own coffee, then I was bringing in my own espresso machine. And also the reason I wanted to sell coffee was because I quickly realized to be a good car salesman you needed to have a catch, like there was a guy who lived in Alaska so everyone was like "Where's Jerry from Alaska" So I was like, 'I need to have some other background.' So I did really well at selling cars but in the mean time the coffee business was growing really fast. After like 4 years of selling cars and roasting coffee together I had to choose one or the other so I chose coffee.

AB: Are you glad you chose coffee?

JR: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, I love coffee! I think coffee's amazing! The thing about coffee is it's a real people business.

AB: How did you learn to roast coffee?

JR: In Portland I hung out with my friend who roasted coffee a lot. So I learned the basics from her, but I learned a lot just by doing it myself. Trial and error, just experimenting.

AB: How did you find a good source of coffee?

JR: I bought a gas roaster after 2 little junkie electrical roasters, and the guy who built the gas roaster turned me on to some people who sold coffee, so I started going to them. It's pretty easy to find good coffee now- there's a lot of good stuff out there and a lot of people who sell coffee. Once you start roasting coffee and delivering coffee to people you can't just say 'Oh I'm going to quit doing this.' Coffee's very important to them right?

AB: And you roast very good coffee!

JR: Oh, thank you! You have to remain humble; you can't just say I'm the best. So I try to remain humble, and keep roasting every day, keep after it.

AB: What's the most difficult thing about getting coffee just right?

JR: All the aspects of it: Grind it right, brew it right, water has to be right, machine has to be clean; there are a lot of different parts like that. Coffee is like beer, or some other drink. It's very subjective; it depends on who the person is

who's drinking it. You should try to make people happy. I can say that's bad coffee but someone else might love it. And that's what you learn when you start serving coffee to people in places like a farmers market and your audience is a large audience.

AB: What's your favorite roast?

JR: I'm drinking this Papau New Guinea right now, which I love-really good, and I'm making espresso out of it. I like to take this single origin coffee and put it through my espresso machine. That's how I like to make coffee.

AB: Espresso or Coffee?

JR: I prefer espresso, but I drink it long like a cup of coffee.

AB: What is something that people don't know about coffee?

JR: A lot of people don't know that dark roast has less caffeine than light roast.

AB: Why is that?

JR: Because as you roast the coffee you take the caffeine out of it. The caffeine



John Roos, with a roaster on his left and his artwork on the wall

leaves in the smoke and the chaste that comes out of it. So lighter roasts have more caffeine.

AB: Do you see yourself opening another store or expanding into a chain?

JR: Well I don't think expanding into a chain is in the future. Maybe open another store; we might do that, you never know. I think in order to make a lot of money you need to have a place that serves coffee by the cup.

One of the ideas I played around with is doing a café employed with homeless people. That's one of those things they do in Portland, Oregon. It's pretty successful [and] could be a really good thing.

Simple Summer Harvest Recipes

From Saline gourmand, Kathy Moberg

Garden Beans and Peppers

Trim enough beans for the number of people you'll have at dinner. A combination of green, yellow and purple beans looks pretty, but whatever you have on hand will be fine.

Core and slice one or two sweet peppers into thin strips. Separate 3 or 4 thin slices of red onion into rounds. Add to

beans in a large skillet and toss with a little olive oil and garlic powder & ground black pepper to taste.

Sautee, stirring frequently, over medium high heat until beans are cooked but still crisp and peppers and onions have softened. While beans are cooking, chop several fresh basil leaves. Remove from heat, place in serving bowl and toss with the fresh basil. Serve immediately.

Alternately, you may fashion a cooking tray out of heavy aluminum foil or use a grill basket, and grill the beans for 8 to 10 minutes.

Garden Panini

For each sandwich, thinly slice two pieces of good bread (an Italian or country loaf, white or wheat). Spread one side thinly with a soft cheese like Allouette (the light version is fine since there are so many flavors in this sandwich). Layer with whole basil leaves, sliced tomatoes, rings of thinly sliced red onion and/or bell pepper (sweet or hot!), finishing with some finely grated mozzarella. Place second slice of bread on top.

Press sandwich in a panini maker OR place on flat, hot skillet, very lightly cov-

ered with olive oil (I use a mister filled with olive oil) on the stove top. Press down hard with a large spatula to compress the sandwich and cook until the first side is nicely browned. Flip sandwich over and repeat, pressing down every now and then.

Ham, prosciutto, smoked turkey may be added as well. The trick is to keep the sandwich thin. Too many ingredients, and it won't hold together. You also want the fresh tomato and basil flavors to really shine through!

Selling Groundcover helps Tony find hope and housing

continued from page 6

presents for his granddaughter and sent some money to help with expenses.

Tony is so pleased to be substance free and productive. "I lost my wife who I love very much and I have only myself to blame. I know I must move on, but be there for kids and the granddaughter who loves her Grand Pap and the baby grandson I have now! It's good to be clean. It's a great feeling. It's better to be looked up at than to be looked down at!

A minor setback befell him recently. Tony's wallet fell from his pocket one hot Sunday morning as he was dragging his cart up Washtenaw on his way to an area church. (Buses don't run until later in the day on Sunday.) He resigned himself to losing the money that was in his wallet but fervently hopes to get his driver's license and personal papers back. If whoever has it drops the wallet in a mailbox or brings it to the Ann Arbor Police Department, it will make its way back to Tony.

He's looking forward to saving enough money so he can finance karate lessons to enhance his granddaughter's self-discipline, get his ex-wife's car fixed, and repay an outstanding loan from his father-in-law.

"I'm happy," Tony said recently. "I've lost 12 pounds since I started selling the paper. I like what I'm doing; meeting people, showing them what a gentleman I am. I love saying, 'Good morning' to people."

Help the homeless make the transition to "home-more."

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Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Area Low Income Food Pantries

Aid in Milan

89 W Main St Milan, MI 48160 (734) 439-8420
Contact: Nina Pemberaton Emergency Food Pantry M - F 9AM - 3PM and 4TH SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM. Must live in Milan School District.

Ann Arbor Community Center

625 N Main St Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 662-3128 Contact: Yolanda Whiten Food Pantry: MONDAY-THURSDAY 10AM-3PM Open distribution.

Bethlehem Temple Church of All Nations

8110 Chubb Rd PO Box 75022 Salem, MI 48175 No Phone Contact: Elizabeth Clark Food Pantry: 1ST THURSDAY 11AM - 1PM.

Brown Chapel AME

1043 W Michigan Ave Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 482-7050 Contact: Shirley Brown or Curtiss Bell Pantry Distribution & Meal: FRIDAY 11AM - 12:30PM.

Bryant Community Center

Bryant Community Center 3 West Eden Ct. Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (734) 994-2722 Contact name: Asia Phillips, held every 1ST AND 3RD FRIDAY of each month. 11AM - 1PM for Ann Arbor Residents need to provide proof of residency and proof of income (unemployment compensation, ADC/AFDC, social security, SSI, GA etc) May participate once a month. Produce Distribution, HELD EVERY 3RD THURSDAY 11AM - 1PM for Ann Arbor Residents need proof of residency Emergency Food, available during business hours which are: Mon- Wed 2PM - 6PM Thurs 8AM - 6 Fri 8 am - 5 pm. For ALL residents participants are allowed to receive emergency food once a month.

Corner Health Center

47 N Huron St Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 484-3600, ext #250 Contact: Alaina Chipponeri Food Pantry: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM Must be a client.

Dexter Senior Center

7720 Ann Arbor St Dexter, MI 48130 (734) 426-7737 Contact: Executive Director. Food Pantry: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 2PM Must be a senior living in Dexter school district.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

201 N River St Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 482-7121 Contact: Grace Kennedy or Patti Gardner Food Pantry: MONDAY - THURSDAY 3PM - 3:45PM Call first for information. Meal: TUESDAY 5PM - 6PM Open meal site.

Faith in Action

603 S. Main 603 S Main St, Chelsea, MI 48118. Contact Nancy Paul (734) 475-3305. Based on household income. Primarily non-perishable foods and household supplies. Call for eligibility requirements.

Family Inc.

983 E Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti MI 48198 (734) 480-4470 Contact: Brenda Simmons Food Pantry: LAST SATURDAY 11AM - 1PM Open distribution.

Forrest Knoll/Greater Shilo Church

1076 Jefferson St Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 482-4640 Contact: Pastor Walls Food Pantry: EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 2PM - 3PM Open distribution.

Calvary Bible Church

8318 Carpenter Rd Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Contact: Lynn Cail & Kim Burgan 734-664-7306 Food Pantry: HOURS: WEDNESDAYS 5:45PM - 6:30PM SUNDAYS FROM 12:30PM - 1PM Open distribution.

Cathedral of Deliverance

580 1st Ave Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734)483-2560 Contact: Paulette Walker Food Pantry: 1ST, 2ND & 3RD TUESDAY 6PM - 7PM Open distribution,

Catherine's House

A Program of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (734)712-1266 Contact: Deb Young Food Pantry MUST BE A ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE OR SOCIAL WORK CLIENT (in-house referral) Hours: Thursday 1P

Christian Life Center Church

2146 Moeller Ave Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 485-4670 Contact: Valerie Powell Food Pantry: 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY 11AM - 1PM Open distribution.

Christian Love Fellowship

1601 Stamford Rd Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 483-7967 Contact: Denise Northington Food Pantry: 2ND & 3RD WEDNESDAY 3PM - 4PM Open Distribution.

Church of God of Prophecy

130 S Harris Rd Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 483-5088 Contact: Jacqueline Burgan Food Pantry Hours: LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 5:30PM - 6PM. Open distribution.

Greater Faith Mission

855 E Clark Rd Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 484-3701 Contact: Gertrude Tomlin Food Pantry: 1ST & 4TH TUESDAY 11AM - 1PM Open distribution.

HIV/AIDS Resource Center

3075 W Clark Rd, Suite 203 Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 572-9355 Contact: Pat Love x 231 Food Pantry: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM Must be a client.

Holy Trinity Church

511 W Forest Ave Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 482-1400 Contact: Gloria Gaynor Food Pantry: Contact Gloria for hours and eligibility requirements.

Hope Medical Clinic

518 Harriet St Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734)484-2989 Contact: Melissa Burkehart Food Pantry: WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 2PM - 4:30PM by appointment Emergency Pantry: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 2PM closed between 12pm-1pm Call first for information.

Manchester Community Resource Center

410 City Road. P.O. Box 433. Manchester, MI 48158. Contact Chris Kanta 734-428-7017. Please call for specific eligibility requirements and hours.

Manchester Family Services

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 471 Manchester, MI 48158 Distribution Address: Parish Center 110 E. Madison Manchester, MI 48158 General Information: 734-428-7123 Food Pantry: (734) 428-8687 Contact: Mary Sue Moore Food Pantry: 3rd WEDNESDAY 1PM - 3PM Call first for information.

Packard Health (Formerly Packard Community Clinic)

3174 Packard St, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (734) 971-1073. Contact Karen Dugas. MUST BE A CLIENT OF PACKARD HEALTH TO RECEIVE FOOD.

Parents Together

2520 Packard Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 528-9199 Contact: Pat Bobo Food Pantry: Distribution Address: 401 S. Adams, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 - WEDNESDAY 9AM - 12PM Requirements: Need to provide proof of residency and proof of income (unemployment compensation, ADC/AFDC, social security, SSI, GA etc) for Emergency Food: Call first for information

Power Inc.

4180 Packard St Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (734) 929-6509 Contact: Amanda Martinez Food Pantry: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 4PM Must be a client.

Saline Social Services

131 E Michigan Ave Saline, MI 48176 (734) 429-4570 Contact: Susan Brown Food Pantry: MONDAY - THURSDAY 10AM - 3PM FRIDAY 9AM-12PM Clients must reside in the Saline School District. Financial requirements apply. Please call for details.

Salvation Army - Ann Arbor

100 Arbana Dr Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 668-8353 Contact: Jennifer Brown Food Pantry: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 3PM Call first for information. Ypsilanti Residents Salvation Army at 9 South Park St

Tuscan Creek Apartments

212 Stevens Dr Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 484-0510 Contact: Jessica Sharp or Rudy Thompson Food Pantry: EVERY OTHER FRIDAY 1PM till they run out of food. First come first served. Call first for information.

Victorious Life Church of God

860 E. Clark Rd Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 482-4293 Contact John Bishop Food Pantry: 2ND & 3RD TUESDAY 6PM Open distribution.

Vineyard Christian Fellowship

424 Hurd St Milan, MI 48160 (734) 439-2400 Contact: Steve Davis Food Pantry: SATURDAY 10AM - 12PM Open distribution.

Washtenaw County Commodities Distribution

Michigan Works! Service Center (Parking Lot) 304 Harriet St. Ypsilanti, MI 734-544-2954. Contact Justin Al-Igoe. Quarterly distribution call for details. NEXT DISTRIBUTION IS SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH FROM 11AM - 4PM.

Word of Deliverance Church

1005 Midway Rd. Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 483-6110. Contact Bishop Holmes. Food Pantry: 1ST TUESDAY 11:30 AM-1PM Open distribution

Salvation Army - Ypsilanti

9 S Park St Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 482-4700 Contact: Captain MacCauley Food Pantry: MONDAY - THURSDAY 8AM-11AM Call first for information.

Second Baptist Church - Ann Arbor

850 Red Oak Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 (734) 663-9369. Contact Harvey Glaze. DISTRIBUTIONS FRIDAY 11:30AM - 1PM. Call for eligibility requirements.

SOS Community Services

114 N River St Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (734) 484-4300 Contact: Beverly Gibson Food Pantry: TUESDAY 10AM - 12:45PM WEDNESDAY 6PM - 7:45PM Open distribution. Limit of four allocations per person per year.

St. Clare's Episcopal/The Back Door

2309 Packard St Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 662-2449 Contact: Tish Dersnah. Food Pantry: THURSDAY 4PM - 7PM Open distribution.

St. Mary's Baptist Church

561 2nd St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 485-3505. Contact Mary Byrd. THURSDAYS 10AM - 2PM. Open distribution.

St. Vincent de Paul

411 Florence St Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 483-6378 Contact: Connie Isenegger Food Pantry: BY APPOINTMENT. Closed for the summer.

Eat well, spend less

By Rose Delores Whitmore

This world is a funny place. At times I have been employed, receiving a paycheck and the benefits that having money brings. At this point in my life I have not been able to find work so the paycheck is pretty much a memory. I have been staying at the shelter in Ann Arbor for about 3 months.

During this time I have learned that for people who have a small amount of money there are actually quite a few inexpensive choices for food. In this article, my first, I will share some of the low cost food values I have found here in Ann Arbor.

One of my favorite places to go get a good breakfast 24/7 is the Fleetwood Diner. Located at 300 South Ashley, the small restaurant serves a wide variety of really good food. I usually get three eggs and toast and it comes to \$3.67 Of course coffee is extra so I usually get water instead. The experts say that the most important meal of the day is breakfast. I am lucky that it is also the least expensive.

If you have transportation you can go to other good inexpensive places that serve breakfast like the Flim Flam Restaurant and Mark's Coney Island. Both are located on Plymouth Rd.

The dollar menu at McDonalds is a good way to stretch your money. How you place your order can actually save you some money. If you order an Egg McMuffin without the meat they will charge you full price for the item, but if you order an English muffin with egg and cheese, it is about a dollar less.

Another really good value I have found is the white rice from No Thai. A small box of fresh hot steamed rice is 50 cents. The soy sauce, which is a must for me, is free and so is the hot sauce if you go that way. A truly great deal!

see Food, p. 11



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Ann Arbor's Elmo – From barrio to businessman

Success should be his middle name.

Or maybe passion, or creativity, or drive; Elmo Morales has them all. The proprietor of Elmo's T-Shirts also owns and operates *Body in Balance Fitness*, the first Ann Arbor bicycle spinning fitness facility, and Elmo's Hideaway, a music club. But many in Ann Arbor know him as a race organizer and the founder of the Dexter-Ann Arbor run. And Community High students from the 1970's through the 1990's remember him as their physical education instructor.

How has he managed to do so much and still look so young? Family and living a balanced life, he'll tell you. He started Elmo's T-Shirts back in his race organizing days, while he was still teaching full time. His mother, wife and children ran the store until he could get there at the end of his teaching day. Working hard has been part of his life since he was seven or eight, when he started carrying groceries.

Raised in the better of two New York City barrios in Manhattan, he was a really good kid who loved everything about school; the classes, the free lunch he got, field trips and athletics. His world widened when he delivered dry cleaning to Russian immigrants who lived in the better neighborhood across Broadway from his own. They invited the boy into their homes where he was exposed to fine art and the antiques they brought with them from the old country.

His horizons broadened considerably when he was 11 and spent two weeks in a suburban home in Westport, Conn. as part of the Fresh Air Camp, a non-profit that sent poor city kids to the country for part of the summer. The family he joined repeatedly talked about college at



Elmo Morales, in front of his Main St. T-shirt shop.

the dinner table and started young Elmo thinking that maybe it should be part of his future. He spent considerable time at the "tar beach," the roof of his apartment building, studying for the Regent's Exam in 9th grade. He was one of only eight children in his borough to attain a perfect score in Algebra, and he was the first Puerto Rican to do so. Under the specter of racism, he was accused of cheating. His grade was unfairly lowered but it spurred him to work even harder.

He ran track in high school and was one of a very talented group of runners that set the national record for the mile relay. Elmo was heavily recruited but his future coach at U-M, Don Canham (later the athletic director), was the most straightforward. He called and said, "Hey kid, you want to go to school here? Sign on the dotted line. We'll give you everything." Elmo knew nothing about Michigan or the university, but knowing

that he'd be provided for clinched the deal.

A desire to give back led him to a degree in physical education. Along with studying and training, he worked as a waiter at the posh downtown restaurant, Room at the Top. He sent home \$35 per week to help his family with rent. After graduation, he married and brought his mother, grandmother, brother and sister to Ann Arbor. His wife, Susan Scott Morales is a spinning instructor and partner in Bodies in Balance Fitness. She's also an author whose second novel, *A Barroom View of Love*, was just released.

The couple's daughter, Christina Morales Hemenway, expresses her creativity as a screenwriter and director. Her second film, "Naked Angel," will premiere at the Michigan Theater on September 24, preceded by a gala affair with the film's stars,

including James Duval. Elmo credits the Michigan Film Grant program with making possible this independent film, shot primarily in Ann Arbor with many local cast and crew members.

Elmo's newest venture, Elmo's Hideaway, took root during his senior year in high school, listening to up-and-coming performers in Greenwich Village. He was lucky enough to hear the young Bob Dylan and Peter, Paul and Mary, among others, and thought to himself, 'Some-day I'll have a club.' Located below the T-shirt shop, Elmo's Hideaway seats 55 concert style and is used by local musicians to showcase their talents, as well as for special functions.

Always creating, Elmo envisions a company where he will produce shows and manage performers. He is also seriously considering reviving some of the community races he used to organize, like the Turkey Trot and Jinglebell Run. These are low-cost runs that build a sense of community and any extra revenue is donated to the St. Andrew's Breakfast Program and Peace Neighborhood Center.

Having benefitted from many Social Service and community outreach programs as a child, Elmo appreciates their value. He looks for opportunities to help others escape poverty and achieve the sense of satisfaction that accompanies productive work. Elmo's T-Shirts got started because the guy he ordered t-shirts from for all his runs casually commented, "With all the t-shirts you buy from me, you should start your own t-shirt company."

Elmo has lots of start-up business ideas he'd like to mention to the right set of ears. The possibilities are endless!

Puzzle solutions

"Poverty often deprives a man of all spirit and virtue; it is hard for an empty bag to stand upright."

— Benjamin Franklin

"There was never a war on poverty. Maybe there was a skirmish on poverty."

— Andrew Cuomo

Food, from page 10

By the Pound, located on Main St. Near Madison, is in a small strip mall. This place has bulk items that you can literally purchase buy the pound or any fraction thereof. Items include candy and sweets, my favorites, and they have dried fruit, nuts, trail mix, granola, pastas, and all sorts of baking ingredients and spices. If you have less than a dollar to work with and you are looking for a snack you will love this place.

8	9	7	6	5	3	4	1	2
6	2	4	1	9	7	8	3	5
3	5	1	4	2	8	7	9	6
1	7	9	5	6	4	2	8	3
4	6	5	3	8	2	9	7	1
2	3	8	9	7	1	5	6	4
9	1	2	7	4	6	3	5	8
7	4	6	8	3	5	1	2	9
5	8	3	2	1	9	6	4	7

D	O	Y	L	E		O	T	I	C		C	R	E	D
U	P	P	E	R		D	O	R	A		H	U	G	O
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I	L	L	I			M	A	N	C	H	E	S	T	E
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B	A	R	M			N	E	T	S		T	E	R	S

Reducing my carbon footprint And increasing my debt, all in one summer stroll



Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

A sizeable group of us here in Michigan are embracing the concept of reducing our carbon footprint with open arms and empty wallets – namely, those of us who took a salary cut, are underemployed or laid off.

Talk about great timing! Walking or riding a bike came into vogue just when the economy tanked and some of us could no longer afford to drive a car. It's synchronicity at its best!

I am one of those Michiganders who recently had a perfect opportunity to demonstrate my enthusiasm for reducing my carbon footprint. After all, I had been laid off, couldn't figure out how to pay the mortgage and also buy food, so I was keen on any opportunity to save a buck or two.

My car battery died Friday evening in a downtown Ann Arbor parking lot. A friend gave me a ride home and told me not to worry, parking was free on Saturdays, so my car was in no danger of being ticketed or towed. (I am currently re-evaluating our friendship status, given how very ill-informed this friend was.)

The next day I cheerfully loaded up my saucy little leather backpack with socket wrenches, pliers, flat and Phillips screwdrivers, a vice grip, hammer, and a roll of duct tape. My plan was to walk to town, pick up a car battery at the nearby party store or maybe Treasure Mart and figure out how to fix the car myself, saving oodles of money and four miles' worth of automotive pollution.

As I set out I was feeling quite plucky; I was a cheery optimist who was finding something positive in a bad situation. I was getting exercise! I was saving the planet! Uh-oh! I was already getting

tired!

I knew that what lay between me and my car – as the crow flies – was the University of Michigan golf course.

Yes! I could just cut across the golf course and shave at least a half-mile off my walk.

For reasons I can't explain, it's very easy to saunter right onto the golf course at the southeast corner. All I had to do from there was wend my way to the northwest corner. Lo and behold, right at my feet was a golf cart path that appeared to curve in the general direction I was going, so I struck out on the cart path at a perky pace, occasionally doing a little Wizard of Oz skip and a hop.

Thirty yards later, the cart path came to an abrupt halt. Huh?

I hadn't played golf in 25 years, so I had forgotten a lot about the sport. I thought cart paths wandered through the entire course like a Candyland path on a game board. Apparently, this is not the case.

It seemed I was on the edge of a fairway, which I safely traversed. Then I found myself nearing a green. Four golfers were taking turns putting in. I trotted past, socket wrenches chiming merrily in my backpack. Sheesh, they glared at me as if I was singing *In-a-gadda-da-vida* off-key. In my best ESPN golf announcer voice, I whispered a quick apology and scampered away.

Wherever there is a putting green, there will be a teeing-off place nearby. Suddenly I was in a shimmering, lime green and pink plaid school of golfers. The whine of electric golf carts was coming from behind while other golfers sashayed in front of me.

At that point I decided the golf course had too many players and too few cart paths, so I made a bee line for my destination, the northwest edge of the course, racing across fairways and yelling

“MARTINI!” anytime I saw someone about to hit a ball in my direction. I knew there's some other word you're supposed to yell when someone might get clobbered with a golf ball, but I forgot what it was and figured “martini” would get their attention.

In the many, many times I have driven past the U of M golf course, I somehow never noticed it has a VERY tall fence surrounding it.

I was trapped like a Titleist in the ball washer.

Rather than retracing my footsteps back to the point of origin, I hugged the fence line even though it meant trudging through prairie grass and stinging nettle the height of your average Eberwhite Elementary fourth grader. Thirty-five minutes later, I was back where I started.

Thirty more minutes later, I was almost to the parking lot where I left my dead car. Imagine my surprise when I rounded the corner and found the parking lot full of festive white tents setting up for a craft fair. It looked like the Bedouins were in town and they had cast an ancient spell to make my car disappear.

I went to the police station to report a missing vehicle, and ended up paying a \$60 “paper processing fee.” Then I received directions to the towing yard and a \$25 ticket for parking at a bagged meter. “But it wasn't bagged when I parked there,” I whined.

“It shows that the meters were bagged at 7 a.m.,” the police woman told me. “If you'd gotten up early and taken care of your battery issue, this wouldn't have

happened.” Then she gave me an ‘Early-Bird-Gets-The-Worm’ smirk that made me want to pull out my pocket-sized Deep Woods Off and give her a quick squirt in the face.

I walked nine blocks west to the towing company, where I discovered I needed to pay \$225 to retrieve my car. Forty dollars of that fee was a “paper processing fee.” *Note to self: look into freelance paper processing because apparently it is quite lucrative.*

The towing guy graciously gave my battery a jump and off I went. Upon my safe arrival back home, the battery died within 1.6 nanoseconds.

Tally of my carbon footprint reduction experience:

- Spared the planet 6.8 miles of car-driving pollution (if you include the golf course stroll, which probably isn't fair because I wouldn't have been wandering around a golf course in a Pontiac);
- Saved \$90 by not calling a towing company as soon as I assessed the car problem Friday evening;
- Spent \$310 on tickets, paper processing and towing;
- Gained a muscle spasm in between my shoulders from lugging around a Backpack o' tools;
- Gained the invaluable knowledge that I can walk over seven miles without pulling a groin muscle.

Lesson learned about leaving a car in a downtown parking lot overnight? I'd like to say “Priceless,” but that would be a lie.



“Sunflowers” by Karen Totten

Calendar of Events

Starting next month, we will have a calendar of events covering the second week in October through the first week of November. Please send your event information by September 23 to: contact@groundcovernews.com