

Briefs:



Patton

Butzel Long health industry attorney **Susan Patton**, has been invited to join the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's (MHA) Business Advisory Council

MHA is the statewide leader representing all of the 144 community hospitals in Michigan. The MHA Business Advisory Council is comprised of both hospital executives and representatives from the business community. It is charged with identifying emerging health care issues and trends of mutual concern to both purchasers and providers. Patton has advised the group on issues relating to HIPAA/HITECH and health care reform.

In addition, Patton was reappointed to two MHA Committees – the Patient Safety and Accountability Committee and the Small and Rural Hospital Committee. Patton has 20 years of experience in the health industry, including 22 years of experience representing nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, and serving as in-house counsel for the third largest Catholic health care system in the United States. Butzel Long has one of the leading health care practices in Michigan, and represents clients in select matters in several markets throughout the U.S.

Patton is an active member of the State Bar of Michigan and is a current member and former Chair of the Health Care Law Section. She also is a member of the State Bar of Michigan Business Law Section, and served on the Nonprofit Corporation Subcommittee. □

Hobbs+Black announced the promotion of **Robert Wight** to Director of the Mid-Michigan office located in Lansing.

Wight is a Senior Vice President and has been with Hobbs+Black for over twenty years. His career has focused on government and municipal projects

including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office Building for the GSA in Mississippi.

Under Wight's leadership the firm has developed a large industrial portfolio highlighted by national and international projects for the alternative energy company, United Solar Ovonic, as well as manufacturers including Magna International and General Motors.

Wight will lead the Mid-Michigan office continuing to provide design and solutions for various building types in all market segments.

Hobbs+Black, founded in 1965, ranks among the top ten architectural firms in Michigan. □

Recently, Wright, Griffin, Davis and Co., CPA's acknowledged two of their employees for their 30 years of service to the firm. Both **Rod Byrne** and **Cindy Cattran** joined the firm in October of 1979 and joined the partnership in 1989. □

BERLINE, a leader in advertising, marketing, and digital communications, is celebrating its 27th anniversary. Chairman Jim Berline and President Michelle Horowitz founded the award-winning company in 1982.

The agency recently added two divisions: B-DIGITAL, which is responsible for the creative management and implementation of digitally-based projects; and B-EXPERIENTIAL, a team that aims to strengthen clients' brands through promotional, event-driven, and social media campaigns.

BERLINE is headquartered in Bloomfield Hills. BERLINE's annual advertising, marketing and digital communications billings are more than \$65 million. □

The **Washtenaw Home Builders Association Foundation**, the 501 (c)(3) charitable arm of the Builders & Remodelers Association of Greater Ann Arbor has made their community service donations to three area housing related charities.

The recipients were the Salvation Army Festive Affair, Jewish Family Services, Community Action Network, Neighborhood Senior Services, and the Washtenaw Remodelers Council. All funds donated to these organizations are used to provide a variety of support to Washtenaw County residents, such as low-income or seniors, to achieve and maintain

their housing, or other housing-related service projects.

Since 2001 the WHBA Foundation has donated over \$200,000 to fund non-profit housing charities. The donations are made possible through the contributions of members of the Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater Ann Arbor, and Foundation fundraising activities. □

Shared Services Home Health Care, a subsidiary of Evangelical Homes of Michigan, was granted accreditation by The Community Health Accreditation Program, Inc. (CHAP) October 2009.

The three-year accreditation was granted to Shared Services Home Health Care following an extensive on-site survey that was completed in July. The accreditation is only given to agencies, which have displayed a commitment to excellence above and beyond the required basic care standards set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Founded in 1965 as a joint venture between the American Public Health Association and the National League for Nursing, CHAP became an independent, non-profit corporation in 2001. For the last two decades the organization has been responsible for surveying home health care and hospice services to determine whether they meet the Medicare Conditions of Participation.

Shared Services Home Health Care is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Evangelical Homes of Michigan based in Ann Arbor, which provides Medicare certified, skilled nursing and therapy related home care services to clients in a six county area, including Washtenaw, Wayne, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Oakland. □

Stout Systems announced it has hired **Tom Harkaway** as Senior Software Engineer. Harkaway is a 23-year industry veteran whose career includes hands-on technical work, project management and executive-level functions. He is now working with one of Stout's major customers on their medical imaging product.

Stout also announced a new public service for the local IT industry—the **Software Development Study Group**. The group meets every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in different Ann Arbor locations. Each meeting is led by a volunteer expert from the IT community who

actively facilitates the learning of technologies and methodologies that often take programmers a substantial time investment to learn on their own.

Stout Systems is an Ann Arbor-based software consulting and staffing company founded in 1993. □

Artist **Nawal Motawi**, Motawi Tileworks, Ann Arbor, is a finalist in the 2010 NICHE Awards for the piece entitled "Tile Quilt, Retro Lime" in the Ceramics: Molded category. Only 161 entries out of nearly 1,000 submissions were named finalists in this year's competition.

Winners of the 2010 NICHE Awards will be announced at a ceremony in Philadelphia in mid-February in conjunction with the Buyers Market of American Craft.

The Motawi Tileworks is a 17-year-old handmade art tile studio located in Ann Arbor and founded by Nawal Motawi. □

Forty-nine Butzel Long attorneys have been chosen for inclusion in Super Lawyers, a listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Three of the Butzel Long attorneys also were named a Michigan Rising Star 2009.

The following attorneys were selected from Butzel Long's Ann Arbor office: **James C. Adams**, Real Estate; **Robert A. Boonin**, Employment & Labor; **J. Michael Hugert**, Intellectual Property Litigation; **Mark W. Jane**, Michigan Rising Star 2009 – Employee Benefits/ERISA; **Leonard M. Niehoff**, First Amendment/Media/Advertising; **James E. Stewart**, Intellectual Property; and **C. Peter Theut**, International. □

The Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater Ann Arbor (BRAG AA) held their annual Pillar Awards and presented awards to members in recognition of their service and achievements.

Jack Campbell, Marhofer/Campbell Building Co, Inc. was named as Builder of the Year. Associate of the Year is **Tom Covert** of Atwell-Hicks, Inc. These awards honor a member in each of the two primary membership categories of the association, for their outstanding service to not only BRAG AA, but

also to the profession as a whole.

Distinguished Service to the Building Industry honoree is **Diane Gilson**, CPA, CPA, Info Plus Accounting, Inc. Named for Distinguished Service to Government is **Don Schnettler**, Washtenaw County Building Department.

The Outstanding Committee Chair is **Geoff Perkins**, The Perkins Construction Company, and **Roy Privatte**, New Tech Drywall, was named Outstanding Trade Contractor. Recipient of the Grand Spike Award was **Don Hughes** of Benz Insurance.

Recognized for their collaboration on green building projects were **Doug Selby**, Meadowlark Builders and **Michael Klement** of Architectural Resource, LLC, who received the Built Green Achievement Award.

Other awards presented were the Distinguished Service to the Community and the Keppler Award, both presented to **David Haig**, D.A. Haig Construction, LLC. □

Meadowlark Builders, in partnership with Architectural Resource, won two top honors in this year's Master Design Awards. The Gold Award for a bathroom at \$30,000 to \$50,000 and the Gold Award for a Green Remodel.

Both of these awards are for a home remodel project in Ann Arbor that has become the first USGBC Platinum level whole-house project in Michigan and only the fifth in the entire nation. Meadowlark Builders also received the Bronze Award for a Whole House \$200-\$500,000 Silver Award for Residential Specialty and an Honorable Mention for Residential Specialty from *Qualified Remodeler Magazine*. □

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Briefs:



Bodenbach



Fuller

McKinley, Inc. has been appointed Receiver for the Central Avenue Apartments in Detroit. The property consists of 32-unit apartments. The appointment or this property was made in the Wayne County Circuit Court.

McKinley has also been appointed Receiver for Eagle Pond Heights located in Walled Lake. Eagle Pond is a 212-unit apartment property. The appointment was made in the Oakland County Circuit Court.

It was also announced that McKinley was appointed Receiver for Point West Apartments, a 240-unit property located in Westland. The appointment was made in the United States District Court Eastern District of Michigan Southern Division.

McKinley, founded in 1968, is a well-respected, national real estate investment firm that owns and operates \$2.4 billion in assets in 139 properties for its own account and for select clientele. □

Agency CEO, Janet Muhleman announced the appointment of **Pat Cuda** to head up the re:group media team. Cuda's experience includes Ross Roy, Inc., as Senior Vice President Media Director where she managed media for K-Mart, Domino's Pizza, Detroit Edition, Michigan Bell, Big Boy's, Office Max, Sports Authority, Chrysler Mopar and others; and as Senior Vice President for SGM Media Services Cuda also opened and ran the media operations for Marc, Inc. headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

re:group is a privately held, brand-marketing firm located in Ann Arbor. □

Ann Arbor SCORE announced the expansion of its free business counseling service and hours at their new location at Cleary University, 3601 Plymouth Road in Ann Arbor. Michelle Webster, SCORE Chapter Chairperson made the announcement. The office at Cleary University will open on Tuesday, December 2

Ann Arbor SCORE's counselors provide business advice on everything from how to write a business plan to cash flow management, to growing your existing business. Business owners

can access SCORE counseling services in face-to-face sessions in the Ann Arbor chapter office. Business training workshops and seminars on a range of topics are also offered. There is no charge for counseling, no matter how many sessions are needed. Each session will last about one hour. To schedule an appointment you can call 1-800-686-1883 or email info@annarborscore.org.

The Betty Brigade is partnering with Briarwood Mall and the Salvation Army to support members of the Ann Arbor community who are in need during the holidays. Betty Brigade will be facilitating a volunteer-run coat and bag check at Briarwood Mall during the holiday shopping season, with all donations going to support the Salvation Army. They will also serve as a collection point for toys and clothing donated as part of the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.

The Betty Brigade is a full service personal assistance/concierge business owned and operated in Ann Arbor. The firm was founded in 2003 by Sharon McRill. The Betty Brigade serves residential and business clients in organizing their lives in a multitude of ways. □

The worldwide household goods transportation company for exceptional professional achievement has honored **Corrigan Moving Systems**, Ann Arbor, and an agent of United Van Lines.

President Richard H. McClure made the announcement of the recognition, conferred as part of Van Line's annual awards program.

Corrigan Moving Systems received the President's Club Award, \$1 million level, honoring agents who have generated at least \$1 million in sales of the United system during the past year. United Van Lines, with headquarters in suburban St. Louis, is one of the nation's largest household goods mover and maintains a network of 1,000 affiliated agencies in 135 countries around the world. □

Tubelite Inc. has added **Mike Nicklas** as a national sales manager helping grow the company's architectural aluminum products nationwide. As part of Tubelite's

sales team, Nicklas reports to Steve Green, director of sales, and works in close collaboration with the company's client development managers, marketing, client services and engineering staff.

Before joining Tubelite, Nicklas served as the architectural sales and marketing manager at JE Berkowitz, LP, an architectural glass fabricator located in Pedrickton, New Jersey. Nicklas also worked in various sales and marketing positions for 10 years with PPG in the glass and architectural metals groups and later with Pittco engineered Systems, Inc.

Established in 1945, Tubelite has approximately 165 employees and is part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc. Tubelite's headquarters, distribution, warehousing and assembly operations are in Walker, Michigan. The company's aluminum extrusion operations facility is located in Reed City, Michigan. □



Collins

David Collins is launching a new business, Qisol. Qisol will provide meters for monitoring the performance of solar hot water heaters. Collins was one of six student companies chosen for Wayne State University's E2 Challenge, housed at TechTown. With the help of funding from the Michigan Initiative for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, the program supports Wayne State students in exploring the potential of their own start-up company and preparing for outside investment. The student groups that won the challenge received financial support and a summer-long mentoring program to develop their business idea.

The idea for Qisol began a few years ago when Collins became curious about the amount of energy his own solar hot water heater produced. He began surveying experts in the industry and learned that system monitors were not readily available. Because solar water heater failure

is fairly common, the demand for the technology was high. Collins worked to move his idea forward, but encountered many obstacles because of lack of support, guidance and feedback. He entered the E2 Challenge hoping for outside expertise and was chosen for the program because of the high potential of his business venture. The program provided Collins valuable training in marketing, educated him on corporate structure, and provided the backing that made conversations with industry leaders possible. "The biggest benefit of the E2 Challenge was being able to say I got a grant to develop my business. Once I could say somebody else believes in me, somebody is supporting me to do this, people wanted to listen. It made me more than just some guy with an idea," Collins said.

Collins now has a prototype of his product, three electrical engineers and two Web designers working for him, and has submitted an application for a Small Business Innovation Research grant from the Department of Energy in September. He plans to launch his business in early 2010. □



O'Sullivan

Yeo & Yeo, CPAs & Business Consultants announced that **Thomas A. O'Sullivan**, CPA, CFE, a manager in the firm's Ann Arbor office, has been accredited as a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). A CFE is a specialist educated and trained in the prevention, detection and deterrence of fraud. All CFEs must meet the rigorous criteria for admission to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Over 2,400 CFEs are actively fighting fraud today.

O'Sullivan provides audit and tax planning and preparation services. Yeo & Yeo, P.C. is a certified public accounting and consulting firm that serves individuals, businesses, not-for-profit, education and government entities. □

In-House Hospice (IHH) announced that Volunteer Coordinator **Maureen Bodenbach** was appointed President of the Michigan Hospice Volunteer Coordinators Association and **Laura Fuller** as its Director of Consumer Education, a newly created position.

Bodenbach works in the IHH Howell Team Site, and has been with the company for four years and was previously the Vice President of MHVCA.

Fuller is a Certified Meeting Professional and was previously with the Health Care Association of Michigan where she was the Director of Education & Convention.

In-House Hospice is one of the leading hospice providers in Michigan and Ohio serving over 500 patients every day. □

Yaldo Eye Centers has named BERLINE its advertising agency of record. Yaldo Eye Centers specialize in both Advanced Vision Correction and Comprehensive General Eye Care. BERLINE Chairman Jim Berline made the announcement.

With locations in Farmington Hills and Dearborn Heights, Yaldo Eye Centers has been serving the greater Detroit metropolitan area since 1993 and is a leading Lasik surgery center. □

Briefs:



Jim Taylor



Jan Taylor

Jan Taylor also worked for the Ann Arbor News as Major Account Representative in Display Advertising and was promoted to Classified Ad Manager at The Kalamazoo Gazette. Leaving the Gazette in 1985, she returned to Ann Arbor and joined Jim Taylor as a partner in J and J.

Over the past 25 years the firm has assisted the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau in starting their own publications and making them a profit center for these non-profits.

The firm also has many long-time clients that they provide regular marketing services for. □

Pioneer Construction, a full-service general contracting, design-build, and construction management company in Michigan, announced it has received the 2009 Construction Safety Award of Excellence from the Western Michigan Chapter of the Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC), a construction industry association.

The announcement was made by Tim Schowalter, president and CEO of Pioneer Construction.

The ABC Construction Safety Award of Excellence is the highest safety honor presented by the organization. It recognizes companies with exemplary safety performance and programs, as well as companies that exhibit a continued commitment to job site safety by maintaining safety programs, policies and procedures.

The firm was also recognized for three projects that received ABC's Renovation award, they also won the Excellence in Construction award for their work on the Grand Valley State University Laker Turf Building.

Founded in 1933, Pioneer Construction is one of the largest, full-service general contracting, design-build, and construction management companies in Michigan. □

On December 1, 2009, **J and J Advertising/Publishing Inc.** will begin their 25th year in the marketing and publishing business.

Owners Jim and Jan Taylor have served the community for the past 25 years with their marketing expertise and niche magazines. Presently they publish three magazines: *ann arbor area BUSINESS MONTHLY* (which you are now reading), *Independent Times* which is the only local magazine dedicated to persons 55 and better, first published in April of 1990, and *Our House Magazine* a local homeowner magazine which includes editorial about local builders, remodelers and suppliers. *Our House Magazine* was first published in 2006.

In addition to publishing, the firm produces print advertising, newsletters, and directories for local clients.

Jim Taylor spent 30 years with the Ann Arbor News, starting as a sales person and concluding his career there as Display Advertising Manager. After leaving the News he started his own firm in 1983.

You can now view and read the "Briefs" section of **ann arbor area BUSINESS MONTHLY** each month on our website: www.annarborbusinessmagazine.com

New Temporary Visitor Rules At Local Hospitals

During the current flu season, and until further notice, the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and Saint Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) are now putting in place temporary visitor guidelines designed to slow the spread of all types of flu.

These new guidelines apply to all UMHS hospitals, health centers and other treatment locations throughout Southeast Michigan at the SJMHS hospitals and health centers including St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, Livingston, Oakland, Saline, St. Mary Mercy Livonia and Chelsea Community Hospital.

Both major health systems ask for the public's help in protecting patients by cooperation with these guidelines:

- People who are experiencing flu-like symptoms should not come to any UMHS or SJMHS facility for any reason, except to seek care. This includes not only patients' loved ones but also those with business reasons for visiting these facilities. Flu-like symptoms are a fever over 100 degrees, together with a cough, sore throat, or runny nose. Exceptions will be allowed only with the approval of the patient's care team.

- No visitors under the age of 16 will be allowed to visit any hospitalized patient, except in certain circumstances that must be cleared by the patient's care team. Visitors under the age of 16 are strongly discouraged in outpatient settings as well. This age group is most susceptible to the H1N1 flu virus.

- No patient who has been admitted to any hospital or emergency department belonging to either health system may have more than two visitors to their room at a time. Visitors should be limited to those who are essential to the emotional and physical support of the patient.

More information on the new guidelines, and on other flu-related topics, is available on these websites: www.med.umich.edu/flu and www.sjmercyhealth.org.

Those with questions about the new policy may email U-M at ask-umhs@umich.edu or visit the "Contact Us" section at www.sjmercyhealth.org. ■

Of Note:

Humane Society of Huron Valley Opens New Shelter

After years of planning and fundraising, the new Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) animal shelter opened its doors on October 28 at 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor. The new shelter is located just behind the 55-year-old facility and will keep the same address and phone number.

"We are so excited to finally open our new facility," said Tanya Hilgendorf, HSHV Executive Director. "We think Washtenaw County can be very proud to have this state-of-the-art facility to care for our community's homeless, abused, injured and unwanted animals. Our companion animals are an important part of our lives. They give so much to us. When they come here, they are often traumatized and deserve a healthy, low-stress environment that will help them recover and find a new loving home. This facility will be a place of healing and as a second chance for so many more animals. It is also a supportive environment for people as well—welcoming for visitors and supporting the great work of our staff and volunteers. We are just ecstatic and are grateful to all the people who helped us get here."

Although the new shelter is open, HSHV must raise \$1.3M to finish the capital campaign. The Humane Society of Huron Valley is an independent 505(c)(3) non-profit organization serving all of Washtenaw County, Canton and Plymouth, and relies solely on donations from businesses and individuals to support their community programs. ■

ATHENA Award Nominations Sought

The Woman's Council of Washtenaw announced the 23rd annual ATHENA Award in Ypsilanti. Nominations are now being accepted for the ATHENA Award, which will be presented on March 16, 2010 at Eagle Crest Golf Course in Ypsilanti.

The award is presented to an exceptional individual who has achieved excellence in her/his business or profession, has served the community in a meaningful way and has assisted women in their attainment of professional goals and leadership skills.

The ATHENA Award was first presented in 1982 in Lansing and has grown to include presentations to more than 5,000 individuals in hundreds of cities in the United States, as well as Canada, China, Russia and the United Kingdom. The award takes the form of a hand-cast bronze sculpture symbolizing the strength, courage and wisdom of the recipient.

Nominations will be accepted until January 4, 2010 and forms may be obtained by contacting Yodit Mesfin Johnson at 734/686-0866 or yimesfin@new.org. ■

Pick 3. Spend 50. Support Your Local Economy

That's the rallying cry of The 3/50 Project a grass-roots initiative to encourage people to shop and buy locally. Homeowner Services of America, Inc. (HSA), a Saline-based home remodeling firm, has signed on as an official supporter of the program, whose tag line is "Saving the brick and mortar our nation is built on."

The 3/50 Project asks each employed adult to pick three independently owned businesses in their area that would be missed most if the businesses were gone. The participant then commits to spend at least \$50 at each of these establishments.

The program's website, www.the350project.net, quantifies the impact on a community of shopping and buying locally in this way. For every \$100 spent in local independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures.

"With holiday shopping in swing, says David Rhoads, HSA owner, "following the 3/50 plan—pick 3, spend 50, shop locally, can be a great way to show support for our community businesses." ■

Of Note:

ATMP Consulting Group Launches Service For Private Practice Physicians

ATMP Consulting Group, a strategic IT company specializing in electronic medical record (EMR) standards, recently announced a new service to help private practice physicians select, implement, and adapt IT solutions for electronic medical record alignment and compliance.

In an effort to improve patient care, the health care industry aims to have every patient's paper medical history, regardless of his or her location, doctor or insurance company, converted and stored electronically within a national EMR standard.

Having records stored electronically makes it easier for patients to move from one doctor to another and eliminate the redundancy of records.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, \$19 billion is available to doctors and clinics, as an incentive to invest in the technology upgrades necessary to bring their practices, and their patient's records, up to government-mandated EMR standards. Physicians who must meet the criteria and implement a national EMR standard system will be reimbursed through Medicare and Medicaid bonuses spread out over a five-year time frame. "In order to qualify for these bonuses, physicians must choose an EMR system that provides meaningful use. They must adhere to specific guidelines set forth by Medicare and Health and Human Services," cautions Joe Dylewski, a health care IT professional and founder of ATMP Consulting Group.

ATMP Consulting Group is a Michigan-based company. President Joe Dylewski has been involved in Information Technology Leadership for more than 25 years. ■

Position Statement From Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce: Washtenaw County 2010/11 Recommended Budget

The Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce has conducted a review of the Washtenaw County 2010/11 recommended budget. We commend County officials and staff for successfully addressing a seemingly insurmountable \$30 million budget deficit largely through organizational restructuring and budget reductions, as opposed to seeking tax increases.

We also commend County officials and staff for wisely redressing the present budget deficit incrementally, in 2 phases, and for exercising sound financial planning by continuing to budget in 2-year cycles.

We recognize that difficult employee concessions, both union and nonunion alike, were sorely needed to balance this budget. We commend these public servants for their shared sacrifice, be it through relinquishment of a previously promised salary increase or acceptance of a salary decrease.

We remain concerned, however, that all County employees continue to receive

defined benefit retirement plans. As experience has shown, future liabilities associated with such plans are unsustainable. The time is ripe to explore alternatives, to shift to defined contribution plans akin to those of the private sector.

We are aware that the Board of Commissioners recently chose to levy a 0.04-mill tax to fund economic development and agricultural activities within the County. We insist that no general fund revenues be used to supplement these monies while this tax remains in effect.

As the County moves forward, we urge it to focus on funding its core, mandated functions and, in order to maximize that funding, to continue to seek efficiencies in service delivery. For instance, the County should continue to pursue successful partnerships and shared/regionalized services with the 28 local units of government within its boundaries. There is needless redundancy and duplication; there are economies of scale yet to be realized. The County and City of Ann Arbor data center merger circa

City Of Ann Arbor Planning & Development Services Changes

The City of Ann Arbor construction code fund (managed by the planning and development services unit) has experienced a significant reduction in revenue over the past year, due to the rippling effect the economy is having in our region. Funding for construction code activities is limited to the revenue generated by these activities, and the city is required to adjust expenses when significant revenue reductions are experienced. A significant reassessment of services has come as a result.

Since staffing costs in the construction code fund account for over 75 percent of all expenses in this fund, staff and service/scheduling changes will go into effect Monday, Nov. 16. Staffing will be reduced by three positions. Construction inspection staff will now operate with two building inspectors, one electrical inspector, one plumbing/mechanical inspector and one mechanical inspector. Housing inspections will continue to operate with six inspectors. Clerical support for the entire unit

will be reduced to four positions.

To further reduce expenses, the following service changes will go into effect on Monday, November 16:

NEW Hours of Operation Construction Services and Rental Housing will shift to "winter" hours at 2000 S. Industrial beginning Monday, November 16:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: open from 9 a.m. to noon; closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.; reopen from 1 to 4 p.m.

- Thursdays: the office is open for business from 1 to 4 p.m. only. The cash register will close at 4 p.m.

- Tuesdays remain as the over-the-counter permit days, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Planning, Zoning, Historic Preservation and Appeals continue to be located on the sixth floor of City Hall (100 N. Fifth Avenue). "Winter" hours are as follows:

- Open daily from 8 a.m. to noon; closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. and reopen from 1 to 5 p.m. The cash register will close at 4 p.m.

- To meet with a planner or historic district staff member, an appointment is needed. Please call 734.794.6265.

Construction Inspections

Construction inspections take place Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Because of the reduced staffing, please plan ahead to schedule your inspections. Construction inspectors are available to meet by appointment between 7:30 to 8 a.m. and by

walk-in or appointment between 3 to 4 p.m. daily. Call 734.794.6269 for an appointment.

There are several options for scheduling construction inspections:

- Through the Integrated Voice Response (IVR) telephone scheduling up to 10 days in advance: call 734.794.6267, then select Option 2.

- Over the Internet at www.a2gov.org/trakit. Inspection results can also be viewed online at on this Web page.

- Through the office during regular business hours: call 734.794.6267.

Rental Housing Inspections

Rental housing inspections take place Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rental housing inspectors are available to meet by appointment between 7:30 to 9 a.m. daily. Call 734.794.6264 for an appointment.

The planning and development services unit Web site is being updated to provide information to apply for permits, understand city regulations, find the Planning Commission schedule and more.

The City of Ann Arbor is committed to maintaining a high level of service even through these reductions. Patience will be appreciated as the new processes are implemented. Web visitors may subscribe to receive mail updates pertaining to the city's planning and development services unit by going to www.a2gov.org, clicking on the red envelope at the top right of the screen and following the sign-up instructions. ■

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March 2009 is a prime example of the success to be had.

We also urge the County to continue to plan in light of uncertain economic times ahead. For example, in this budget cycle outside agency contributions were restored, to a certain extent, contrary to the County Administrator's recommendations. Should such contributions need to be revisited in future budget cycles, contingency plans should already be in place.

At the outset of this budgeting process, County officials and staff engaged the business community. We encourage them to do so in the future, and with greater frequency should the need arise. As structural reforms aimed at greater government efficiency are sought, be they here in Washtenaw County or in Lansing, we are here to lend our voice in support.

Note: Our review and analysis would not be possible without the assistance of Washtenaw County Administration. In particular, we kindly thank County Administrator Bob Guenzel for his time and assistance.