

**Ann Arbor City Council Session: April 19, 2010  
Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386**

<u>Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
10:44 PM	Bahl, Sumedh; Kelly, Douglas; Spooner, Scott	Wright, Susan	Briere, Sabra	email address, physical address and telephone number	Privacy
10:22 PM	Taylor, Christopher; Rapundalo, Stephen; Hiefjie, John; Higgins, Marcia; Teall, Margie; Dereziński, Tony; Hohnke, Carsten; Smith, Sandi	Cowherd, Doug		email addresses	Privacy
10:15 PM	Hiefjie, John; Smith, Sandi; Briere, Sabra; Rapundalo, Stephen; Dereziński, Tony; Taylor, Christopher; Kunselman, Stephen; Higgins, Marcia; Teall, Margie; Hohnke, Carsten; Anglin, Mike	Silver, Clara		email address	Privacy
9:50 PM	WBCW@googlegroups.com; Hohnke, Carsten	Krzewinski, Bob		email address	Privacy
9:47 PM	Rapundalo, Stephen	Calhoun, Gary		email address, physical address	Privacy
9:33 PM	Higgins, Marcia	Dresselhouse, Gary		email address, physical address	Privacy
8:14 PM	Higgins, Marcia	Wiant, Susan		email address	Privacy
7:13 PM	Higgins, Marcia; Kinley, Bill	Burns, Tamara		email addresses, personal info	Privacy

**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** Wright, Susan [spwright [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:44 PM  
**To:** Bahl, Sumedh; Kelly, Douglas W.; Spooner, Scott  
**Cc:** Briere, Sabra  
**Subject:** Leslie Golf Course

Thank you all very much for having the meeting about the Leslie Golf Course with our neighborhood on Thursday evening. It was good to meet you and to share our ideas. I hope that you will keep us informed about the advisory committee for advising on the future development of the Leslie Golf Course and its Audubon certification.

Best wishes,

Susan Wright  
[REDACTED]

**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** Doug Cowherd [dmcowherd3 [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:22 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients  
**Subject:** Green things to do -- April 20 to May 2

Friends,

Nature sure is busting out all over. Read on for some nice ways to celebrate Earth Day and your relationship with the planet.

Feel free to forward this message to others who might enjoy this kind of thing.

**Doug Cowherd**  
Chair, Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group  
<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron>



**Tuesday, April 20 -- 7:30pm**

## **Finding Balance in Your Yard: Reclaiming Your Garden for You**

Just in time for spring planting, Dr. David Michener will lead us through a process to examine the effect our gardens have on us and our surroundings. He will talk about how to use space, what "belongs" in a garden, and how it "should" look. Dr. Michener is Associate Curator of the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Garden and Nichols Arboretum. Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group monthly meetings begin at 7:30 pm at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, just east of Ann Arbor at 1800 N. Dixboro Road (between Geddes and Plymouth roads -- [MAP](#)). ***Our monthly programs are free and open to the public.*** All are welcome -- especially newcomers. No membership is required.

**Wednesday, April 28 -- 9am-3:30pm**

## **Sierra Club Spring Lobby Day**

We're lobbying our state legislators at the capital in Lansing on strengthening the state's Energy Efficiency standard and stopping diesel pollution. You don't have to have experience to participate. Each team will be ably led by an experienced leader. You'll have a blast and learn on the run. No membership required. To sign up or to get more information, go to

[http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/Lobby\\_Day.html](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org/democracy/Lobby_Day.html). Use the links on the right side of the page to get all the details. Questions? Contact Gayle Miller, Legislative Director for the Michigan Sierra Club, at (517) 484-2372, ext. 13 or [gayle.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:gayle.miller@sierraclub.org).

**The Sierra Club's Book Club**

It's simple. Read the book. Then show up at the meeting ready to talk about it with friendly people. Meetings are from 7:15 - 8:15 pm at Nicola's Books in the Westgate Shopping Center (corner of Jackson and Maple in west Ann Arbor.) **No cost, no membership, no RSVP required. Newcomers are especially welcome.** Contact Nancy Shiffler at [nshiffler@sierraclub.org](mailto:nshiffler@sierraclub.org) for details.

**May 11:** *May is Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*, by Steven Solomon -- deals with the role of access to water in the development of civilization

**June 8:** *The Changing Environment of Northern Michigan: A Century of Science and Nature at the University of Michigan Biological Station*

### Read *The Lookout*, the local Sierra Club newsletter

Extra, extra, read all about it in the latest issue of the newsletter. Old issues too!

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/pub.htm>

### Huron Valley Group--Sierra Club Events Calendar

You can find out about HVG events for the next few weeks from this email. But where can you see our events in the next few months? See:

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/calendar.htm>

### Sierra Club State Events Calendar

For Sierra Club events all around Michigan see:

<http://michigan.sierraclub.org/calendar/index.html>

### *Shopping for the Earth*

You can help support the Sierra Club-Huron Valley Group when you buy Gift Cards (debit cards) and Certificates for store and/or online purchases at Ace Hardware, Amazon, CVS, Kroger, LLBean, Meijer, REO, Starbucks and many other merchants (including local ones) **at no extra cost to you.** Special bonus -- Lands End will contribute 18% to the Sierra Club if you buy any of their gift cards between April 24 and May 21.

For more information and online ordering go to

[http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip\\_intro.htm](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/glscrip_intro.htm) . [Click here](#) to read more about *Shopping for the Earth*, and how to order by mail. And for an informative article plus the story of how Jay Schlegel produced a \$50 contribution to the Sierra Club with just one purchase, see page six of the Fall newsletter at [http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/Lookout-](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/Lookout-Fall2009.pdf)

[Fall2009.pdf](http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/docs/Lookout-Fall2009.pdf)

# . The cost to Jay? Zero.

Note that if you are using an old Kroger card (white with picture of fruit), you should use it up and obtain a new Kroger Plus card (the one with the tomato picture) from any store and register it online as described

here: <http://michigan.sierraclub.org/huron/kroger.htm> . **If you registered a new Kroger Plus card prior to April 1, 2010, then you must re-register it during the month of April for the Sierra Club to continue to receive donations.** Go to the link above for the brief instructions.

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Sunday, April 25 -- noon-4pm

## **Ann Arbor Area Earth Day Festival**

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day! This free, family-friendly event features live music, entertainment, hands-on activities, and live animal demonstrations. Displays from over 60 local environmental, non-profit and governmental organizations will focus on alternative energy, green building, conservation, sustainable agriculture and more. Location: Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence building, 4800 E. Huron River Drive. Details: [www.a2earthday.org](http://www.a2earthday.org).

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## **Exciting New Program in Michigan to Discover/Treat Environmental Cancers**

Detroit's Karmanos Cancer Institute in cooperation with Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has undertaken a unique national demonstration program to identify cancers caused by environmental toxins and treat them at the earliest possible stages. Michael Harbut, MD is the Director of the Environmental Cancer Initiative. The effort's first phase is aimed at identifying cancers caused by arsenic, asbestos and radon. Physicians who choose to participate have taken 4 hours of on-line coursework, giving them the basics of diagnosing and treating environmental diseases.

You can help get the word out about this program. Ask your doctor if s/he has taken the coursework, participates in the Environmental Cancer Initiative, and to screen you for environmental cancers. Find out more about the program at <http://www.karmanos.org/app.asp?id=1264&ssec=7> . If you have questions, e-mail Cyndi Noraian at [Noraianc@karmanos.org](mailto:Noraianc@karmanos.org)

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## **Natural Area Preservation**

Work days are great opportunities to get your family outdoors and involved in the community. For all work days volunteers or all ages are welcome, but minors must be accompanied by a guardian, or contact NAP in advance to obtain a release form. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Tools, snacks, and know-how provided. Call 734-794-6627 with any questions about NAP programs or visit <http://www.a2gov.org/napvolunteering>.

**Tuesday, April 20 -- 7:30-9pm**

### **Breeding Bird Kick-Off**

This is the night to sign up for your favorite park and pick up materials for our annual survey. Some experience in bird identification necessary. City Ornithologist Dea Armstrong will also report on the 2009 data and survey highlights. For more information about joining our Breeding Bird Survey or to register call our office by April 17th at 734.794.6627 or send us an email at [nap@a2gov.org](mailto:nap@a2gov.org) . Location: Leslie House, Leslie Science & Nature Center - 1831 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor.

**Thursday, April 22 -- 7-8:30pm**

### **Nature Hike in Bird Hills Nature Area**

Join Natural Area Preservation (City of Ann Arbor) in a free nature walk through Bird Hills Nature Area. Meet at the Newport Rd. entrance, just north of M-14. A staff naturalist will point out wildflowers, trees, and shrubs and talk about ecological restoration, as well as volunteer activities in Ann Arbor Parks, recreation opportunities, and responsible use of public lands. Plenty of time will be available for questions. Open to all ages.

**Saturday, April 24 -- 9am-noon**

### **Stewardship Work Day in Bird Hills Nature Area**

Bird Hills has miles of trails, taking visitors through Beech-Maple and Oak-Hickory groves, by vernal ponds and streams, and even through an old farmstead! Many beautiful native springtime plants, such as trout lilies, wild phlox, and wild ginger, are unfortunately struggling to flourish in this park because of the invasive plants garlic mustard and Dame's rocket. Come out with NAP to learn to pull the invasives out! Join us at the Bird Road entrance, west off of Huron River Drive (additional parking at the Barton Dam). Tools, snacks, and know-how provided. Free.

**Saturday, April 24 -- 9am-noon**

### **Furstenberg Native Garden**

Come on out to help us weed and preserve this native garden area amidst the 38-acres of Furstenberg Nature Area, featuring some of the most diverse flora anywhere in Ann Arbor! You'll not only learn about all kinds of native plants, particularly prairie plants, with Park Steward and Master Gardener Aunita Erskine, but also have a great time digging and planting and generally getting dirty in this excellent garden! Meet in the parking lot off Fuller Road, across from Huron High School. Tools, snacks, and know-how provided. Free.

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## **Washtenaw County Parks**

Programs are free. Check website to see if park admittance requires annual sticker or day pass. Call 971-6337 x334 or see [http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks\\_recreation](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation) for directions and general information; call or email [stonerf@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:stonerf@ewashtenaw.org) for program information.

**Tuesday, April 20 -- 7-8:30pm**

### **The Secret Lives of Mussels**

Join naturalist Todd Crail for this engaging presentation about mussels of our area, and all the factors that play into the success or demise of these unique organisms. Co-sponsored by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation and the Saline River Greenway Alliance. Location: Milan Middle School, 920 North St.

**Saturday, April 24 -- 10am-noon**

### **Exploring the Meyer Preserve**

Enjoy the first walk at this new Natural Areas Preserve. Expect to see wildflowers, birds, woody plants and more. Location: Meyer Preserve, Prospect Rd. just north of Geddes; meet at parking lot for LeFurge Woods.

**Saturday, April 24 -- 2-4pm**

### **Annual Garlic Mustard Pull**

Folks of all ages welcome to help control garlic mustard in the lovely woodlot of County Farm. Stay for just a short while or stay for the full two hours - all help is much appreciated! Bring gloves if you can. Snacks provided! Location: County Farm Park.

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## **Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy**

Questions about events? See <http://www.smlcland.org/> or contact Scott Tyrrell at [styrrell@SMLCland.org](mailto:styrrell@SMLCland.org) or 734-484-6565.

**Wednesday, April 21 -- 5:30-7:30pm**

## **Volunteer Stewardship (Earth) Day at LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve**

Celebrate Earth Day by coming out to help with trail maintenance at LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve (ok, so, Earth Day is technically the day after but don't let that hold you back). We'll be clearing some trails less-traveled through the preserve, cutting back shrubs, and cutting/moving downed trees in a few spots. Gloves and tools will be available or bring your own. We'll have water and snacks on hand too. All ages and skill levels welcome (please, no pets). Location: 2383 N. Prospect Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48198 (1/2 mile north of Geddes Rd.)

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**Wednesday, April 21 -- 7:30pm**

### **Living with Birds**

Join the Washtenaw Audubon Society in learning about "Living With Birds." A knot-tying African grey parrot. An aggressive Muscovy duck tamed with watermelon. Bob Tarte, author of the books *Enslaved by Ducks and Fowl* and *Weather*, talks about sharing his life with parrots, doves, a starling, geese, turkeys, and other birds. One continent's wild birds are another continent's pets, and even though their behavior is greatly altered by their setting, caged and domesticated birds still demonstrate shining moments of insight and intelligence. It doesn't take much of either to outsmart Bob, who assists his wife Linda raising and releasing orphan songbirds every summer for Grand Rapids' Wildlife Rehab Center, and he'll talk about some of those experiences as well.

Washtenaw Audubon programs are held at the U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Call 677-3275 if you need more information about the program. Directions to the Botanical Gardens: <http://washtenawaudubon.org/programs.php>. In addition to the program, hear news of the latest critter sightings and field trips, and enjoy tasty snacks following the program.

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**Saturday, May 1 -- 10am-4pm**

### **Assessing Natural Areas: Rapid Ecological Assessment**

Join Kris Olsson of the Huron River Watershed Council to learn how you can help identify high-quality natural areas for protection, as part of HRWC Bioreserve Project (<http://www.hrwc.org/our-work/bioreserve/>). At this workshop, volunteers will learn to conduct a rapid ecological assessment of grasslands, forests, wetlands, and aquatic habitats. Trained volunteers are then certified to be sent out in groups to work together on site assessments throughout the spring, summer and fall (an expected time commitment of four hours per site). Participants will gain broadly applicable skills in ecological assessment. Please bring a sack lunch. The workshop includes hands-on practice outdoors, so please come prepared for weather and mud. Location: Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Room 125. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.hrwc.org/volunteer/bioreserve-field-assessments/>

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**Saturday April 24 -- 10am-4pm**

### **Basic wildlife rehabilitation skills for squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, deer, woodchucks, fox, opossums, coyotes, and turtle**

Presenter: Dr Susan Shibley DVM. Pre-register @ [www.friendsofwildlife.net](http://www.friendsofwildlife.net). Pre-Registration Deadline: April 21, 2010. Registrations will be taken on-site, however late registrants will be charged an extra \$5. Location: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Additional information can be found @ [www.friendsofwildlife.net](http://www.friendsofwildlife.net).

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**Saturday, May 1 -- 9am-noon**

### **Stinchfield Woods Road Clean-up Workday**

Meet at the Observatory Classroom at the top of the hill for assignments. Enter through the gate off Stinchfield Woods Road. Wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves. Trash bags and refreshments will be supplied. For questions call Ginny Ryan at 426-8846.

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## Michigan State Parks

Join the DNRE's Recreation Division, Stewardship Unit in pulling garlic mustard and other invasive weeds from the high-quality natural ecosystems within our State parks. Please wear appropriate clothing for outdoor work including long pants and closed-toe shoes, and bring drinking water. We will have work gloves; bring your own if you like. You can see photos of past workdays at <http://picasaweb.google.com/midnrstewardship>.

For more information, a map or directions, and to register please visit [www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers); click on "Calendar of Volunteer Stewardship Workdays" under "Current Volunteer Opportunities". Contact Laurel Malvitz-Draper, Natural Resource Steward - Department of Natural Resources and Environment at [malvitzl@michigan.gov](mailto:malvitzl@michigan.gov) or 248-359-9057.

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## **Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:04 PM  
**To:** PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Subject:** Shattered Dreams

Shattered Dreams

By

Jeffrey W. Rubin

<http://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/?article=2452>

The Union of Their Dreams: Power, Hope, and Struggle in Cesar Chavez's Farm Worker Movement by Miriam Pawel Bloomsbury Press, 2009, 384 pp., \$28

In 1978, just after I graduated from college, I worked at a migrant health clinic in California's San Joaquin Valley and saw what 1960s activism had achieved. Farmworkers received health services at government-funded rural health clinics, regardless of citizenship status or ability to pay, and the landmark Agricultural Labor Relations Act, achieved through a decade of struggle on the part of the United Farm Workers (UFW) movement, promised access to union representation for those who harvested the country's fruits and vegetables.

I lived down the road from the UFW headquarters, a mountain retreat center known as La Paz, and the director of the union's new school for organizers hired me to teach English there. Between classes, I passed Cesar Chavez as he strolled from office to lunch, and at celebrations I watched Dolores Huerta fly across the dance floor, projecting the allure and pleasure that accompanies immersion in a struggle for social justice. I also learned that social movements are sometimes not what they seem.

The graduation for the three English classes at the UFW school was a momentous event. Families arrived in their Sunday best from across central and southern California for a formal ceremony and communal lunch. The high point of the ceremony was a slideshow put together by the most advanced class, setting out in English the students' experiences and hopes for the future. At the end of the show, photos of Cesar Chavez, La Paz, and a farm worker in the fields came onscreen with a voiceover saying, "The Union is not Cesar Chavez, the Union is not La Paz, the Union is the farmworkers."

In the bright sun, families strolled from the school building to the dining room, congratulating the graduates and helping themselves heartily to the cafeteria-style buffet. Soon after lunch began, however, Huerta stood up to denounce an act of treason. "There are traitors here who want to destroy Cesar," she said with characteristic fierceness. These covert enemies, Huerta explained, had inserted the words "The Union is not Cesar Chavez" in the slideshow as part of an effort to usurp the leader's authority, and they needed to be named and expelled from the movement.

Huerta demanded that the teachers identify the authors of the subversive phrase. The teacher of the advanced class refused, as did the rest of us. The meal ended quickly and awkwardly, the families dispersed, and the teachers from all three classes were ushered to a small table in a backroom office. Confronted there by Huerta, Richard Chavez, and Cesar Chavez himself, we were accused of being part of a subversive plot, railed at, called "chicken shit" by Cesar, and thrown out of La Paz and the union.

I went home distraught and scared. I understood that I had been part of a purge, but I didn't understand why the purge had happened or what it meant. And like the protagonists in Miriam Pawel's groundbreaking and deeply moving *The Union of Their Dreams*, I did not speak of these events to anyone for more than a decade and never aired them publicly.

Thirty years later, Pawel's meticulously documented book portrays the rise of the UFW and

the mix of passion, solidarity, and organizing genius that enabled it to take on the largest agricultural enterprises in the country. And The Union of Their Dreams clears up the mystery carried inside everyone who worked for the movement through the late 1970s and early 1980s, from lawyers and ministers to farm workers and volunteers.

What happened to make such a successful and inspiring victory for social justice end in bitter, drawn-out defeat? Pawel's nuanced analysis brings with it a sad truth most people don't know: only a tiny percentage of California's farmworkers are unionized today, and the pay and working conditions in most of California's fields are as bad as they were in the 1960s, before the landmark struggle that captured the national imagination. Today workers live in cars, shacks, and rundown barracks, and the UFW can neither organize farmworkers nor win union elections effectively.

The big lessons of The Union of Their Dreams go to the heart of dilemmas faced by movements for social justice. How do you balance internal democracy with the need for quick and effective strategizing? How can extraordinary leaders be held accountable as they pursue visionary goals? What are effective ways to combine the kind of direct action that challenges the powerful with the long, slow work in institutions that often consolidates gains for poor people? And finally, should movements demand sacrifice and unlimited commitment from activists or should they make it possible for those fighting for social justice to lead sustainable economic and personal lives?

The Union of Their Dreams paints a vivid portrait of the cost of leadership that stifles dissent and activists who accept being silenced for the sake of the struggle. Pawel recounts the story through the words and experiences of eight key participants--a minister, two lawyers, three Mexican American farmworkers, and two Anglo boycott volunteers--painting the big picture by providing the texture of individual lives. She begins with the innovative strategies and iconic moments of the UFW's rise to national prominence, then moves seamlessly to the conflicts the UFW faced in becoming a functioning labor union, from administering hard-won contracts to navigating Chavez's utopian visions and authoritarian practices. The book's achievement rests in part on Pawel's remarkable sources: six hundred hours of tapes Chavez made of UFW meetings from 1965 to 1980 and sent to the Walter P.

Reuther Library at Wayne State University; and the trust and frankness with which Pawel's informants spoke to her, overcoming the shame of silence and defeat so she could tell this story.

In 1965, nineteen-year-old Eliseo Medina witnessed the farm worker strike in his hometown of Delano and immediately signed on to the nascent organizing campaign taking shape there. A natural at understanding the needs of his fellow farmworkers and persuading them to picket and strike, Medina recounts the moment of pure joy he experienced with the union's first election victory--indeed the first-ever secret-ballot election for farmworkers in the United States--at the DiGiorgio ranch in Delano in 1966.

Thirty-three-year-old Chris Hartmire, who ran the California Migrant Ministry, joined Cesar Chavez in Delano as the first strike began and in short order put the ministry at the service of Chavez and the union.

With his clear and persuasive missives, Hartmire galvanized a nationwide network of supporters, from key organizations of religious leaders to teams of sympathizers in cities and suburbs across the country.

Jerry Cohen, a twenty-six-year-old lawyer working for California Rural Legal Assistance, met union staff at Delano's People's Bar and offered advice in a free-speech dispute involving union protesters. His subsequent meeting with Chavez began the fifteen-year run of an eclectic, unorthodox, and wildly successful legal team that could spin circles around California's growers and their own high-priced lawyers.

When courageous strikes proved insufficient to challenge the strength of the California growers, Chavez looked outward to a country where protest and mobilization had gained unprecedented traction.

Recognizing the contemporary power of claims for social justice, Chavez sent farmworkers who had never left their home state to organize consumer boycotts in Chicago and New York City with a few dollars in their pockets and the names of one or two contacts. That imaginative leap gave birth to the grape and lettuce boycotts, the national campaigns that urged consumers not to buy nonunion products, garnering thousands of fervent UFW supporters nationwide and bringing some of the most powerful U.S. agricultural corporations to the bargaining table.

The book presents pivotal 1960s and early 1970s moments in the UFW's trajectory, from the initial strikes on the part of Filipino farmworkers in 1965, which spurred the nascent Farm Worker Association to action, to Chavez's 1968 fast for non-violence, which he carried on for twenty-five days and ended with Robert F. Kennedy at his side. As the UFW amassed power through tactics of nonviolence and sacrifice--volunteers for the union worked night and day for no pay, just food and housing--the sale of grapes and Gallo wine plummeted, along with the public image of the companies that produced them. Three years after the boycott began, the growers of the Coachella Valley met the UFW's demands.

More than two dozen of them signed union contracts in the vast UFW meeting hall in Delano. John Giumarra, Jr., the Stanford-educated son of the grower known as the Grape King, outlined what was at stake, at a moment when growers and farmworkers alike were beginning to believe that agriculture in California would become a unionized industry: "If it works well here," he said, "if this experiment in social justice as they call it, or this revolution in agriculture however you want to characterize it, if it works here it can work elsewhere. But if it doesn't work here, it won't work anywhere."

It is not surprising that growers throughout California continued to oppose the UFW, bringing to bear the combined force of police, courts, and hired thugs to oppose higher wages and a functioning union run by the workers. What is more surprising is that Chavez himself saw unionization as a threat and acted to undermine it, ultimately crushing the very workers who had gained confidence and voice through their experience in the UFW and become leaders in their workplaces.

WAS THE UFW to be a union or a poor people's movement?

Throughout the UFW struggle, Chavez envisioned a movement that challenged the powerful through direct action in the streets and fields. He was consistent over decades in his belief that campaigns for social justice depended on such organized force for their moral and political clout. From the first strikes, Chavez infused the UFW with a religious sense of mission, embodied in his fasts and in visions of a self-sustaining, quasi-religious order to nurture the movement at its core and expand the struggle. As soon as the early grape contracts were signed, Chavez began to speak of a Poor People's Union and farm worker cooperatives, endeavors he later asked Chris Hartmire to initiate at La Paz.

Chavez was the first to see how the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, by offering guarantees for union organizing, would shift the work of the UFW from protest to administration, and he wanted none of it:

"We don't want to win elections anymore," he told a key Catholic leader. "We want to prove to you and everybody else that the whole thing stinks." And he maintained this line, preferring to fight grand battles against the system rather than to work within its new institutions, even at key moments in the 1970s when members of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board supported the UFW's goals and were poised to work in its favor. "The more we win," Chavez said with regard to elections brought by the new law, "the weaker we're going to get."

Without providing explicit analysis or commentary, Pawel's narrative makes the case that Chavez's lack of interest in establishing a well-run union was the central factor in the UFW's eventual weakening. Sent to administer contracts in Calexico in 1971, Medina turned his organizing skills, honed on the picket lines and boycotts, to making the union work, providing benefits for workers and order and predictability for growers.

Faced with the reality of the fields, he understood that farmworkers were not revolutionaries, as they were sometimes depicted in boycott activities in the East. Rather, farmworkers were "just trying to make a living.

A decent living. These are people who are trying like hell to get themselves a strong union." However, the UFW wasn't functioning very well in the fields: the union's hiring halls were inefficient; field offices were disorganized, and health insurance plans didn't provide promised benefits.

But when Medina brought his concerns to board meetings at La Paz, which he did repeatedly over years as a board member, they were belittled or ignored. The polite young man, long in awe of Chavez, gradually realized that the visionary leader looked down on the workers themselves--for what he saw as their interest in money for their families, rather than broader social change--and did not share Medina's conviction that the first task of the UFW must be to secure and administer decent contracts. This would detract time and attention from seemingly bigger and more important battles of the sort Chavez relished,

and for which he was adept at strategizing and gaining widespread support. In a poignant final meeting in 1978, Medina laid out his ranch-by-ranch analysis of the area around Salinas, where he had been sent to organize, and the staff and budget he would need to carry out the task. When Chavez turned on him, attacking his proposal in the communal dining room at La Paz, Medina packed up and left the union.

Chavez didn't agree with Medina that the union needed to be run by farmworkers. The absence of democratic decision-making procedures in the UFW reinforced the tension between union and movement and made it impossible to debate these matters openly. Indeed, differentiating union business from Chavez's desire for a broader-based poor people's movement, and doing so in a democratic fashion, might have energized both struggles and provided a more sustainable path to the future. Had Chavez been willing and able to delegate authority and relinquish control, then others could have run the union, and Chavez himself might have focused on building a broader poor people's movement.

Instead, UFW board meetings functioned to produce the outcomes Chavez wanted, and he manipulated people and facts to achieve this, down to unfounded accusations and character assassination. So what looked like democracy to outside observers--long hours of discussion at La Paz or workers voicing concerns and opinions at the 1973 UFW convention--was characterized candidly by Hartmire after that convention as "controlled democracy." Chavez put it more bluntly, lamenting the "so-called democracy" in which the leader, as he explained it, must inevitably get rid of his strongest people because otherwise they will get rid of him.

Immediately after the passage of the ALRA, Chavez began to turn on his trusted supporters. He purged them from the union over a period of five years, from 1976 to 1981. The climate of fear and distrust worsened with the introduction of the Game, borrowed from the cult-like drug rehabilitation program Synanon. Chavez saw in Synanon an efficiently-run alternative community with lessons for the poor people's commune he hoped to establish, and in the Game he sought a means to renew the commitment to sacrifice on which the union had long been based. Playing the Game, a harsh variant of the encounter group therapies popular in the 1970s, participants ganged up verbally and emotionally against one member, hurling brutal insults and criticisms, ostensibly with the goal of strengthening the group. By mid-1977, the Game was played weekly at La Paz, and almost everyone there joined in, along with union staff from around the state. The purges and the Game worked in tandem, setting the stage for UFW members to turn on one another as Chavez dictated, even as they suspected or knew the trumped-up charges to be false.

In her vivid description of the purges, as in many other parts of *The Union of Their Dreams*, Pawel makes spectacular and persuasive use of the tapes Chavez sent to the Wayne State University archives. Here is Chavez in 1968, even before the first big UFW victories, talking about other farmworker leaders and prophesying the future:

In a confrontation, I can beat them. I can beat them because they haven't been around organizations, they don't know how to stab each other. And I know how to do every fucking stab. But once you do that, so you do it to save the union, then every time there's opposition developing, boom, you get them . . . . In other words, I got to pull a Joseph Stalin. . . . And I don't think I want to do that. By the time I do that, then I'll be a different man. Then I'll do it again for some other reason.

Chavez also insisted on sacrifice and total commitment, repeatedly refusing to pay union staff and saying, "We'll organize workers in this movement as long as we're willing to sacrifice. The moment we stop sacrificing, we stop organizing. I guarantee that." The union ultimately broke apart over issues of pay and democracy. When Cohen and his stellar legal team, which had played a key role in the union's dramatic successes, insisted on an increase in wages (unlike other staff, lawyers were paid, but only \$750/month) Chavez refused, despite significant support on the board for the lawyers' proposal, and by 1981 the entire legal team had left.

Chavez savagely opposed the growing autonomy and initiative of the paid reps, the farmworkers who were elected by their peers to head ranch committees and do union business, from contract administration to organizing. In the final sections of *The Union of Their Dreams*, Pawel recounts the moving story of these paid reps through the activities of Sabino Lopez, an irrigator, and Mario Bustamante, a lettuce-cutter, both of whom became leaders of the increasingly self-confident Salinas vegetable workers. In 1980-1981 the paid reps in Salinas won election after election for the UFW, working effectively as a

team to extend the union's reach in the region. In response, Chavez acted to keep them from winning seats on the UFW board, outmaneuver their votes at the 1981 convention, and oust them from their paid posts. When other approaches failed, Chavez fired them outright, though he had no right to do so, and the reps sued. But by the time the paid reps won their case in court, they were long gone from the union, unable to find work in the fields, and the union itself was in shambles.

Pawel does not tell the union's history from the perspective of Chavez himself, so the reader must piece together his view. This is an elusive task, despite the many revealing anecdotes and quotations, because the context is always provided by others. Some of the deepest questions, such as why Chavez wouldn't dedicate time and resources to building the foundations of a well-run union, remain only partially answered. Nor does Pawel give us the view of ordinary farmworkers, as they encountered the electrifying movement battles and the reality of union contracts. And the book would benefit from more attention to the weight of gender in this story, especially Huerta's role as a powerful and charismatic woman at the pinnacle of the movement (and an avid collaborator in the purges and the Game) and the impact of sexism in the daily functioning of the UFW, from macho swaggering and decision making by men to Chavez's continual references to women as seducers and spies.

But the story Pawel does tell is riveting. In the end, those who were purged from the UFW left in great confusion and pain. They kept silent because they could no longer work for a great cause and believed they would weaken it by speaking out. But the paid reps in the fields, including Lopez and Bustamante, did not go quietly. They are the most moving heroes of Pawel's story. Those Mexican American farmworkers who rose up to run the union in the fields--the real fruit of the two-decade UFW struggle and the core of an empowered new generation and democratic union--spoke back to Chavez and fought him even after they were told to leave, something that none of the Anglo lawyers, ministers, boycotters, and organizers chose to do.

SO WHAT WAS GOING ON at the English class graduation in 1979? Pawel shows that in the months before the ceremony at La Paz, militant vegetable workers in Salinas were waging and winning key strikes, despite Chavez's insistence that the strikes were costly and unwinnable. Among the unprecedented gains of the successful strikes was the requirement that employers pay farmworkers to work for the union as paid reps.

The tape of a meeting of field office directors at La Paz reveals that Medina said the offending words in 1971, as he explained the importance of having workers take ownership of their contracts. "I want to make this one thing clear," he told the group in Chavez's presence. "The union is not Cesar Chavez. The union is not La Paz. The union is in the field offices, where the people themselves are building it."

So Chavez and Huerta were likely right that the phrase in the graduation slide show was an attack on Chavez, placed as it was at the center of a gala public event at La Paz at a time when workers in the fields were challenging Chavez head-on. But Chavez and Huerta were wrong about how to sustain a union and forge a broader movement.

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## **Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:06 PM  
**To:** PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Subject:** Earth Day, Labor, and Me

Earth Day, Labor, and Me

By Joe Uehlein, Labor Network for Sustainability

<http://www.labor4sustainability.org/>

The approach of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22 provides us an opportunity to reflect on the "long, strange trip" shared by the environmental movement and the labor movement over four decades here on Spaceship Earth.

A billion people participate in Earth Day events, making it the largest secular civic event in the world.

But when it was founded in 1970, according to Earth Day's first national coordinator Denis Hayes, "Without the UAW, the first Earth Day would have likely flopped!"

Less than a week after he first announced the idea for Earth Day, Senator Gaylord Nelson presented his proposal to the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO. Walter Ruther, President of the UAW, enthusiastically donated \$2000 to help kick the effort off - to be followed by much more. Hayes recalls:

"The UAW was by far the largest contributor to the first Earth Day, and its support went beyond the merely financial. It printed and mailed all our materials at its expense -- even those critical of pollution-belching cars. Its organizers turned out workers in every city where it has a presence. And, of course, Walter then endorsed the Clear Air Act that the Big Four were doing their damndest to kill or gut."

Some people may be surprised to learn that a labor union played such a significant role in the emergence of the modern environmental movement. When they think of organized labor, they think of things like support for coal and nuclear power plants and opposition to auto emissions standards.

When it comes to the environment, organized labor has two hearts beating within a single breast. On the one hand, the millions of union members are people and citizens like everybody else, threatened by air and water pollution, dependent of fossil fuels, and threatened by the devastating consequences of climate change. On the other hand, unions are responsible for protecting the jobs of their members, and efforts to protect the environment sometimes may threaten workers' jobs. First as a working class kid and then as a labor official, I've been dealing with the two sides of this question my whole life.

I was raised in Cleveland. It was a union town, and both my parents were trade unionists. We were going to the union hall all the time; that's where the picnics and social functions and concerts happened.

At the same time, we kids were swimming in Lake Erie, and I watched them post the signs saying, "don't swim in the lake." We were catching fifty to a hundred perch every weekend and eating them until they posted the signs, "Don't eat the perch."

So we experienced this switch from where the smoke coming out of the steel mill chimneys meant bread on the table to a realization that we were messing up the lake that we loved and enjoyed.

I was there when the Cuyahoga River caught fire, and that was an alarming wakeup call. The burning river and the dying lake led the first Earth Day in Cleveland to be a monumental event. According to the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, an estimated 500,000 elementary, junior high, high school and college students took part in campus teach-ins, litter cleanups, and tree plantings. More than 1,000 CLEVELAND STATE

UNIVERSITY students and faculty staged a "death march" from the campus to the banks of the Cuyahoga River. The headline in the Cleveland Press read, "Hippies and Housewives Unite to Protest What Man is Doing to Earth."

After high school I went to work in central Pennsylvania in an aluminum mill and when the mill was flooded out by hurricane Agnes I got a job doing flood cleanup at Three Mile Island, which was under construction at the time, and joined the laborers union. That really got me involved in the labor movement. At 19 or 20 I became a full-time shop steward on safety and health issues.

The environmental movement was protesting the construction of the power plant.

My local union had a bumper sticker that said, "Hungry and Out of Work? Eat an environmentalist!" I objected, and I went to the local and said, really, you know, they're not really our enemies. They're protesting the construction of this power plant because it wasn't built to withstand the impact of a Boeing 707. And the airport's right there. So it kind of makes sense, doesn't it?"

I've been making the same kind of argument ever since.

That long, strange trip

In the 1980s, the same Industrial Union Department that had helped start Earth Day initiated perhaps the first labor-environmental coalition, called the OSHA Environmental Network. I was appointed its field director. We had active coalitions in 22 states with the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth and IUD member unions. At first, labor's "job-protection heart" came to the fore: The United Mineworkers Union was afraid that the alliance might encourage limits on the high sulfur coal that caused acid rain, thereby threatening some miners' jobs; it insisted that our environmental network be shut down. Later, encouraged by labor's other "heart" in the form of unions that supported sulfur reduction, the Mineworkers negotiated an acid rain compromise agreement with Senator George Mitchell of Maine.

When the UN Commission on Global Warming formed, I served as a representative of the IUD. Before every meeting that I went to I would be lobbied strongly by the Mineworkers and the IBEW on the one side to say kill what would become the Kyoto Treaty and then the Steelworkers who wanted to see the treaty enacted. In 1997 the AFL-CIO blasted the treaty and sent a high level representative to Kyoto to oppose it. So I resigned from the commission.

I took on the assignment to organize labor's role in the 1999 protests against the WTO in Seattle. As we were organizing, AFL-CIO president John Sweeney came out to address the Washington State AFL-CIO convention.

I had been planning 15,000 people as a goal for labor's piece. John made his speech and he said 50,000 people. As he came off the podium, I said, John, it's 15,000, 15,000 is our goal. And he turned to me and he said Joe, it's 50,000 now.

We had more than sixty thousand people on the streets, perhaps forty thousand of them from labor. It was "Teamsters and turtles, together at last." Stopping the WTO, and building the coalitions we built, was a culmination of all the things I believed in and all the things I had been working for. To me it represented the power we have when labor's two hearts beat together

- when we recognize that the real self-interest of workers and the labor movement is the same as the rest of the world's: to fight for a sustainable future.

Yesterday . . . and today

Looking over the decades since the first Earth Day, what do we see about the relation between environmentalism and labor?

Some things this Earth Day are radically different from the first Earth Day forty years ago.

The devastating threats resulting from climate change affect us not just as "citizens and consumers" but as workers. The impact of global warming on American workers and workplaces is laid out in a study by the Union of Concerned Scientists, "Climate Change in

the United States: The Prohibitive Costs of Inaction."

After reviewing effects on flooding, hurricane intensity, tourism, public health, water scarcity, shipping, agriculture, energy and infrastructure stress, and wildfires, the study concludes,

"If global warming emissions continue unabated, every region in the country will confront large costs from climate change in the form of damages to infrastructure, diminished public health, and threats to vital industries employing millions of Americans."

A study by the University of Maryland adds that

"The costs of climate change rapidly exceed benefits and place major strains on public sector budgets, personal income and job security."

We are already seeing such costs in extreme weather events, drought-caused water crises, intensified forest fires, floods, and other costly catastrophes. Today American workers have a direct, personal, job-based reason to fight for climate protection.

At the same time, the necessity for transforming our entire economy to a low-carbon basis provides the opportunity to create tens of millions of new "green jobs." Such a reconstruction effort could rival World War II as a means for creating full employment and conditions favorable to worker power and organization.

Both of labor's "two hearts within a single breast" can be seen in its response to the danger and opportunity of the climate crisis. On the one hand, organized labor has been enthusiastic about the prospect for "green jobs" and has supported climate legislation that might help expand them. On the other hand, much of organized labor, including the AFL-CIO, has opposed implementing the binding targets for greenhouse gas reduction that climate scientists say are necessary to reduce the effects of global warming.

Such targets are crucial not only for climate protection, but because the millions of potential green jobs are unlikely to be created unless all decision-makers know that a major transformation of our economy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is in fact going to happen.

Meanwhile, "environmentalism" is broadening into a movement that calls for social and economic as well as environmental sustainability. The Earth Day Network, which coordinates Earth Day worldwide, includes among its goals to "broaden the meaning of 'environment.'"

It is committed to "expanding the definition of "environment" to include all issues that affect our health, our communities and our environment, such as air and water pollution, climate change, green schools and environmental curriculum, access to green jobs, renewable energy, and a new green economy." Such a sustainability movement is a natural ally for organized labor in its efforts to challenge an economy currently driven by corporate greed.

Some thing this Earth Day are the same as they were forty years ago.

Workers are still human beings who face the same consequences of environmental destruction as everyone else. As Olga Madar, the first head of the UAW Conservation and Resource Development Department, put it back then, union members were "first and foremost American citizens and consumers" who "breathe the same air and drink and bathe in the same water" as their neighbors in other occupations.

UAW president Walter Reuther, who wrote that first check supporting the first Earth Day, spelled out what that should mean for organized labor:

The labor movement is about that problem we face tomorrow morning. Damn right! But to make that the sole purpose of the labor movement is to miss the main target. I mean, what good is a dollar an hour more in wages if your neighborhood is burning down? What good is another week's vacation if the lake you used to go to is polluted and you can't swim in it and the kids can't play in it? What good is another \$100 in pension if the world goes up in atomic smoke?

\* Joe Uehlein heads the Labor Network for Sustainability, which is dedicated to engaging trade unions, workers and their allies to support economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Visit [www.labor4sustainability.org](http://www.labor4sustainability.org)



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## Greenshields, Rachel

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**From:** moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:06 PM  
**To:** PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Subject:** Draw your own conclusions - Europe's great political cartoonists

Draw your own conclusions Strip by influential strip, Europe's great political cartoonists speak volumes

By Sam Allis | April 19, 2010

The Boston Globe

[http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2010/04/19/europes\\_great\\_political\\_cartoonists\\_speak\\_volumes/](http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2010/04/19/europes_great_political_cartoonists_speak_volumes/)

I've always considered primo political cartooning better than porn. It's death by stiletto, sunny side up. The Europeans always go for the jugular and make our gang look like Cub Scouts and Brownies. Giorgio Forattini, Italy's superb practitioner of the trade for the daily La Repubblica, took great delight in drawing the country's major male figures "prime ministers, you name it" naked with big bellies and itsy-bitsy genitalia. (Imagine his take on Mayor Tom Menino.)

Plantu, his great counterpart for Le Monde, the most influential paper in France, often draws president Nicolas Sarkozy with a fly buzzing around his head. Plantu gains particular prominence because his cartoons appear on the front page of the paper, not sequestered inside on the editorial page. He is, hands down, the most important cartoonist in the country and among the most prominent in Europe. His global travels in support of the trade have made him an international personage as well.

"Sarkozy is a good guy for cartoonists," Plantu, 59, said by phone from the Cambridge residence of the French Consul General. "He's very little. I draw a head and two feet and the cartoon is finished. Sometimes I have a problem with Sarkozy. I draw him with a fly on his head. He writes to me several times asking, 'Please remove the fly from my head. Stop it, please.' I understand my president and I disagree. That's OK. He calls my editors. He has a right to." The flies, we assume, are alive and well.

Plantu, born Jean Plantureux, was in town last week with a handful of other cartoonists for a powwow of Cartooning for Peace, the nonprofit he and his friend Kofi Annan, then UN Secretary-General, cofounded in

2006 in the wake of the conflagration over Danish political cartoons that many Muslims found blasphemous.

Violent protests erupted across the Muslim world, leaving scores dead and fires burning in the Danish embassies in Syria, Lebanon, and Iran. (I can't think of another religion's followers who would behave that way, however blasphemous the cartoons.)

Both knew there are few better ways to understand cultural differences than through political cartoons.

Cartooning for Peace has since grown to include many of the world's best political cartoonists. Its goal is to help prevent another such round of vitriol and violence, and bolster free speech for cartoonists.

Annan often travels with Plantu, the designated diplomat. They were in Bogota together in February.

The group spent most of the week in a program arranged by the French Consulate and Northeastern University, including an exhibit at the university of 86 cartoons from Cartooning for Peace members around the world that runs until May 12.

Plantu never considered the Danish cartoons blasphemous until he saw the violent reactions. "I didn't understand what the problem was. I didn't know it was blasphemy," he said. "It began as a news story around freedom of speech. There was a fatwa ordered. The situation was manipulated by a small group of imams. It was like a trap for the future of freedom of speech.

What we now know is that when we draw about religion, we can have a critical view against

an imam, but nothing against Mohammed.

“When I go to Egypt, I show the Danish cartoons [to Egyptian cartoonists],” he added. “I explain you can have your view of what is blasphemy. That’s OK. And you can draw against the Israeli army and the settlements, no problem. But when you draw a little mustache like Hitler under someone’s nose, for Israelis those are like the cartoons during World War II.”

Plantu noted that a Moroccan cartoonist draws a lower arm and hand with a ring on one finger that represent the king. (The ring speaks.) The royal government is very touchy about anything it considers derogatory to King Mohammed VI, so it’s wise to omit his face in these circumstances. The brave Palestinian cartoonist Khalid Gueddar lives in East Jerusalem and doesn’t dare enter Gaza because he has criticized Hamas, the group that runs it.

I’m a big fan of political cartoonists. They are our conscience. But I’m also jealous. The best can say with a few strokes of the pen what takes us former ink-stained wretches ages to say half as well.

Sam Allis can be reached at [allis@globe.com](mailto:allis@globe.com).  
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## Greenshields, Rachel

**From:** moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:05 PM  
**To:** PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Subject:** Ontario's Big Pharma Drug War

Ontario's Big Pharma Drug War

by Joel Lexchin, MD

~~~~~(((( The B u l l e t ))))~~~~~

<http://www.socialistproject.ca/bullet/342.php#continue>

The Ontario government has recently announced major changes to the way that it will pay for generic drugs for those covered under its public drug plan, primarily people 65 and over and those on social welfare. The aim is to rein in rapidly increasing costs for the Ontario Drug Benefit Program. Up until recently spending has been going up by more than 10% annually and overall across Canada drug costs are the second most expensive part of the health care system behind only hospitals.

The current government made a first attempt to deal with drug spending back in 2006 when it reduced the price for generic medicines from 70% of the brand name drug to 50%. At that time, \$222-million in savings (from a drug bill of \$3.5-billion) from reduced generic prices and other reforms was predicted. There was never any independent analysis about whether those anticipated savings were realized. Now faced with a deficit of over \$20-billion and health care costs that take up 42 cents of every public dollar, the government is looking at a new initiative to rein in at least one segment of health care costs. The question of whether that 42-cent figure represents too much spending on health care or is mostly the product of a series of tax cuts that have reduced government revenue is a crucial issue that must be taken up soon. The Politics of Generic Drugs

One of the key factors that makes public drug plans affordable is the existence of generic versions for many of the products that are on the provincial formulary. Generic drugs work the same as the original brand-name products but are much lower in cost since generic companies don't incur the research and development expenditures and also don't engage in costly promotion of their products.

However, in order for generic drugs to get used they need to be dispensed by pharmacists and this gives the pharmacy owners a huge stick in dealing with the generic companies. In effect what the pharmacy owners tell the generic companies is that they will not stock their products unless the companies sell to them at a discount. The pharmacy owners are reimbursed by the government at the list price of the medication not the discounted price. Therefore, the discount goes to the pharmacy owners not the government. These discounts amount to about 20% of the price of the drug.

What the government is now proposing to do is to eliminate these discounts, also referred to as professional allowances. Savings from making this change are projected by the government to amount to \$750-million annually which would be a substantial reduction in the annual \$4.14-billion that the government spends on prescription medications.

The pharmacy owners, primarily the large chains such as Shoppers Drug Mart and Rexall are vigorously protesting this move. Their claim is that these discounts are necessary to make their businesses economically viable and that without the discounts they will have to cut services, close stores earlier and/or start charging for services that have been provided for free up until now such as home delivery.

Few people seem to have much sympathy for the large chains but the smaller independent stores are in a different situation. The large chains have become like supermarkets selling everything from books to telephones to cameras to groceries. Filling prescriptions is only a relatively small part of their business. However, typically the small independent stores focus on filling prescriptions and selling over-the-counter drugs and

other drug related consumer products such as suntan lotion, toothpaste and the like. Losing the discounts could have serious consequences for them and for their patients especially if these stores are located in rural communities.

The government is not completely indifferent to what pharmacists are saying and has announced some relief for them. Dispensing fees for pharmacists in rural communities will go up \$3 and in urban centres they will go up \$1 amounting to about \$100-million in total. The message from the groups speaking on behalf of pharmacies is that this is too little.

The dispensing fee is the payment that the government makes for the advice that pharmacists provide for their patients. Up until now the government has largely frozen the dispensing fee at its current level of under \$7 for years. Dispensing fees for people paying out-of-pocket and for those with private drug insurance have not been regulated so by freezing public dispensing fees the government has in effect shifted that cost onto these two groups. This is especially troublesome for those without insurance who pay out-of-pocket since they tend to work at low wage non-unionized jobs and being at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale have more health problems and need more drugs. Freezing dispensing fees has also forced pharmacies owners to become more and more reliant on the discounts that they receive from the generic companies, the very thing that the government is now complaining about. The Way Forward: Alternatives Not Considered

Part of the solution is to stop paying pharmacists for being storekeepers and start paying them for the knowledge that they gained from going to university for four years. Pharmacists have been trained to know about drugs and government should pay them to monitor patients for adverse effects from medications, to go over the drug regimens that people are on, particularly people in high risk groups such as the elderly and children, to spend time discussing the harms and benefits of drugs that people are taking. As provinces reform primary care they should be looking to move many pharmacists out of stores altogether and putting them down the hall from doctors. When the doctors write a prescription people can easily go to a pharmacist who has the time to spend with them and the knowledge to properly advise them.

There is little doubt that generic drug prices in Canada are significantly higher than in many other countries and lowering these prices makes sense. However, if governments want to go where the savings really are then they need to start taking aggressive action on brand-name prices. The average cost of a generic prescription in 2008 was \$26 versus \$66.50 for a brand-name drug. Of the \$20-billion in revenue drug manufacturers receive, 70% goes to brand name drugs and only 30% to generic drugs. In 2007/08 two brand name drugs alone accounted for 10% of the total cost of Ontario's drug plan.

Before looking at how high prices might be tackled it is worth briefly examining why prices are high in the first place. Drug companies claim that these prices are necessary so that they can recoup their investment in research and development and continue to develop new and better medications. At present the companies are touting a figure of at least \$1-billion (U.S.) as what is needed to bring a new drug to market. However this number is heavily contested since it relies on an analysis of confidential data from companies reported to a research centre that gets 40% of its income in the form of unrestricted grants from multinational drug companies. Moreover, the \$1-billion figure ignores the indirect subsidies that companies get through tax deductions on research spending. The only attempt to engage in an independent examination of industry information came during the 1970s and early 1980s when the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, sought financial data that would allow it to estimate research, development, marketing, promotion, and distribution costs for individual products. The drug companies objected on the grounds that the confidentiality of their cost and other data could not be protected. Ultimately the dispute went to the U.S. Supreme Court that ruled that the GAO was not authorized to collect this type of information.

On top of the question of how much money the industry spends on research and development is the actual value of the drugs that are marketed. Evidence from Canada and France indicates that at best about 15% of new drugs represent any significant therapeutic advantage over what already exists. While these drugs may be worth the prices that are being asked, the other 85% represent gravy for the industry and little to nothing for the public that takes them.

One way of bringing down prices is to use monopsony buying power, but right now Canada has 10 provincial, three territorial and four federal drug plans and no universal coverage. In contrast in Australia the national government covers all residents in the country for drug costs and is the only bargaining agent. As a result, brand name drug prices are about 9% lower in Australia than they are here. Having a single payer and extending public coverage to the entire population would put the government in a much stronger position vis-a-vis the drug companies.

One of the reasons why doctors switch from older, less expensive generic drugs to newer, more expensive but not necessarily any better or safer brand name drugs is the massive promotional campaigns that drug companies put on. In the year after the anti-inflammatory and analgesic Vioxx was launched Merck took out over 1000 pages of advertising in Canadian medical journals, company representatives paid 48,000 visits to the offices of Canadian doctors and left behind over 1,000,000 samples. (Less than five years later Vioxx was pulled from the market for safety reasons - a cautionary note about using new drugs.) The estimate is that companies spend between \$2.4 and \$4.8-billion annually here in pushing their drugs to doctors. While the Food and Drugs Act gives the federal government the power to regulate promotion it has consistently refused to exercise that power except on very rare occasions and has turned over the control of promotion to the drug companies. The results are not unexpected - a weak code of conduct enforced through a passive complaints mechanism with fines for violations that amount to little more than lunch money for the drug companies.

Back in the early 1990s, the government of New Zealand was looking at rapidly escalating drug costs. Its response was to create an agency, Pharmac, to manage the national drug budget. According to projections without Pharmac by 2009 the country would have been paying \$1.6-billion per year, with Pharmac it was actually paying about \$670-million. Steve Morgan, a health economist at the University of British Columbia, has estimated that if Canada adopted the tactics used in New Zealand, depending on what groups of drugs we are looking at, Canada could save 21% to 79% off what is currently spent. New Zealand is willing to play hardball with the drug companies. If companies want to list a new drug on New Zealand's formulary then they typically have to cut prices on drugs already listed. New Zealand aggressively uses reference-based pricing. Under this system where there are groups of drugs that experts judge are basically the same in terms of safety and effectiveness the government only pays for the least expensive drug in the class. British Columbia uses such a system for five groups of drugs and saves money without putting patients at risk. However, no new drug groups have been added since the NDP lost power in 2001 and no other province in Canada uses the system.

If the real savings are in lowering brand name drug costs why has the Ontario government chosen to take on the pharmacy owners? The answer lies in the power of the multinational drug companies. The pharmacy owners have relatively few allies. The multinational drug companies would not only complain to the provincial government they would also complain to Washington and the European countries where they are based and where they contribute substantially to the economy. Canada has already lost a couple of complaints about drug prices at the World Trade Organization and is unlikely to relish the thought of taking on another challenge.

Bringing down generic prices is only a small part of controlling drug spending in Ontario and the rest of Canada. \*

Joel Lexchin teaches health policy at York University and works in the emergency department at the University Health Network.

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## Greenshields, Rachel

**From:** moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:04 PM  
**To:** PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG  
**Subject:** The Populism of the Privileged

The Populism of the Privileged

By E.J. Dionne Washington Post April 19, 2010

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/18/AR2010041802724.html>

The tea parties are nothing new. They represent a relatively small minority of Americans on the right end of politics, and will not determine the outcome of the 2010 elections.

In fact, both major parties stand to lose if they accept the laughable notion that this media-created protest movement is the voice of true populism. Democrats will spend their time chasing votes they will never win. Republicans will turn their party into an angry and narrow redoubt with no hope of building a durable majority.

The news media's incessant focus on the tea parties is creating a badly distorted picture of what most Americans think and is warping our policy debates. The New York Times and CBS News thus performed a public service last week with a careful study of just who is in the tea party movement.

Their findings suggest that the Tea Party is essentially the reappearance of an old anti-government far right that has always been with us and accounts for about one-fifth of the country. The Times reported that tea party supporters "tend to be Republican, white, male, married and older than 45." They are also more affluent and better educated than Americans as a whole.

This is the populism of the privileged.

And the poll suggested something that white Americans are reluctant to discuss: Part of the anger at President Obama among tea partiers does appear to be driven by racial concerns.

Saying this invites immediate denunciations from defenders of those who bring guns to rallies, threaten violence to "take our country back," and mouth old slogans about states' rights and the Confederacy. So let's be clear: Opposition to the president is driven by many factors that have nothing to do with race. But race is definitely part of what's going on.

The poll asked: "In recent years, do you think too much has been made of the problems facing black people, too little has been made, or is it about right?" Twenty-eight percent of all Americans -- and just 19 percent of those who are not tea partiers -- answered "too much." But among tea party supporters, the figure is 52 percent, almost three times the proportion of the rest of the country. A quarter of tea partiers say that the Obama administration's policies favor blacks over whites, compared with only 11 percent in the country as a whole.

So race is part of this picture, as is a tendency of tea party enthusiasts to side with the better-off against the poor. This puts them at odds with most Americans. The poll found that while only 38 percent of all Americans said that "providing government benefits to poor people encourages them to remain poor," 73 percent of tea partiers believed this. Among all Americans, 50 percent agreed that "the federal government should spend money to create jobs, even if it means increasing the budget deficit." Only 17 percent of tea party supporters took this view.

Asked about raising taxes on households making more than \$250,000 a year to provide health care for the uninsured, 54 percent of Americans favored doing so vs. only 17 percent of tea partiers.

This must be the first "populist" movement driven by a television network: Sixty-three

percent of the tea party folks say they most watch Fox News "for information about politics and current events," compared with 23 percent of the country as a whole.

The right-wing fifth of America deserves news coverage like everyone else, and Fox is perfectly free to pander to its viewers. What makes no sense is allowing a sliver of opinion to dominate the media and distort our political discourse.

Democrats face problems not from right-wingers who have never voted for them but from a lack of energy among their own supporters and from dispirited independents and moderates who look to government to solve problems but have little confidence in its ability to deliver.

A Pew Research Center study released Sunday is thus a better guide than the tea parties' rants to the real nature of this nation's discontent. It found that only 22 percent of Americans say they can trust the government almost always or most of the time, "among the lowest measures in more than half a century." This mistrust extends beyond government to banks, financial institutions and large corporations.

So, yes, there is authentic populist anger out there. But you won't find much of it at the tea parties.

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**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** Clara Silver [clarasilver [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:15 PM  
**To:** Hieftje, John; Smith, Sandi; Briere, Sabra; Rapundalo, Stephen; Derezinski, Tony; Taylor, Christopher (Council); Kunselman, Stephen; Higgins, Marcia; Teall, Margie; Hohnke, Carsten; Anglin, Mike  
**Subject:** Parking fines and meter enforcement

Dear Members of City Council,

I am a resident of Ann Arbor and a patron of downtown businesses. I count a few of the local business owners among my friends I visit so often. I have held family celebrations downtown and encouraged out of town guests to travel downtown as well. However, should you choose to increase fines and enforce meters to 9pm I won't be doing so anymore.

Local residents who do not live downtown should not be penalized for patronizing downtown businesses. I certainly can't see bringing my out of town relatives to a venue downtown when they have to keep running out to their cars to be sure the meter hasn't run out, or fight for ever more scarce ramp spaces. Raising fines and enforcing meters longer damages our ability to patronize downtown businesses and sends the message that council members don't have citizens' best interests at heart but their own.

Please consider the damage you will do to local businesses and local residents ability to enjoy and patronize them through this misguided action. Thank you.

Clara Silver

**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** wbwc@googlegroups.com on behalf of Bob Krzewinski [wolverbob [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 9:50 PM  
**To:** wbwc@googlegroups.com  
**Subject:** [WBWC] House Transportation Committee At WCC - Friday, April 23

The Michigan House Transportation Committee will be meeting in Ypsilanti next week. It would be great to get some non-motorized supporters at this session.

Bob Krzewinski

**Committee Transportation**

**Clerk Phone Number** 517-373-1260

**Location** Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, Room 101, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105,

**Date** Friday, 4/23/2010

**Time** 10:00 AM

**Agenda** Michigan Department of Transportation: Tony Kratofil, Region Engineer, Metro Region, Mark A. Chaput, Region Engineer, University Region

Roy Townsend, P. E., Director of Engineering Washtenaw County Road Commission

Michigan Municipal League: Dan Gilmartin, Executive Director and CEO for the MML testifying with Jeff Jenks, Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Huntington Woods and President of the MML Board of Trustees

Gretchen Driskell, Mayor of Saline and MML appointee and Chairperson on the TF2 Citizens Advisory Committee

Paul Schreiber, Mayor of Ypsilanti

Chad Gamble, Public Service Director for the City of Lansing

**Chair Representative** Pam Byrnes

--  
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition" group.

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To unsubscribe from this group, send email to [wbwc+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:wbwc+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

For more options, visit this group at <http://groups.google.com/group/wbwc?hl=en>.

**Greenshields, Rachel**

**From:** gcalhoun1 [REDACTED] on behalf of Gary Calhoun [gcalhoun [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 9:47 PM  
**To:** Rapundalo, Stephen  
**Subject:** Re: Huron Hills golf course

**Stephen, This is what I understand & why I disagree with your " long-term subsidy for HH to the tune of >\$500,000" statement:**

**Golf Financials - Just the Facts**

In the City's accounting, both of the City's golf courses are combined in one golf "Enterprise Fund". All other city recreation activities (swimming pools, ice rinks, athletic fields, community centers, liveries, etc.) are not accounted for separately and are included in the City's General Fund. The unique accounting treatment and resulting higher financial performance standards for golf vis-a-vis other city-sponsored recreation activities was a subject of discussion at the outset and two years ago as well, but nothing was changed. ALL city sponsored-recreation activities are supported by taxpayers, but golf is the subject of focus (more on costs of recreation activities later).

The inaccurate impression, frequently reinforced by elected officials and staff, is that the golf courses are losing a significant amount of money. A recent opinion piece on Ann Arbor.com labeled the golf courses the City's "two traditional budgetary boat anchors".

What are the facts about the financial performance of the golf courses?

***Based on the audited financial statements for the City's most recently completed fiscal year (July 2008 through June 2009):***

- cash/operating revenues from golf were \$1.04M (up \$170K or 19% from the same period two years ago before the improvement plan was implemented)
- cash/operating costs were \$1.10M
- ***on an cash/operating basis, the courses lost just \$60K for the 2008-09 fiscal year, certainly not a significant amount of taxpayer subsidy!***

Wait a minute you say - I heard/read that the golf courses lose about \$500K. Who's right?

Unfortunately, the answer is complicated and it requires a bit of a diversion into cost accounting. In the City's accounting for Enterprise Funds, they include ALLOCATED costs as well as the actual OPERATING costs to run the courses. For golf in fiscal year 2008-09, these ALLOCATED costs totaled \$410K and included:

- Municipal Service Charge (\$116K) - this charges the golf fund with general city overhead costs
- IT Charge (\$42K) - this is an Information Technology charge to the golf fund
- Pension Fund Charge (\$91K) - this is a charge for retired city employees (the fringe benefit costs

- for active golf employees is appropriately included in the operating costs)
- Depreciation and Amortization (\$161K - a non-cash charge to reflect past capital investment

Including the \$410K of allocated costs, the net FY08-09 loss for both courses was \$477K.

So that's how the golf courses "lost" about \$475K - because there's over \$400K of allocated, non-cash costs! Let's put those allocated costs in some perspective. First, they are allocated, which means they don't go away if golf goes away. Second, at \$410K, that represents 40% of revenue - no business can generate a profit with 40% allocated, non-cash overhead costs. Third, the Municipal Service charge (the charge for services received from the General Fund) appears quite high vis-a-vis other Enterprise Funds. The MSC for golf was \$116K in FY08-09 - 8% of total operating expenses. For the entire Solid Waste and recycling Enterprise Fund, the MSC was \$197K - 2% of operating expenses. And finally, the City keeps "raising the chinning bar" for golf by increasing the allocated costs. The \$410K in non-cash, allocated costs for 2008-09 is 72% higher than the \$239K five years earlier (2003-04). The Municipal Service charge was \$89K in 2003-04, \$116K in 2008-09, and is \$179K in the 2010-11 budget. Over the past two years, the MSC charged to golf has increased \$63K (55%)!

It's important to understand these numbers because of the misconception that the courses are a huge drain on the City and on taxpayers. They simply are not! ***The bottom line is that on a direct operating/cash basis, the golf courses are essentially breakeven (presently losing between \$50K and \$100K a year) and their financial performance is improving!***

For those staff and elected officials who continue to talk about the golf courses losing \$500K annually because it's a significant number that serves their purpose, they should be reminded that the golf courses are about break-even/minimal net cost on a cash/operating basis and only "lose" significant amounts AFTER the city allocates an absurd amount of overhead charges to golf.

The city hired a golf consultant, Golf Convergence, Inc., in 2007. The consultant recognized the importance of distinguishing between operating/cash results and accounted results that include allocated overhead costs. He understood the nature of allocated costs - they don't go away if the operation or activity they are allocated to is discontinued, they are simply allocated elsewhere. In his report, he reminded the City that in looking at alternative uses and options for the golf course sites, comparisons should be made on this operating/cash basis excluding the allocated costs. Unfortunately, the City seems to have forgotten that lesson.

On Mon, Apr 19, 2010 at 7:05 PM, Rapundalo, Stephen <[SRapundalo@a2gov.org](mailto:SRapundalo@a2gov.org)> wrote:

Gary,

I support fully continuing golf operations at both Leslie and HH. However, the fact is that HH at least is not self-sustaining. The question becomes on how we continue

4/23/2010

operations there in a fiscally prudent way. As such, the City Council directed Roger Fraser and staff to look at possible alternatives through the issuance of a RFP and thereby explore possible public-private partnerships. Obviously, such possibilities could take many different forms. The fact is that there is good number of people at PAC and City Council who will not support a long-term subsidy for HH to the tune of >\$500,000. Thus other options must be explored or else we will see golf operations cease at HH. I wouldn't be surprised if a couple of colleagues don't move to end the subsidy during the upcoming budget deliberations. I've tried to convince HH enthusiasts to focus their energies on identifying viable options rather than take a "hell-no" attitude. While the latter may have worked the last time around HH was being discussed, but I can assure that won't pass muster this go around.

*Stephen*

Stephen Rapundalo

City Council – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

City of Ann Arbor

Email: [srapundalo@a2gov.org](mailto:srapundalo@a2gov.org)

Tel: (734) 476-0648

---

**From:** gcalhoun1@[REDACTED]mailto:gcalhoun1@[REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Gary Calhoun  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 6:05 PM  
**To:** Rapundalo, Stephen  
**Subject:** Huron Hills golf coure

Stephen, There are so many reasons why the City has to figure a way to keep both public golf courses, I won't list them. I would like to know your position on the issue. If you agree with me, I won't take the time to convince you to change your mind.

Gary Calhoun

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Greenshields, Rachel**

---

**From:** Jack Wilson [jwilson@wiltecinc.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 9:39 PM  
**To:** Fraser, Roger  
**Cc:** Hieftje, John  
**Subject:** RE: Leadership Ann Arbor

Mr. Fraser,

I was disappointed that Clark Construction along with the City did not consider the three lowest qualified bidders and hence brought us in to present our proposals. Given the opportunity, we were prepared to discuss: (a) value engineering; (b) alternate terms (c) potential steps to reduce cost while meeting budget expectations. I am surprised that after all numbers were shared in public, that the decision was made to go back out for bid and to include *all* of the contractors that are certified to work on the project. The original bid results were:

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| C-Tech -     | \$ 793,416.00   |
| Wiltec -     | \$ 844,111.00   |
| Delta -      | \$ 1,100,000.00 |
| Motor City - | \$ 1,058,235.00 |
| TTI -        | \$ 1,164,263.00 |

I find it interesting that Delta is currently on site and while their bid was for over 300K higher than the lowest bidder and they are still getting another chance to win this project. Without making any assumptions, Delta is already on site doing the electrical work at the Municipal building and likely some other systems. With other projects in the area; i.e. Washtenaw Co Jail; a Lansing area contractor is doing a great deal of work in *our* community- and so goes my plea about working with local contractors that have a stake in the AA community. Wiltec is the only company that has an office in Ann Arbor.

To give you further insight on the process, there are only two contactors that meet the requirements for both the Security and Cabling for the project, Wiltec and GSI (no bid) so Wiltec was the low bidder that was certified for both parts on the first "go-around". The recent request for re-bid asked for a significant amount of security elements to be removed from the scope of work. Included in the deletions are: all panic buttons; intercom; and a reduction in glass break sensors and cameras. Additionally, on the network connectivity portion of the bid, storage for the surveillance was deleted while reductions in both the access control and intrusion systems occurred. With many of the system components now omitted from the solution, the city loses the functionality on each system and will experience higher cost in the future. Lost will be continuity of the systems and a one contractor "turn-key" solution.

As an Ann Arbor resident, a taxpayer and business owner, I am concerned that the methodology that I've highlighted above will cost the city more in the long-run if indeed the end game is to have "complete solutions". With all of the budget reductions that the City has to deal with, just the delay alone on this one project creates more costs because of the stage of completion the building is in now.

Sincerely,

JACK G. WILSON, RCDD MBA  
 PRESIDENT

4/23/2010

WILTEC TECHNOLOGIES

TEL: 734.975.2107

FAX: 734.975.2101

[jwilson@wiltecinc.com](mailto:jwilson@wiltecinc.com)

[www.wiltecinc.com](http://www.wiltecinc.com)



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**From:** Fraser, Roger [mailto:RFraser@a2gov.org]

**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 3:16 PM

**To:** Jack Wilson

**Cc:** Hieftje, John

**Subject:** RE: Leadership Ann Arbor

Mr. Wilson, your letter was shared with the engineer handling this project on behalf of the City. It is his understanding the three lowest bidders will each be asked to present their proposals to a review group, of which the City is one part.

*Roger*

734-794-6110

rfraser@a2gov.org

---

**From:** Jack Wilson [mailto:jwilson@wiltecinc.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 11:17 AM

**To:** Fraser, Roger; Hieftje, John

**Subject:** Leadership Ann Arbor

Mayor Hieftje and Administrator Fraser,

As a participant of Leadership Ann Arbor, I would like to commend your enthusiasm and leadership of the City in these times of shortfalls that the City is currently experiencing. Leadership Ann Arbor means to me becoming more involved in the community, utilizing my skills to influence community sustainability and quality of life in the community.

My family history in Ann Arbor is a long-one. My great grandfather came over from Germany in the late 1800s to set up a clothing store in downtown on Main Street named Reule, Conlin and Fiegel. My great grandfather was also the water commissioner and my uncle ran a very successful men's clothing store on State Street named Wilds.

As a lifelong resident and business owner for over 21 years in the community, I have been very interested in the city and county government and how businesses can work closer together to create positive economic growth while supporting current values of the community.

I believe in doing business with other local businesses to support our community. This practice creates more jobs and builds strength and stability in our community, including helping residents and businesses that support the local economy. As the founder of Wiltec Technologies and Tricom, I personally strive to procure all types of services from local businesses in Ann Arbor including; our bank; insurance agent; professional services; office supplies and auto repairs among many others. I make a continuous effort to buy local services to insure that our community maintains sustainability.

4/23/2010

Recently, our company provided a quote to the Clark Construction for low voltage cabling and security for the Municipal project. It is known that we are #2 in price but have yet to have a post-bid discussion regarding our pricing and methodology regarding the implementation. It is our position that we can provide a performance-based solution that will meet all expectations of the construction schedule and assist with cost saving ideas.

Being a committed stakeholder in the Ann Arbor community should tell you of my interest in securing this work. At a minimum, I would like to have a opportunity to present our solution and I have been told that the City has this particular bid in their hands.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

JACK G. WILSON, RCDD MBA  
PRESIDENT

WILTEC TECHNOLOGIES

TEL: 734.975.2107

FAX: 734.975.2101

[jwilson@wiltecinc.com](mailto:jwilson@wiltecinc.com)

[www.wiltecinc.com](http://www.wiltecinc.com)



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**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** dresselhouse [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 9:33 PM  
**To:** Higgins, Marcia  
**Subject:** Re: lack of work on stadium

I am Gary Dresselhouse at [REDACTED] I contacted the project Manager at [erolla@a2gov.org](mailto:erolla@a2gov.org) and got my answer,thank you

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Higgins, Marcia  
**To:** dresselhouse [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:51 AM  
**Subject:** RE: lack of work on stadium

First, I like to know to who you are? Second, asked this same question myself and am awaiting a response.  
Marcia

---

**From:** dresselhouse [REDACTED] [mailto:dresselhouse@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:dresselhouse@[REDACTED])  
**Sent:** Mon 4/19/2010 8:37 AM  
**To:** Higgins, Marcia  
**Subject:** lack of work on stadium

I have not seen any work on the road for over 2 weeks,please tell me why?

**Greenshields, Rachel**

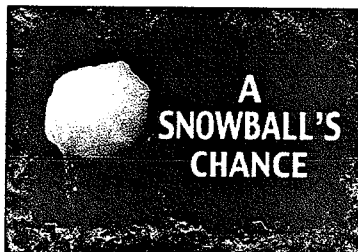
**From:** Congress.org [congressorg@capwiz.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 9:04 PM  
**To:** Hieftje, John  
**Subject:** Ten Most Hopeless Bills in Congress

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**Congress.org**  
 This Week in Congress

April 19, 2010



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**The 10 Most Hopeless Bills on Capitol Hill**

In Congress, some bills get a shot and others don't.

With more and more bills introduced each session, the number that actually make it to the president's desk is comparatively low.

During 2007 and 2008, 11,077 bills were introduced in Congress, while just 460 were signed into law. That means for every new law that session there were 23 bills that didn't make it out of Congress.

To be fair, some of those bills were resolutions congratulating sports teams that wouldn't have gone to the president or bills introduced just to make a point.

Still, some of those unenacted bills stand out for their sheer hopelessness.

[Read the complete story or learn more about the individual bills below.](#)

[1\) Opening trade with Cuba.](#) [2\) Electing shadow senators.](#) [3\) Changing presidential succession.](#) [4\) Allowing the president a third term.](#) [5\) Creating term limits for Congress.](#) [6\) Tracking gun purchases.](#) [7\) Decriminalizing personal use of marijuana.](#) [8\) Allowing everyone to join Medicare.](#) [9\) Abolishing the Federal Reserve.](#) [10\) Starting a U.S. Department of Peace.](#)

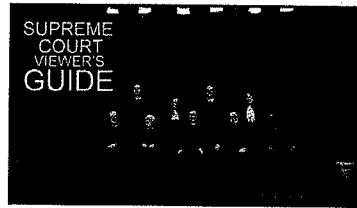
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**Signed, Sealed, Hand-Delivered!**



Though it's unclear who will replace Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, what's certain is that activist groups plan to spend millions

influencing that decision.

"We are absolutely prepared to take this head on," Mai Shiozaki, president of the liberal National Organization for Women said last week. On the other end of the spectrum, conservative groups made similar declarations to act.

The groups wield their power over the Senate — particularly the Judiciary Committee that oversees the confirmation process — by targeting constituents.

[Read more about advocacy groups and Supreme Court nominations.](#)

[Watch an episode of "D.C. Decoder" with Craig Crawford on what to look for in the nomination fight.](#)

Did you know that you can have your message hand-delivered to the door of your Members of Congress? For a small fee, we can give your letter "Extra Impact" to help make your voice heard. Select that option when filling out your message on any topic.

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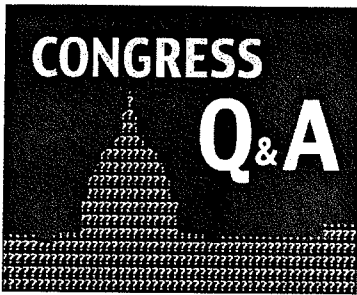
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## Congress Q&A: Appropriations



Do you have a question about Congress?

Every week, our research staff answers your questions about how Congress works, what's really in legislation being considered and where you can learn more on your own.

This week we answered a reader question about federal spending:

### Who chairs Congressional appropriations committees?

If you have a question you'd like answered, e-mail [editor@congress.org](mailto:editor@congress.org). You can also post it on [our Facebook wall](#) or write [@congressorg](#) on Twitter. Please include your name and hometown.

## Health: Illegal Immigrants Remain Uninsured



Along with abortion, the hot-button issue of illegal immigration nearly scuttled the Democratic health care overhaul.

Though controversy flared when Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) called President Obama a liar during a joint session of Congress, Democratic leaders managed to tamp the issue down by barring illegal immigrants from many of the new programs and benefits in the bill.

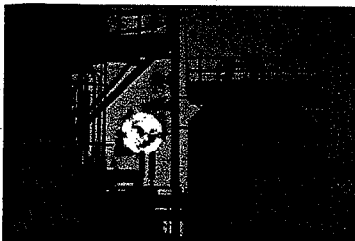
As a result, some advocates say insuring the country's 12 million illegal immigrants will soon be one of the biggest unsolved health care problems.

Under the new law, undocumented immigrants are exempt from the individual mandate requiring most Americans to buy health insurance or pay a fine. But they are also barred from

receiving Medicaid, the federal insurance program for the poor, or even buying their own insurance through statewide exchanges to be set up in 2014.

[Read more about illegal immigrants and health insurance.](#)

## Environment: Climate Bill Loses GOP Support



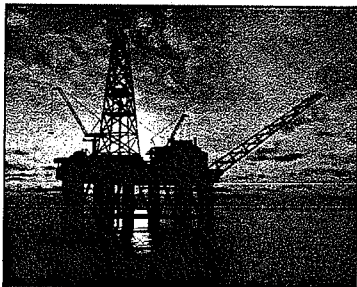
The scant Republican support Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) secured last summer that proved crucial for passage of the House's climate change bill has eroded as the midterm elections draw near — enough so that she likely would be short of votes if the same measure were on the floor today.

At least four of the eight GOP Members who voted for the climate change bill in June have since reconsidered their support and said this week that Democrats should not count on them again.

Reps. Mike Castle (R-Del.) and Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) — both moderates who are running for open Senate seats — are among those who say they now would oppose the House-passed bill and anything similar to it.

[Read more about waning Republican support for the climate bill.](#)

## Take a Stand: Offshore Drilling



President Obama has proposed allowing offshore drilling in certain areas of the United States.

Under a plan announced last week, the federal government would allow drilling along the Atlantic coastline, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the coast of Alaska.

It would not allow drilling along the Northeastern United States, the Pacific Coast and environmentally sensitive areas in Alaska.

Environmentalists groups generally oppose the plan, although some have said they would be willing to accept it as part of a broader energy bill.

Click the appropriate link below to send your letter to Obama and your Members of Congress.

### **Support Offshore Drilling**

Back President Obama's Plan

### **Expand Offshore Drilling**

Open More Areas to Exploration

### **Oppose Offshore Drilling**

Vote Against President Obama's Plan

Congress.org users have sent 931 letters so far, with 59 percent in favor expanding offshore drilling beyond Obama's proposal, 19 percent supporting Obama's proposal and 23 percent opposed to offshore drilling.

## How Congress Helps Its Friends



Members of Congress don't just raise money for their own re-elections. They also raise money for their friends.

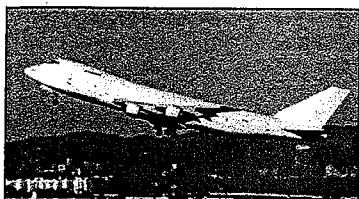
Using a type of political action committee called a "leadership PAC," politicians raise millions of dollars from their regular donors which they then give to like-minded candidates or colleagues facing a tough re-election.

The benefits to the lawmaker are obvious: The looser restrictions on donations to leadership PACs allow them to raise more money from their supporters, while the money they give other candidates helps their relationships.

Some campaign finance experts say the practice has gotten out of control, however.

[Read more about political leadership PACs.](#)

## Congress Flies for Free Overseas



Members of Congress and their staff racked up almost \$15 million worth of foreign travel in 2009, but Congress didn't have to pay the tab.

Under a Korean War-era law governing Congressional foreign travel, Congress doesn't pay for its own trips abroad, and there is no apparent limit on what the government can spend for Members' hotels, taxicabs

and room service.

When a Congressional committee holds a field hearing in Wisconsin or a Member of Congress flies to a conference in Arkansas with a few staff members, those travel costs are paid for out of the annual budgets of either the committee's or the Member's office.

But when a Congressional delegation travels overseas, the accommodations are made by the State Department and billed back to a government account that automatically refills itself and has no spending limit attached.

[Read more about the law on Congressional travel abroad.](#)

## In Other News

**From our blog:** [Who's using the radio spectrum?](#) Congress wants to look closer at how all of those iPhones, microwaves and TVs are making use of a limited resource. ... [Tea partyers are embracing Saul Alinsky.](#) After demonizing the liberal activist, many on the right are now studying his methods and even praising them. ... [Here are nine tips organizers gave them.](#) ... [Meantime, the GOP wants to borrow from the tea party.](#) Republicans unveiled a manifesto that leans on an initiative by a tea party group. ... [Some older activists aren't happy, though.](#) Longtime advocates of a flat tax questioned the tea party's domination of tax day protests. ... [Climate change may be the next fight.](#) National leaders have been telling activists to get ready. ... [Environmentalists are protesting too.](#) Three activists took a stand against coal recently.

**From CQ Politics:** [Morton Knodracke wonders whether an immigration bill will be a fix — or a weapon.](#)

## How They Voted

### Continuing Extension Act of 2010

The Senate passed this measure that would extend for two months federal unemployment benefits, flood insurance programs, increased payment rates to Medicare providers and COBRA health care premium assistance. It was then sent to the House.

Vote: 59-38 in the Senate, 3 Not Voting

### Continuing Extension Act of 2010

On Thursday, the House passed this legislation that would extend for two months federal unemployment benefits, flood insurance programs, increased payment rates to Medicare providers and COBRA health care premium assistance. It was then sent to the President, who signed it into law later that night.

Vote: 289-112, 29 Not Voting

### Clean Estuaries Act of 2010

The House approved this bill that would authorize \$50 million annually through fiscal 2016 for the EPA's National Estuary Program and would require the EPA to evaluate estuary management plans every four years. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Vote: 278-128, 24 Not Voting

*Want to track votes cast by your Members? [Sign up for our free weekly MegaVote newsletter here.](#)*

## Write a Letter to the Editor

| <b>Advocacy 101</b>                  |
|--------------------------------------|
| Communicating with Elected Officials |
| Write a Letter to Your Local Media   |
| Visiting Capitol Hill                |
| Congressional Staff                  |
| The Legislative Process              |
| State Leaders                        |

Congress.org has added a new tool for activists.

On the right-hand side of [the home page](#) under "Advocacy 101" you can now see a link to "[Write a letter to your local media.](#)"

The letters-to-the-editor tool works just like our popular tool for writing letters to your elected officials: Just enter your ZIP code or choose a state and we'll show you the local newspapers and media organizations which accept

letters.

You can also look up national newspapers such as the Washington Post and the New York Times which accept letters from readers around the country.

Writing a letter to the editor can be a powerful way to get your opinions on the issues of the day before your fellow voters. It's just one more way that Congress.org helps you get involved.

## Are You a MegaVoter?

Congress.org is surveying its users to find out how politically active you are.

[Please take a minute to answer a few questions.](#)

If you know anyone who might be interested in this newsletter, please forward this email or [subscribe here.](#)

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## **Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** esme@muniwireless.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 8:16 PM  
**To:** Hieftje, John  
**Subject:** Wireless survey for government agencies; win a Motorola GPS device

We are conducting a survey, and your response would be appreciated. If you have previously filled in this survey, please disregard this email.

Here is a link to the survey:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SaW6d4BXF9l5nuiy7\\_2fDFIA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SaW6d4BXF9l5nuiy7_2fDFIA_3d_3d)

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

Thanks for your participation!

Please note: If you do not wish to receive further emails from us, please click the link below, and you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx?sm=SaW6d4BXF9l5nuiy7\\_2fDFIA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx?sm=SaW6d4BXF9l5nuiy7_2fDFIA_3d_3d)



**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** susan wiant [swcrabb [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 8:14 PM  
**To:** Higgins, Marcia  
**Subject:** fire protection

Council Person Higgins:

Please note that I am concerned about the current level of fire and police protection in our community. Will that be discussed at tonights meeting?

Frankly...I think that Disney must have been more fun.

Wish you were my representative....oh, who is my representative on council....

swc

4/23/2010

**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** Tamara Burns [Tamara.Burns [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 7:13 PM  
**To:** Higgins, Marcia; wdkinley [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Design Guidelines on 4 /21

Hi Marcia,  
I would be happy to. Any guidelines? (no pun intended!)  
-Tamara

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Higgins, Marcia [<mailto:MHiggins@a2gov.org>]  
**Sent:** Mon 4/19/2010 10:58 AM  
**To:** wdkinley [REDACTED] Tamara Burns  
**Cc:** Higgins, Marcia  
**Subject:** Design Guidelines on 4 /21

Hi Bill and Tamara,  
I am back from vacation and realized that I have [REDACTED] Wednesday, April 21st at 5:20 pm that had taken me a while to get scheduled. So, I will not be at this week's meeting and would like to ask one of you to volunteer to chair this meeting. Please let me know if you would be willing to do this.  
Take care,  
Marcia

**Greenshields, Rachel**

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**From:** Kowalski, Matthew  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 7:14 PM  
**To:** Kowalski, Matthew; Michelle Derr; Kowalski, Matthew; Carl Luckenbach; Jean Carlberg; Julie Weatherbee; Ilene Tyler; Derezinski, Tony; Wendy Carman; Ellen Rambo; David Merchant; Chuck Carver; Anya Dale; Nancy Leff; Eppie Potts  
**Cc:** Rampson, Wendy  
**Subject:** Advisory Committee packet for meeting #4  
**Attachments:** AdvisoryCommitteeMtg#4 Agenda.pdf; ALL Focus Groups Summary.pdf

Hello Committee Members,

Attached is an agenda and an updated summary list of all focus group issues. This material will be discussed at the fourth committee meeting. The meeting will be held this Wednesday, April 21 6:00-8:00, Lower Level Conference Room, Washtenaw County Building 200 N. Main.

Thank you,

Matt

**Matthew J. Kowalski AICP**  
*City Planner*  
*City of Ann Arbor, MI*  
*734.794.6265 General*  
*ext 42612 Direct*

# **R4C/R2A Zoning Study**

Advisory Committee Meeting #4

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Lower Level Conference Room, Washtenaw County Building (200 N. Main)

## Agenda

- I. Project status update
- II. Review and discussion of updated Focus Group Meetings Summary(including Rental Property Owners)
- III. Preliminary discussion of alternatives for the study area in order to help achieve the Central Area Plan- Goals and Objectives. Discussion based on Advisory Committee and focus group feedback.
- IV. Schedule and Next Steps
- V. Other?



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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Community Development Services (734) 622-9025  
Parks & Recreation Services (734) 794-6230  
Planning & Development Services - Building (734) 794-6267  
Planning & Development Services - Planning (734) 794-6265

April 21, 2010

### Summary of Focus Group Issues:

The following is a summary of all issues gathered from the focus group sessions conducted in December 2009 and March 2010 for the R4C/R2A Zoning District Study. Planning staff has categorized and summarized the most frequently mentioned issues in **bold** for priority discussion with the Advisory Committee. This is not a comprehensive list of all items mentioned at the meetings, rather, it is intended to be a summary for discussion of the major points mentioned. Many of the comments are written as they were recorded at the meetings. Refer to the original meeting minutes for a complete list of comments.

### Central Area Plan

- **Support the Central Area Plan (CAP) and bring zoning into conformity with the goals of the plan – The CAP protects neighborhood interests and is pretty good as it is.**
- Appropriate downzoning or upzoning in the some parts of these districts as recommended in the CAP. Downzoning perhaps from R4C to R1 or R2. R2 provides more flexibility (accessory units, etc).
- Stick to the goals of the CAP. Protect, preserve, and enhance character, scale, and integrity to existing housing, recognizing distinctive character of each neighborhood. In some neighborhoods, rental housing does reflect the character of the neighborhood.

- Location of the zoning – apparently in the 60s zones were placed with the assumption that apartments would surround downtown, but single-families were already existing in that area. Now the single families are being converted to multi-unit rentals.
- How does zoning affect commercial areas in neighborhoods? Want to see them protected or add more.
  - CAP says no extension of commercial into residential areas
  - Start with neighborhoods who want that sort of thing
  - Could make commercial a special exception

### Design and Redevelopment

- **New construction and additions should fit into the scale and character of the surrounding neighborhood. Can there be a maximum building size? Should there be lot size restrictions? Revise zoning standards (Minimum/Maximum setbacks)?**
- **Can the City institute design standards? Design standards (form-based code) could include the following:**
  - **Roofs**
  - **Placement of parking**
  - **Architecture compatible with adjacent character**
  - **Open space**
  - **Front setbacks**
  - **Scale and character**
  - **Window glazing/openings percentage**
- **What areas do we want to protect and what areas could be redeveloped?**
- Create zoning incentive for preservation.
- Conservation districts may be more appropriate than preservation districts (which imply SOI standards). Preservation has environmental benefits. Initiate some kind of demolition review.
- Active open space is on the right track. Projects that appear conforming can actually be non-conforming because they have no active open space – no place for people to congregate and interact out front.
- Not all R4C/R2A zoned houses are suitable for 6 bedrooms. Because of new university housing, a lot of the houses in R4C/R2A would return to single family if they weren't converted inside.

- Why shouldn't some lots be combined to accommodate other types of high quality development?
  - City should actively promote the historic tax credit for historic R4C districts –
  - Cost factors of “tear down” and loss of energy. Is it more sustainable to fix up rather than tear down? Some are beyond repair.
  - Need to present preservation as a public benefit. Many of the older houses not in historic districts are still historic resources for the city. It is in the interest of the City to preserve the well-built properties.
  - Increasing amount of interior modifications and combining of units. Landlords combining units to achieve maximum 6 bedroom units. Most students want their own bedroom.
  - Request an Environmental Impact study for demolition and new construction.
  - Main corridors (Packard/Washtenaw/State) – transit. Can these corridors be denser?
  - Encourage service businesses in these neighborhoods so students and others don't need their cars. Can conditional zoning be a tool that would allow these uses and still maintain the character of neighborhood through its existing zoning?
- 
- Averaging of front set-backs is appropriate, could we establish a range?
    - Right now no residential FAR, so you can fill up entire setback with building. Parking can be located in rear setback. Could we explore FAR as a means to address setback issues?

## Density

- **Explore options for regulating density: Floor Area Ratio (FAR), bedrooms, occupancy or lot area. Where is the density most appropriate? Is the density of related families an issue or is it just the students and their effects that are the real problem?**
- **There are many implications to changing density that need to be considered, including: the affordability of high-rises, effects on the tax base (e.g. if R4C would decrease number of bedrooms), and changes in land use patterns (e.g. students may be pushed further out of the city).**
- If we decrease size of units, they become more livable but the code controls density by units, what if we control density by number of bedrooms – become stricter with number of bedrooms.

- If we are a little more creative in increasing density in R4C (no more than 6 bedrooms), ease up what is conforming and what's not, houses are landlocked – can't do anything to them and can't increase density – if focus of increasing density is just in R4C it will alleviate pressure in other areas.
- Conflict between R4C and R2A, to protect R2A district, density would have to increase in R4C because students want to live close to campus with more than 4 people.
- We'd be happy to put in more density, but maybe there are ways to do it without the high-rises. If your property is non-compliant you can't put another unit in your basement or add on to your house, but someone can come in and put in a PUD. We can increase density with what we already have by fitting more people in current homes. This is currently prevented by zoning.
- Clearly the R4C areas are near the downtown core; we should think about what's going to happen in the future and think as a community about how to create an urban community that's sustainable in the long-term. That means that we'll have to increase downtown and surrounding-downtown densities. If we want scale-development, that means we're not going to change anything and not increase density downtown or near-downtown. So it's important to think (central area plan was before climate change concerns, vmt concerns) – we may need to uncomfortably change some of the areas. Single family housing isn't sacrosanct. Maybe we need to look at townhouses. Otherwise development will be further out, which goes against greenbelt ideas.

## Occupancy

- **Should the occupancy limit be changed for the R4C zoning districts?**
- **Over occupancy is a big issue in rental neighborhoods. How can the city control occupancy levels better?**
- Would it be a problem if the density was families rather than students?
  - Students and families have different behavior patterns.
- Maybe make students, rather than just landlords, liable for over-occupancy. Register rentals for occupancy through the zoning office. Maybe Zoning Compliance permit for rental occupancy
- Reducing the number of occupants in the R4C would create a large number of non-conformities because of the large number of 6 bedroom units.
- Unit could be defined as a dwelling that is individually leased.



- Occupancy limits – in R2A we have a number of duplexes and rental units and there's really never a problem unless it's over-occupied because 4 is the limit.
- Legally the definition of a "family" allows 6 unrelated people to live together. But R2A only allows 4, so maybe R4C could be reduced to 4.
- Multi-family housing – Is there a way of fashioning zoning to separate true multi-family from student housing?
- Students find creative sleeping arrangements. Many students sleeping in rooms that are not meant to be bedrooms, but meet housing codes for sleeping arrangements. 4 bedroom houses may have 6 occupants, with some students sleeping in living rooms or even kitchen areas.
- There is concern that the city has been discriminating against students based on familial status.

### Enforcement

- **Lack of enforcement for occupancy, parking, neglect and building violations is seen as a real issue. Enforcement is very difficult; it is currently done through ticketing and judgment decision in the Courts system.**
- Enforcement of occupancy, parking, and height requirements could address some of the issues that people have with the 6-bedroom units.
- There have been serious problems getting consistent enforcement in student neighborhoods. Student areas are dead zone in terms of enforcement.

### Renter Preferences/ Transit

- **Diversity – it's really important to have long-term residents and students together (with well-intended land-lords) and this will alleviate student ghettos. We don't want to write zoning so areas will only be student housing. Housing should be flexible – to be rented by students or families. Having students and families live together promotes maintenance, high quality of life, and tolerance among different groups. No student districts – the populations should be more mixed.**
- **Many students need cars for access to amenities needed for daily living. More amenities and convenient transit may be more incentive for students to not bring cars.**

- Logistically the students need to be where they're at – they won't have cars if they're close to campus and will have access to amenities – don't want to push them out.
- There are areas outside of downtown that could lend itself to student housing.
- The demand for student housing is not in areas away from campus, especially for high density student housing. As much as transit is important, most students don't use AATA – there's a stigma. Even if you take the bus out to areas along Washtenaw – it's still strip malls and it's difficult to walk between shopping centers.
- There are options in the city for transit that are not taken advantage of (e.g. zip car). But there's not enough disincentive to bring a car.
- Some students choose location based on price. Cheaper living and more amenities farther out from campus.

### Affordable Housing

- **Many students will pay a lot for a sub-standard house because of the location. New development in areas close to Central Campus is more expensive. New development does not have provisions for affordable student housing, pushing some students out further.**
- **Economics drives where people live – the reason students live throughout the city is because it's cost effective for people to buy the houses and rent them out. Families are not able to rent in many places because costs are too high.**
- Affordability of existing housing? May be more affordable than new apartments.
- Having affordable housing is positive. When lots are combined in the R4C to build a new building, it's much more expensive than the house that was there. Older homes can be improved without adding to them.
- Students will live in run-down houses that are expensive because of their proximity to campus. Students are highly subsidized and can afford it so that's what drives up the price. It's not economically viable to build small buildings.
- Design is a huge issue, but so is the fact that it's the cheapest option to build the 6 bedroom. Can the market really bear that or is it just cheaper?
- New buildings may be cheaper to build, but are more expensive to rent than old houses.
- The cost of other services that make the 6 bedrooms the cheapest (e.g. sewer disconnects) need to be made relative to the number of bedrooms.

## Definitions

- **Clarify definitions in City Code, make it easier for the citizens and builders to understand exactly what is permitted and what is not permitted.**
- Building/roof height
- Irregular lots should be clarified and consistently used.
- Duplex
- Occupancy
- Building addition – what is considered a new building and what is an addition to an existing building?
- Garages – What constitutes a garage and what can it be used for.
- Non-Conforming structure and Non-conforming Use

## Miscellaneous

- **Should R4C/R2A zones outside of the central area also be addressed in a different way?**
- **Should the R2A district continue to be included in the study? There were very few issues raised about the R2A district.**
- **If the city's intent is to bring more houses into conformance, why can't they just reduce the lot size?**