



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY-AUGUST 2010

VOLUME ONE, ISSUE ONE

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1 Matters.org

Many thanks to 1 Matters, which funded the start-up costs for Groundcover News.

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Because 1Matters

The 1 who matters is a person **YOU** make feel they matter.

The 1 who matters is a person **YOU** inspire or influence.

The 1 who matters is a person **YOU** help.

The 1 who matters is **YOU**.

We applaud the entire team involved in creating Ground Cover including Susan Beckett and Laurie Lounsbury. It is tough to create something from nothing. There are many obstacles and lots of people who tell you why it won't work.

We here at 1Matters.org hope and pray the community support will flow to all involved as it has in many cities across the nation.

As way of background, the founding inspiration for 1Matters.org was a visit John Mellencamp made to the Toledo Homeless Awareness Project, Tent City on November 2, 2007.

John gave us 60 tickets to his concert that evening to give to the unhoused guests.

One gentleman returned after the concert and said, "Ken, John actually talked to us from the stage. I guess I really DO matter."

Here was a human being who questioned whether or not he mattered. How in God's wonderful world can anyone not know they matter?

1Matters was born.

It took this man just 1 piece of dignity from John Mellencamp to realize he matters. All it took was to be talked TO, not talked about.

This revelation produces the primary principle behind 1Matters: We believe the solution to homelessness or any social problem is 1 at a time and you, yes you are the 1 that Matters to some 1.

What We Do To Matter

Essentially 1Matters has quickly evolved to provide employment, shelter or services, to the unhoused.

Started in 1990, our *annual Tent City* brings the entire community together in one place to find solutions, 1 at a time and offers services and, for some, the return to housing.

1Matters provided start-up funding for both Groundcover and Toledo Streets to provide employment and autonomy.

We provided initial funding for Lifeline Ministries medical unit which comes to downtown Toledo each Saturday for *Food for Thought*.

We provided continuation funding for *Food for*

Thought for the past two years.

We provided start up funding for the local *Help Portrait* in partnership with the Lucas County Public Library to provide free family or individual portraits to those struggling with extreme poverty.

We sponsor the annual Homeless Person's Memorial Service each year on the first day of winter.

For our latest project, we are currently developing the 1Works program to provide employment, training, and housing in creating housing for the unhoused.

If you want to know more about 1Matters feel free to visit our website or join us on Facebook.

At 1Matters, we want to change the world, 1 at a time.

Because 1Matters. Will you help?

Then please join us in supporting the great work of the Groundcover artists, writers and vendors each and every month.

Ken Leslie, Founder
1Matters.org

Real Change is possible, starting small and thinking big

"Real Change! Real Change!" exclaimed the man on the Seattle sidewalk as I passed through the supermarket doors. I was confused. Did he think I'd be giving him wooden nickels? Upon learning he was homeless and offering to sell me a newspaper, I eagerly traded my dollar for his paper and had an aha moment- this was a brilliant application of microenterprise here in the U.S.!

Twenty years of working on solutions to global poverty familiarized me with microcredit projects of many forms. The Grameen bank became famous when it and Mohammed Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize, yet it was a Kenyan micro lender, Jamii Bora, that sprang to my mind.

After a couple of years of lending money to the very poor so they could start their own small businesses, Jamii Bora experimented with offering beggars small items like ribbons they could sell instead of begging. It was immediately apparent that most people preferred selling to begging and many of them went on to become successful entrepreneurs. Joyce Wairimu eventually opened

six businesses and now employs many of her former colleagues. Wilson Maina, once a thief, now owns four businesses. He scours the streets for boys like him and has convinced hundreds to get started in a business instead of stealing. In 1999 Jamii Bora started with loans to 50 beggars in one of the worst slums in Nairobi. By the end of 2007, they had 170,000 savers and 60,000 borrowers.

Microcredit offers the poorest of the poor a chance at economic self-sufficiency. For many it is a path of redemption; an opportunity to overcome poor choices made or circumstances thrust upon them earlier in their lives. They have a saying at Jamii Bora: "We have fast climbers out of poverty and we have slow climbers, but everyone is a climber." That's my wish for this newspaper: that it provides an economic toe hold for our vendors to use in their climb, and the wisdom and awareness we as a community need to nurture their efforts.

Susan Beckett, Founder
Groundcover News



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Becoming a Nouveau Pauvre? DON'T WAIT

by David KE Dodge
Groundcover News Contributor

When this article was originally contemplated, it was my intent to inform residents of Washtenaw County who were approaching the end of their financial resources because of loss of income, of help available from governmental and non-governmental agencies in Washtenaw County. I was sensitive to a need for such information from my own experience in the 1980s, when I became unable to work, exhausted my savings, and began living in my car and relying on collecting cans for my income.

It was some months living in that manner before I made my first effort at seeking governmental aid- in my case, General Assistance, which gave me a little under \$10 a month living stipend beyond the cost of rent in a tenement apartment outside downtown Detroit.

While researching this article I realized that the primary factors that really kept me from pursuing aid sooner and more effectively didn't in-

clude ignorance of what aid was available. The barriers that kept me from pursuing help were more depression, pride and independence, and irrationality concerning the situation in which I found myself- in some ways, a denial that I needed to act to get help.

It was also in starting research for this article that I realized that access to information concerning assistance to the financially needy, in the age of the Internet, is even less of a problem than it was for me in the 1980s. And, at least in Washtenaw County, once one starts to access the help that is available, one becomes informed of other sources of help. Keeping one's eyes and ears alert, and a little use of a computer, is enough to get started on receiving needed assistance.

I am getting on in years now, so even more aid is available than was a few years ago. I feel most for young people who were raised in relatively affluent times, and who now endeavor to keep earning their way in contexts where the employment opportunities are just not there, in any capacity, whether using their education or not,

whether in the geographic region of their origin or elsewhere.

In 2008, I spoke to a young man who described himself as being in such a situation. One of the things he told me was that he was going through his savings, to meet living expenses between jobs. After we parted, I found myself wishing I had encouraged him to seek the benefit of public housing- something for which I had been qualified for years before I actually accessed it, and which made my life considerably more comfortable.

So at last, I arrive at the purpose of this article. Assess your situation. If you've been independently making your way for sometime, but see that you can't continue on the same path much longer, don't wait. Reach out for help- at least for now, help awaits. Don't think of it as surrender. Think of it as getting started, or, at least, keeping going. If your own situation is adequately resourced and secure, but you care about someone who can use help, encourage him, or her, to act.

The Pavilion

It's referred to as "The Pavilion," and it is an open air shelter next to the First Baptist Church property on Washington Street, where homeless persons can neatly store their belongings and gather after 7 p.m.



GROUNDCOVER NEWS Mission:

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

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Retired Peace Corps Volunteer finds hope, help at the U.S. Social Forum

An estimated 20,000 activists gathered in Detroit as part of the US Social Forum (USSF) to address social problems ranging from poverty and violence to environmental degradation. They shared their experiences, analyses, hopes and solutions as part of a movement building process, a space to come up with the peoples' solutions. The following is a first hand account from a local resident and former Peace Corps Volunteer who served in the Congo where she developed an activities group for girls as part of her women's empowerment mission.

by Brooke Sparling
Groundcover News contributor

There were hundreds of workshops to choose from, and literally tens of thousands of activists buzzing around Cobo Hall for the U.S. Social Forum. At first I was overwhelmed. As an Africa Activist myself, I wanted to focus on all things Africa, and meet fellow Africanists.

I went to several different workshops over the course of three days. I learned about the struggle to keep genetically modified foods out of Africa: Kenya and S. Africa have had some success. I learned about the American Steel Workers Union that has helped Liberian rubber workers organize for better working conditions. I also learned about the dams being built on the Congo River-exporting electricity to other countries but displacing locals and leaving them without electricity.

At the "Detroit to Dakar" Africa People's Movement Assembly, we discussed larger issues facing all of Africa, such as AFRICOM, militarization, food sovereignty, debt relief, HIV/AIDS, and migration.

I organize the Run for Congo Women here in Ann Arbor, and am very passionate about the Democratic Republic of the Congo, aka Congo or DRC. (Nearly 6 million people have died in DRC; militias from Rwanda and Uganda invaded the Congo after the Rwandan genocide. They have been attacking the Congolese ever since.)

The highlight of the week for me was meeting

one of the leaders of the Congo peace movement, Kambale Musavuli. We sat and talked for a few hours. I asked him a million questions about the Congo, the movement, and how I can improve my Congo activism here in Michigan. He shared his wealth of knowledge about the Congo and the various branches of the movement. He updated me with current policy news, and gave me advice on the most powerful things I can do for DRC now. Awesome! This was exactly the info I needed. Hearing the passion and determination of Kambale, himself Congolese, has inspired me to take my activism up a notch and continue to build the movement for peace in DRC.

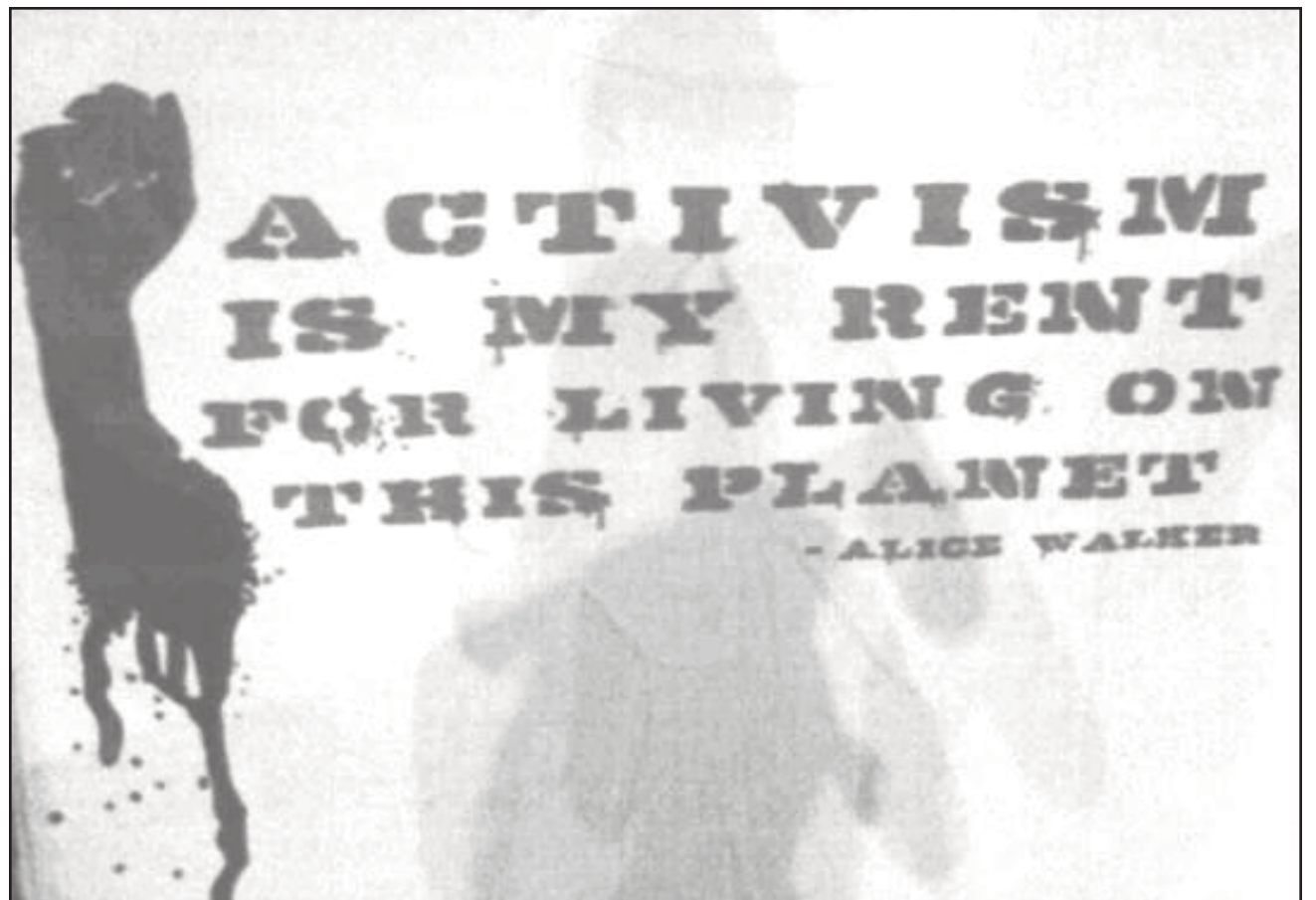
I popped my head into many other workshops, listened to hip hop in Hart Plaza, went to all the vendor booths in Cobo, and partied all night at the 3-venue "Leftist Lounge" party in the Eastern Market Friday night. By the end of the week I was exhausted!

I realized a few simple, but key things. One, that like DRC, indigenous peoples everywhere are fighting for control of their land and resources, which are being stolen and destroyed by corporations worldwide.

Two, like in DRC, violence everywhere must stop, war is not the answer.

Three, and most importantly, there are lots and LOTS of people who are deeply disturbed about the level of violence, injustice, environmental destruction, and war that is happening on our planet. I'm not the only one!

It was deeply refreshing to meet so many people, who had come from all over the country, who are fighting injustice daily. It is so nice to know that other people care and are working hard for justice and peace.



Sign at the US Social Forum, by Alice Walker

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www.1matters.org

Groundcover Vendors Code of Conduct

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit 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 following 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.
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- 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.
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- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

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

Revitalize to privatize? Critics say Obama's public housing plan needs rewiring

by Cydney Gillis

The idea has raised hackles among public-housing tenants who say that, far from saving the nation's low-income units in the long run, Obama's fix would subject government-owned properties to foreclosure and put 30-year "use agreements" on public housing that would lead to mass sell-offs when they expire.

The plan is in legislation called the Preservation, Enhancement and Transformation of Rental Assistance Act (PETRA) of 2010, a \$350 million proposal that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) introduced in Congress last month. PETRA would allow public housing authorities to do something they can't do now: Mortgage or take out private loans on public property.

The money would be used to start fixing an estimated national backlog of \$20 billion to \$30 billion in repairs that's grown over time due to federal underfunding and will, HUD says, only lead to more demolition if left unchecked.

PETRA would allow owners of public or private HUD-subsidized housing to do something else that worries tenants: raise their rent levels, on paper, to market rate - in some cases, 10 percent more than market rate. Tenants would still pay only 30 percent of their income in rent under the proposal, but the federal government would make up the rest in increased subsidies to a building to generate enough cash flow to attract loans - as long as Congress keeps funding PETRA.

The legislation also puts no cap on how much interest a bank can charge.

"It's going to mean a necessary increase in HUD subsidies," says Rick Harrison, one of two Seattle Housing Authority tenants invited to give HUD input on the bill in Washington, D.C., earlier this year. But, "If down the road, they lose their subsidies or there's a cutback in them and they've borrowed money based on the higher income, they're going to be a world of hurt."

In a hearing before the House Financial Services Committee on May 25, Chairman Barney Frank and Rep. Maxine Waters grilled HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan about the possibility of privatization. But even in foreclosure, David Lipsetz, a HUD senior policy advisor, said June 18 in a phone conference with housing advocates in Seattle, D.C. and New York, PETRA's 30-year use agreements would ensure the number of units and rent remain the same if a private owner were to acquire a bankrupt property.

In the here and now, said Linda Couch, deputy director of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, (NLIHC) there's nothing to stop the continued hemorrhaging of public housing - one reason the coalition is working to make changes in the bill, which is expected to undergo major revisions before Frank's committee takes it up again, she said. The NLIHC and the National Alliance of HUD Tenants want to see a requirement that repairs be made to the buildings borrowed against - something that isn't in the bill

now, Couch said - and a guarantee of permanent affordability. And, "We believe there should be no use agreement whatsoever in the PETRA bill," said Judy Montanez, a board member with the HUD tenant group.

For public housing authorities, whose mission it is to provide low-income rentals, the privatization issue is "a bit of a red herring," said Bob Watson, deputy director of the King County Housing Authority (KCHA). Most lenders, he said, don't want to foreclose on properties with covenants.

If Congress approves the \$350 million in funding for phase one of PETRA, Lipsetz said the new subsidies should facilitate loans and upgrades for 280,000 units in fiscal 2011.

Few of them would be in Seattle. HUD considers KCHA and the Seattle Housing Authority high-performing agencies that are allowed to sell tax credits to private investors. As a result, SHA has already redeveloped or refurbished most of its properties, entering them into private partnerships that relinquish ownership after 15 years.

"It's going to mean a necessary increase in HUD subsidies," said local tenant Rick Harrison, but if housing authorities "they lose their subsidies or there's a cutback... they're going to be a world of hurt."

Originally published by Real Change. © www.streetnewsservice.org

Starting life on the streets age age 14

The person who submitted this article prefers to remain anonymous

Fourteen.

That's how old I was when I hit the streets in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Fourteen years old, with not a penny in my pocket. 1972. I didn't leave home voluntarily. My mom and stepdad threw me out. They had their reasons.

Altogether, I was on the street for 10 years.

At first I headed to the pinball arcade where I used to hang out after school. The manager of the arcade let me stay in a small, former unused bank vault for about a week. "Just remember to keep the door open," he said. After that I stayed with friends on floors or on couches. As many as four or five people stayed at a certain crash pad on Hill Street. I lived like that for the rest of the summer until it started to get cold, when I took to the road and started hitchhiking around.

From Ann Arbor I went to San Francisco and played music at some of the parks. I remember listening in the Mission District to a preacher so I could get a bowl of soup. Beef Vegetable. Tasted good cuz I hadn't eaten in two days. Then I learned stuff about the environment, that there were some plants that I could eat, like dandelions, and such, so I started adding them to my diet when I couldn't find enough other food. Read up on the subject at a bookstore.

While I was in San Francisco, I met a guy who I thought would let me crash at his place. Instead, when we got to his apartment, he overpowered me. He raped me. Afterward, somehow I got back to the park, where I passed out along a path. A mounted cop came up and told me I couldn't sleep there. So I left that city.

I met a guy Ray, visiting the States from Canada; he played guitar. I played harmonica alongside him and he got me into clubs when I was 15, 16 years old. We played over to Oklahoma, back to San Diego, and up the coast toward L.A. but when we got to L.A. we parted company. So I continued up the coast to Big Sur and crashed there among the redwoods. That was nice.

I headed north, up to Portland, and I had enough money to stay at the Y but arrived there late and they wouldn't let me in. They had rules. I decided to head to San Diego.

Before I got to San Diego I was hitchhiking near Point Mugu. It was so cold and I was praying that someone would stop and give me a ride. A Greyhound bus pulled up alongside, empty, except for the driver. The guy was running the bus down to San Diego, about two and a half hours away, so I stayed warm that night, instead of walking and freezing by the side of the road.

Things like that happened a lot. I would need 5 or 10 dollars then I would find it on the ground. One time I was walking down the road and I had this strong urge to go down the embankment. So, I did, and found a weather beaten 5 dollar bill laying in the grass. You become more aware of the spiritual when you are out on the road. It's as if the world knows you need something and it finds a way to get it to you.

East of New Orleans a guy who was a rep for Pig Nose Amplifiers picked me up. He bought me a steak dinner and then, when we were done eating, bought a second one for later. I ate the second one before two hours had passed. I was hungry and I rarely got meat or hot food.

I eventually made my way over to Las Vegas. I had 20 bucks on me so I went into the MGM hotel and told the person there minding the slot machine area that it was my last \$20 and I was a homeless guy and would she tell me which machine was about to hit. Of course, she couldn't do that. There was a guy around watching so I backed off but stayed close. After a while she went over and set her drink down on a machine, wrote something on a clipboard, and walked away. I just knew that was the machine that was going to hit. So I put in three dollars. Nothing. I put in three more. I hit for 350 dollars. And, of course kept playing. I got \$2,200 out of that machine! It was incredible. I was beside myself.

I decided I was going to go on vacation from living on the road. I spent that night at Best Western or some such less expensive hotel and slept in a bed for the first time in three or four years. Too soft. Had a hard time sleeping. But managed to finally sleep watching a movie. I decided I was going to go see the Grand Canyon. Bought a campsite for week. I had food, a camp stove, single burner, so I could cook hot food. I met some cool people, went rock climbing and hiking.

From there I hitched to California. Got a campsite. A guy I befriended ended up stealing my stove and my food. I had gone through the casino money quickly, because I had a lot of needs. Bought some new jeans and a winter coat. I had always stayed warm by staying south and traveling to warm places. But even in California it gets cold at night.

At some point I decided to join the Navy to get off the street, so for three years that's where I was. Food and shelter but, I ended up in trouble. The Navy voided my enlistment.

After I got out I came back to Ann Arbor, and worked a regular job for about a year, which I quit to join a band. That didn't work out, so back on the street.

The harmonica kept me sane. Made me a couple of bucks here and there. I played on the streets, in the rural areas. Played to some cows one time, working on my train technique, and gradually the whole herd came over, swinging their heads to the beat.

I learned from many harmonica players, including Peter "Madcat" Ruth, who used to pass by the Diag once or twice a week on his bike and heard me practicing. He'd throw out a lick that followed whatever I had going on, and that was what I practiced until the next time he rode by, when he would play another lick for me to learn.

What really eventually turned my life around was a combination of a twelve step program and Michigan Rehabilitation Services. The twelve step program helped me clear up my head and get my thinking straight. Michigan Rehab Services tested me and determined which jobs would be good for me. They helped me go to school and get training. I studied robotics and manufacturing engineering in college. I did two years at WCC followed by two years at Eastern.

see Getting grounded, page 9

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New bill means more opportunities for cottage food industries

We all know someone - a neighbor, a cousin - who's hatched the idea of making food to sell at farmer's markets or to local delis. But they got cold oven mitts after they learned of the restrictive permitting process for food preparation.

That changed July 12 when Governor Jennifer Granholm signed a new bill into law that makes it much easier for local entrepreneurs begin a cottage cooking industry in their own homes or apartments.

The bill was sponsored by State Representative Pam Byrnes, who is now running for State Senator.

"I know there is a strong local food movement in our district and I am in complete

support of the law, since it allows Michigan residents to launch their own entrepreneurial projects," said Christine Green, Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 52nd District.

And what better place to sign this bill into law than a place where food begins?

The signing took place at Growing Hope, a local nonprofit in Ypsilanti that serves the community as a resource for local farming, nutrition and sustainability.

Before making the law official, Governor Granholm joked with one of the local bakers who gave her a homemade loaf of bread.

"Thanks for the contraband," she said.



Democratic candidate for State Representative Christine Green (right) talks about the many promising possibilities the newly signed bill will create for Michigan residents. With Christine is County Commissioner Ken Swartz (left) and Ellen Bunting, President of the Growing Hope Board of Directors.

Agency Spotlight - How do you start Growing Hope?

by Marquise Williams
Groundcover News Contributor

Growing Hope, A local nonprofit, aims to enhance the lives of the Washtenaw County community across many strata. Since 2003 it has used gardening as an implement for building relationships, supporting social justice, and promoting physical and mental wellness. Under the leadership of the executive director, Amanda Edmonds, what was a singular gardening program titled Perry Learning Garden gained enormous momentum to become the dynamic asset to the greater Washtenaw County which it has become. Creatively fusing the tranquil practice of horticulture with a mission to be a resource of nutrition, self-reliance, and economic sustainability, it is continuously inspiring several innovative programs to

fulfill the mission of the organization.

From its Faith and Food program, a collaborative effort by Growing Hope and the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice to support congregations whom grow and donate produce within their community, to its Raised Bed Installs that give low income families the opportunity to grow fruit and vegetables while assessing the benefits of maintaining such projects, Growing Hope is simultaneously fighting modern economic struggles and providing a niche for faith based institutions to provide a direct service to those communities they serve.

As education is an important aspect of Growing Hope, through their Garden Leadership Training and Lending Library, not only are community members

receiving tutorials to initiate and advance gardening skills, but they are provided with literature and tools for further practice and enrichment. For so many programs it was a great achievement to find a home for expanding these ventures.

With the opening of the Growing Hope Center, the organization found a headquarters and means of training participants in urban farming, even providing onsite plots for such endeavors. This building is furnished and equipped with classrooms, individual plots, a greenhouse, library, and numerous other spaces. Even the formation of the Growing Hope Center was a community endeavor that incorporated the services of Washtenaw Community College's Residential Construction Program.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved their gardening, volunteering, and commercial opportunities. With the individual plots at the Center one may cultivate and care for a garden in their spare time and reap the harvest of well maintained garden that carries a lesser financial and dietary burden. Growing Hope's Tuesday Farmers Market on Ferris St. in Ypsilanti, allows the community to take advantage of local produce from surrounding farmers and growers.



Be the writer you always wanted to be!

Groundcover News is looking for local writers to contribute to our newspaper.

If you would like to write about local arts, music, politics or any other local issue that interest you, please contact: editor@groundcovernews.com

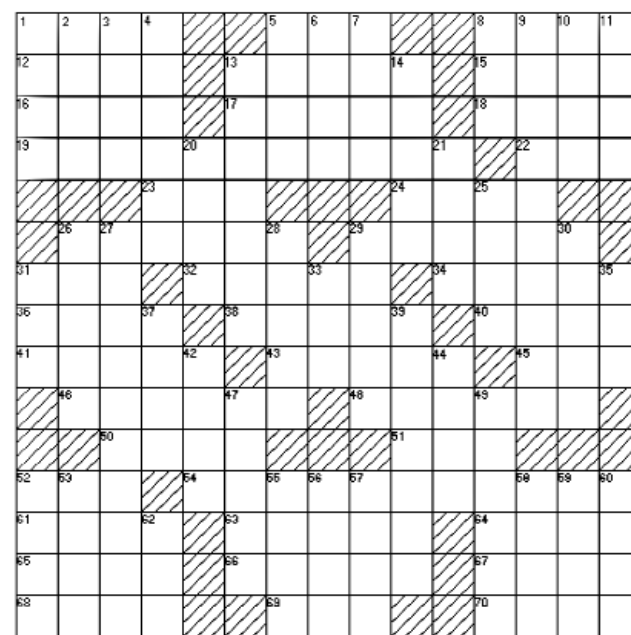
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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

ACROSS

1. Irrelevant
5. Donation
8. Ends a prayer
12. Wheel shaft
13. Operatic solos
15. Bird of peace
16. Lascivious look
17. Vernacular
18. Auditory
19. Vaccination
22. Sort
23. East southeast
24. Tropical root
26. Assert without proof
29. Reduced in size
31. Ottoman officer
32. Flow off gradually
34. Postponement
36. Flaccid
38. Movie prize
40. Arid
41. Armada
43. Bird's nest
45. Wood cutting tool
46. Sign up
48. Not highest
50. A type of volcanic rock
51. Two fives
52. Resort
54. Not wanted
61. Hose
63. Hyrax
64. "Backwards room"
65. Website addresses
66. What a bee might do
67. Memorable periods
68. Red vegetable
69. Consumed food
70. Not right

**DOWN**

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. French Sudan | 20. Utilized | 42. Bean curd |
| 2. Beasts of burden | 21. An aromatic ointment | 44. Pitcher |
| 3. Margarine | 25. Regrets | 47. Territories |
| 4. Male hawk | 26. Nimble | 49. White part of teeth |
| 5. Operatic solo | 27. Deplorable | 52. Counterfoil |
| 6. Fluff from a dryer | 28. Artist's workstand | 53. Unadulterated |
| 7. Wise men | 29. A vicious angry growl | 55. Information |
| 8. Bother | 30. Unit of measure for gold | 56. Radiate |
| 9. Unmoving | 31. Alien Life Form | 57. Rational |
| 10. Wickedness | 33. Frozen | 58. Drill |
| 11. Between the head and shoulders | 35. A type of evergreen shrub | 59. A unit of bread |
| 13. A brisk and lively tempo | 37. South American country | 60. Formerly (archaic) |
| 14. Truth, old-style | 39. Rampaging | 62. Estimate (abbrev.) |

solutions on page 11

Insider Tips - Tackling the Ann Arbor Art Fair

Those in the know often show up early at the Art Fair when the parking is easier and there are no crowds. Most booths are uncovered by 9:00 am, allowing the early stroller full view of the artwork, though the vendor may not yet be prepared to sell. It's a great way to get an overview of what's available and identify those booths to revisit after 10:00 am.

Shopping bargains abound, with the State and Liberty area a favorite of young adults. Urban Outfitters offers fire sale prices as it clears out stock. Swarms of people bob into boxes of tank tops at \$2 apiece. A nearby perfume store offers unused testers at half price. South University stores offer tables of deals, especially on shoes and handbags. Downtown stores also offer great prices on shoes, especially sports shoes, displayed on sidewalk tables on Liberty Rd.

When ready for a break, consider an inside dining option, as these include use of the bathroom, fresh

water, a chance to sit, shelter from the current weather conditions and usually air conditioning. Restaurants on Washington St., west of Main, have lots of seating and timely service. There is a great range of restaurants, from crepes at Café Zola and continental cuisine at Café Felix to Connor O'Neill's traditional Irish Pub and Grizzly Peak, one of several brew pubs offering their own brews and a varied menu. The Michigan Union, conveniently located on State St. across from South University, has a food court in the basement with many self-service options.

During those inevitable Art Fair rain showers and scorching heat, the U-M Art museum (across the street from the U-M Union) offers shelter, art viewing, bathrooms and water fountains. The Ann Arbor public library on Fifth and William St. is another good sheltering option. Nickels Arcade, accessed from State St. across from North University or from the middle of Maynard St. offers shelter and a short-cut between the downtown area and State St. A

public outdoor water fountain was set up last year near the portable restrooms on North University.

Intersperse your art fair viewing with the bar hopping, dining and musical offerings that abound or stop at a city pool to cool down and exercise the kids at Vets Park located on Huron St. near Jackson Rd. or at Fuller Park on Fuller St. near the U-M hospital. For a walk in the shade and a view of the Huron River, visit the Arb or Gallop Park. Take in a movie at the Michigan or State Theaters. For a longer expedition, head to The Blueberry Farm in Dexter to pick your own berries.

For briefer interludes, visit the Farmer's Market on Wednesday and Saturday mornings and while you're there get a cup of locally roasted coffee from Roos Roast, check out the trendy shops at Kerrytown and pop across the street for a visit to Zingerman's. On your way from the State St. Fair to the the S. University Art Fair, stop by to spin The Cube next to the Union, always a favorite for the younger crowd.

Where we are - a poem

by Fiona Owens

After foreclosure,
after we leave,
who will love the light in morning's window?

Who will notice our silvery silhouettes
etched against the pale walls?

It's not the shell that matters,
the separate, individual rooms.

It's the sighing of our breath that inhabits "here."

We have learned the way to move through this
space.

At 3 a.m., our feet avoid the squeak in the upstairs
hallway.

Your cough sounds raspy again; the drafty bed-
room window

makes even the carpet feel cold.

Maybe we have until spring, the lawyer said.

But I don't want to leave the peonies before they
bloom,

or see the face of St. Francis in the garden, will it re-
buke or sorrow

should we forget him near the rhubarb?

Someone said a drawing of a house

represents a person, the self.

I love to draw, but I can't draw this:

flowers embrace the crab apples trees every May.

I can't draw the way it feels to walk in a rain of pink
petals

each time I step out the front door.

I can barely think goodbye; I'm starting early to
practice.

We expected to live here for many more days,
or for all our lives.

In a different poem, I wrote, "place brings mean-
ing."

Not only location, but what we carried here,
and what we will take away,

our presence, and then, our absence.

To Kill a Mockingbird - still a great read after 50 years

by Karen L. Totten

Groundcover News contributor

As soon as I met the character of Atticus Finch, I knew the kind of person I wanted my sons to grow up to be: courageous, kind, and willing to stand up for what is right, even in the face of ostracizing opposition. Atticus, father and lawyer in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is a man profound and simple at once. His decisions and genuine moral compass show us how justice can live with received truth.

Saturday, July 11, 2010 marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of Lee's stunning work of classic fiction. On the shelves in 1960, *Mockingbird* is Lee's only published book, but what a remarkable and important work it is, telling, through the voice of both the young Scout Finch and the young woman she grows up to be, the story of two children and their father, primary actors in life-changing events in a southern town during the Depression. An innocent black man has been accused of rape. Atticus defends Tom Robinson against a backdrop of prejudice and ignorance, and amidst perjuring testimony.

A work of beautiful prose, Lee writes with such skill as to make the reader care about the fate of all the characters in this work, including the racist townspeople and the despicable Mr. Ewell, for whom one

feels both rage and sorrow, rage for his treatment of his daughter and willingness to lie, even when it will cost an innocent man his life, and sorrow for Ewell's egregious ignorance which leads him to wallow in his own misery and act cruelly toward others.

We are reminded in the opening pages that Atticus, and therefore his children, are related by birth or marriage to nearly every person in town. This changes the perception of the townspeople from that of "others" whose attitudes can be more readily disregarded, to that of family, with whom one must live every day. Atticus' subsequent decision to act on his beliefs is made all the more powerful, as a result.

When Lee writes of the warm summer days of Maycomb, I feel the sun upon my face, the oppression of unrelenting, close, irrefutable heat. She says, "Somehow, it was hotter then: a black dog suffered on a summer's day; bony mules hitched to Hoover carts flicked flies in the sweltering shade of the live oaks on the square. . . . Ladies bathed before noon, after their three o'clock naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frosting of sweat and sweet talcum."

That heat becomes a presence which exists alongside Jem and Scout, their friend Dill and their father. In this glare of the light of day, our true selves are re-

vealed. Here is where Atticus says to his children "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand." This is where they learn that bravery is when "you know you are licked before you begin but you begin anyway, and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do."

The book received the Pulitzer in 1961 and was made into an Oscar-winning movie starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch the following year. Though Lee has refused any personal publicity since 1964, and remains reclusive in her home state of Alabama, the book has never been out of print, either in hardcover or in paperback.

It has earned buckets of kudos, not just from millions of admiring fans, like Stephen Colbert, who re-reads the book every couple years, and whose copy is rubber banded together, but from critics and literary institutions as well. Lee was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work in 2007 by George W. Bush. The book has been listed at the top of 100 important works of the 20th century. Reading it is a life-changing event. Most people remember exactly at what age they first encountered the book and its effect upon them.

The book is readily available at a library or bookstore.

Getting grounded after 12 homeless years

continued from page 6

Graduated one of the top in my field.

The state agencies helped me out a lot. They supplemented my income and gave me a way to rebuild my self-esteem. Gave me sense of purpose. When you are out on the street, survival techniques take over because you are in fear for your safety, for where your next meal is coming from, and that's all you think about. I left the streets about 1984.

When the automobile industry moved overseas, I stopped finding work I had studied for. I worked in the computer field a while, then my wife, son and I made the decision to focus seriously on my music career, and that is what I do now, play harmonica six or seven nights a week, building a band and a fan

base, writing my own music and doing what I love and what has sustained me through the most difficult times.

I don't have contact with my parents. They moved to Florida about 10 years ago and I have not heard from them. I don't even have a phone number. I talked to them a bit off and on during those years I was on the road, but they never told me to come home and they never sent money or helped in any way.

Living and loving well is the best way to cope with the grief and anger of what happened between us. I have a good life, a great family and I am doing what I love most, playing music, the blues.

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

SUPPORT GROUNDCOVER NEWS

Become a sponsor, or buy an ad in the
newspaper.

Groundcover News gives homeless persons the
chance to become independent vendors and
earn money, while making the transition to
regular employment and housing.

Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Area Low Income Services

Compiled by Danielle Mack
Groundcover News contributor

Delonis Center
312 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor

Services:
Showers, 5pm to 7:30pm

You must sign up in advance. You will be allowed roughly a half hour to shower.

Meals:

Monday – Friday
Lunch; Noon – 1pm
Dinner; 5:30 – 6:30pm

Saturday and Sunday
Dinner 3 – 4pm

Doors open a half hour before each meal. They call table numbers for getting a ticket to get in line and get your food.

Storage:

Everyday from 6:30 – 7pm
Laundry, coming soon.

Clothing vouchers, substance abuse support groups, voucher for half fare bus pass (ID required), and half fare bus tokens on a case by case bases as available.

Transitional Shelter

This is for non-county residents. You can stay at Delonis for two weeks sleeping on a mat on the floor in the first floor dining room. You must have a plan to leave when you get there. They will do what they can to provide you with transportation back to where you came from. Doors open at 9 p.m. (be there right away, it fills fast), and you will be woken up at 6 and must be out the door by 7am.

Residential Housing program

You must be a Washtenaw County resident to qualify. There is a co-ed floor on 2, a men's floor on three, and a women's floor on 4. Curfew for all floors is 9:30pm. Floor 2 is woken up at 6 and must clear the floor by 7am. Third and Fourth floor can go up as early as 5pm. Three and four get woken up at 6:30 and must clear the floor by 7:30am. Residents in this program must see their case manager (they will be assigned) on a regular basis.

St. Andrews Church
306 N. Division St., Ann Arbor

St. Andrews Breakfast Ministry
Every morning from 7:30 – 8:30am

Enter through side door. They offer cold cereal, grits, and oatmeal, amongst other food fare. They also have some clothes and miscellaneous giveaways. Every Saturday morning there are also canned goods, and lunches given out for the weekend. Some support services coordinate with the breakfast.

Camp Take Notice (also known as Tent City)
Location is always moving.

Currently on the #9 bus route Wagner Rd stop between I94 and M14. From the bus stop walk the bridge over 14 hop the guardrail on the other side and follow the trail into camp.

Services are open to all who need them at all hours.

Tents and sleeping bags are provided if you need them for your length of stay. Please when you leave, leave what was provided for you to help someone else.

Meals

Campers help each other out contributing food, some food donated by outside sources.

Full Fare bus tokens provided as available.

Quiet Time/lights out
Monday – Thursday 11pm
Friday - Sunday 11:30pm

Camp Meeting (optional)
Thursday 8 – 9pm

Christian Chapel Service
Saturday 7 – 8pm

Every book of the Bible
Led by Rev. Danielle Mack

First Baptist Church
517 East Washington St., Ann Arbor

Dinner
Tuesday 5:30 – 6:30pm

Bathrooms are available when the church is open, usually daily from 9:00 am - 10:00 pm.

Vineyard Church
2275 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor
Homeless Ministry

Pizza in the Park
Liberty Plaza on the corner of Liberty and Division
Every Friday (rain or shine) 7 – 8pm (get there early)

At this event they give out pizza drinks, canned goods, pre-packaged food, freshly prepared hot food, coffee, hot chocolate, hot tea, some books and DVDs, and Bibles.

After pizza in the parking lot from the back of a large van they give out clothes, jackets, sleeping bags tents, etc.

The Vineyard Homeless Ministry cooks dinner at First Baptist Church the first and third Tuesday night of each month.

St. Thomas Church
North State St. and Kingsley, Ann Arbor

St. Vincent De Paul office
530 Elizabeth Street, around the corner from the church

9 – 11:00 am, Tuesday through Friday

Bus tokens, a \$10 Kroger gift card and a \$20 voucher for the St. Vincent De Paul thrift shop are available for anyone in need.

St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Shop
1001 Broadway, Ann Arbor

M-F 10am - 5pm, Sat 10am - 3pm

Gently used, highest quality items of clothing and household goods for sale.

August 6 and 7 - Buy a grocery bag for \$5 and whatever you can fit into it is yours!

SOS Community Services
114 North River Street, Ypsilanti 734-484-4300

M,T,Th,F, 9am – 4 pm; Wednesday, noon – 4pm

Housing crisis counseling and emergency services, employment training and children's services.

Food pantry, Tuesday 10:00am – noon and 4:30 – 6:30pm

Salvation Army
9 S. Park St., Ypsilanti, 734-482-4700

Lunch, Wednesday, 11:30am- 12:30pm
Dinner, Monday and Thursday, 5 – 6pm

Dinner, Saturday and Sunday 5:00 - 6:00pm (provided by Hope Clinic)

Thrift Store
1621 S. State St, Ann Arbor

M-F, 8am – 9pm

New Testament Baptist Church
1230 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti

Lunch, Thursday, 11:30am-12:30pm

Brown Chapel
1043 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti

Lunch, Friday, noon

Friends in Deed
1196 Ecorse Road, Ypsilanti 734-484-4357
30 N Washington St # B30

M-F 9:30am – noon (call first)

Service referrals, furniture, transportation, housing and utility bill assistance.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
210 N River Blvd., Ypsilanti. 734-482-7121

M-F 9am – 12 pm and 1pm – 4pm

Used canes, walkers, bath chairs, wheelchairs, etc. when available.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor

M-F 8am – 4pm

Used canes, walkers, bath chairs, wheelchairs, etc. when available. No beds.

Memorial Christian Church
730 Tappan Rd., Ann Arbor. 734-663-4245
call ahead for appointment

Used canes, walkers, bath chairs, etc. when available. No beds.

Faith in Action
603 S. Main St. Chelsea (Inside north entrance of Chelsea Community Hospital campus) 734-475-3305

9am – 4pm M-F, 9am – 7pm on Wednesday.
Walkers, canes, bath chairs, electric stairs, etc.

Food and clothing pantry, medical and support services.
2716 Baker Rd., Dexter

Noon – 4pm M-F, noon – 7pm Wednesday.
Food Pantry

First Presbyterian Church
1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor

Bathroom facilities, lounges for brief relaxation, and limited telephone availability during church hours, 7:00 am until 10:00 pm.

Department of Human Services
22 Center, Ypsilanti, 734-481-2000

Apply for state emergency relief which can include

The reassignment of Judge Cedric Simpson raises the ire of Washtenaw's African-American community

by Laurie Lounsbury
Groundcover News Editor

The frustration in the room of nearly 80 people was palpable, but the discourse was articulate and thoughtful.

It was what Washtenaw District Judge Cedric Simpson asked of his supporters who gathered at the Ann Arbor Community Center Tuesday night, and it was what they gave him, as a gesture of respect.

The impromptu meeting of the African-American community in Washtenaw County was in response to the July 6 announcement that Judge Simpson had been reassigned from the criminal bench to the civil bench. No longer will the black judge be hearing criminal cases.

"I wake up every morning grateful that I have the pleasure of serving Washtenaw County," Judge Simpson said. "There may be issues going on right now, but I am going to respect this cherished office."

Audience members pressed the judge for details of the reassignment, but Judge Simpson remained firm in his conviction to say nothing except what he deemed factual and objective.

"It would be inappropriate for me to address the long-range implications of this reassignment," he told one audience member who asked what type of message this sends to the young African-American community.

Chief 14A District Judge Kirk Tabbey made the reassignment July 6 without allegedly giving any concrete reasons for the reassignment. The decision was made, according to an *annarbor.com* story, because a magistrate was called back to active duty and it made sense to have Judge Simpson take over all the civil cases, given his previous experience in that court. Court administrator Gene DeRossett attended the meeting in place of Chief Judge Tabbey, but couldn't respond to any audience questions, citing



Judge Cedric Simpson addresses a crowd of concerned citizens at a community meeting.

the state law that says only the Chief Judge can discuss the decision.

Moderating the meeting was Rev. Joseph Cousin, pastor of the Bethel AME Church of Ann Arbor. He told the group in response to their persistent demands for answers, "Tonight is just the beginning. We become the voice. We become the negotiators. We take the questions to the appropriate sources. We become advocates."

never occurred. Later that day, Simpson was told of the court reassignment.

"Don't do anything in my name," Simpson told the group when they grew increasingly frustrated by the lack of explanation from Chief Judge Tabbey or DeRossett. "Please do not do anything that is disrespectful to the court."

The apparent opinion of audience members was that African-American judges do not get treated fairly in the Washtenaw court system.

"We've had three black judges and two of them have been reassigned," one woman said.

Ronald C. Woods, an instructor at Eastern Michigan University, spoke up from the back of the room.

"For far too long, our county hasn't advanced African-Americans. It starts in grade school, then high school, then college. We don't have the pipeline in place to advance our African-American students.

A court attorney who preferred to remain anonymous talked about her many experiences coming before Judge Simpson.

"Young black men come before him, who have been told they can't succeed. It is good for them to see a black judge who has succeeded. I've had parents of white and black men tell me that Judge Simpson changed their lives. He works for people, he cares for people."

Judge Simpson spoke at the beginning of the meeting, relating the chain of events in a factual matter.

He said he received an e-mail June 29 from Judge Tabbey, saying he wanted to discuss changes to the court. They scheduled a meeting for July 1, but Judge Tabbey didn't attend, due to an illness.

A second meeting was scheduled for July 6, but it



A crowd of about 80 residents listens to a courtroom lawyer speak on behalf of Judge Simpson.

We need to address the larger issue," Woods said.

According an earlier statement from Chief Judge Tabbey, the reassignment will be reevaluated in six months.

Puzzle solutions

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by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

Dance your socks off and still have time to see the sunset

It's affectionately called "Old Folks Happy Hour," but there's nothing old about it except the number of years it's been around.

More accurately, it is Friday Happy Hour with live music, open to the public and held every Friday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at "Live at PJ's" on the corner of First and Huron streets.

The joy of the live music at happy hour is in the faces of the 40- to 60-something people who come out to dance to the high energy sound of local favorites like FUBAR and Drivin' Sideways.

FUBAR typically plays on the first Friday of every month, while Drivin' Sideways closes each month on the last Friday. The bands on the other Fridays vary, but share one thing in common - they provide high energy, good dancing music.

The live music happy hour started about a decade ago in the Cavern Club, then moved to *The Club Above* at the Heidelberg.

Without any notice, the Heidelberg replaced the happy hour with poker, and both the bands and the regular devotees to the happy hour were bereft.

Live at PJ's stepped to the fore and gave the happy hour a new home.

While each band has its own dedicated group of followers, the event is largely unknown among mainstream music fans.

Happy Hour is free, although donations are welcomed.



Above: FUBAR entertains the crowds at Top of the Park.

Right: Sophia Hanifi, one of FUBAR's lead vocalists along with Randy Tessier, belts out her rendition of Etta Jame's *At Last*.



Drivin' Sideways is a lively blend of country and rock. It features the renowned local favorite George Bedard (right) on lead guitar.

Michigan goes Cold Turkey, and business is healthy in spite (or because) of it

When the Michigan governor announced a smoking ban had become law, a lot of people - smokers and non-smokers alike - wondered what would become of some of the favorite smokers' hangouts and haunts.

What's going to happen at Knight's Restaurant, they pondered. How can they survive without their smoking clientele? How can Ray survive without a quick smoke at the bar?

After the ban went into effect May 1, smoking became outlawed in all bars and restaurants except casinos and cigar bars.

Yet everyone in Ann Arbor knows that places like Knights Restaurant, Old Town Tavern and

the Eight Ball drew a smoking crowd.

So were they destined for bankruptcy?

Quite the contrary. Now that smokers have moved outside, non-smokers are moving in to take their places.

On a balmy night in June, Knight's had a full crowd of non-smokers on the deck and the inside was filling up rapidly.

The early happy hour crowd has fallen off a bit, one waitress reported, but not dramatically.

The same held true at Old Town Tavern.

"How's business? Has the smoking ban affected

it?" I asked the bartender on duty, a.k.a the Commander.

He was too busy for a long-winded response. He just smiled, shook his head and said, "Not at all."

I haven't checked out the Eight Ball yet to see how their business is doing, but I've seen smokers outside the door enjoying a few puffs.

The real effect of the smoking ban might become more apparent when the cold weather arrives and smokers stay home rather than go out to a bar or restaurant - and then go outside that bar or restaurant - to smoke.

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