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**Dearborn, Michigan 48128**

Volume 31

July 2015

Number 6

## NEXT MEETING

**TUESDAY JULY 7, 2015**

**NETWORKING & DINNER**

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6:00 - 7:15 ..... Dinner and Networking

7:30 ..... Meeting

**Thanks to everyone  
who helped with  
the picnic. Hope  
everyone had a  
great time!**

## **SPEAKER/TOPIC**

*We will be having a panel of  
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your questions.*

**For Any Questions Please Call:**  
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**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
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**Hosted by our New Director**

**- Bobbi Nied-Broderick**

**3RD TUESDAY MEETING**

**JULY 21, 2015 @ 6:00PM**

**WHEN 3rd Tuesday of the month**

*Join us for a casual evening with like-minded individuals to  
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**For More Info: Bobbi (734) 946-6280 or Bill 734-934-9091**

# Membership Application

New Member ( ) Renewal ( )

**ANNUAL DUES** Family — \$125.00 - (One Address — 2 People)

Single meeting fee for non-members is \$20.00 per person, which will be applied to the annual dues if you join the next month.

*(we hope this will encourage people to join)*

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## NEXT MEETINGS

### MONTHLY MEETING

- Tuesday July 7, 2015
- Tuesday August 4, 2015

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tuesday July 14, 2015
- Tuesday August 11, 2015

**Investor Get-Together — July 21st**  
**Meeting Starts at 6:00pm**

## **Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne County**

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# Problems multiply as meth's grip on Michigan tightens

By Eric Lacy - Michigan.com

LANSING - When Tim Haney saw yellow police barrier tape surrounding a building in downtown Charlotte two years ago, he joked to himself that a methamphetamine lab must have gone bad.

It only took a few minutes for this former addict - now 11 years clean - to find out that a real meth lab had exploded and caused thousands of dollars' worth of damage near City Hall and the Fire Department.

"You know there are addicts," said Haney, a 47-year-old married father of two. "But I just had no idea that something going on here was on the same level as big cities."

Since 2013, Michigan police officers have found more than 1,500 meth labs and dump sites for lab equipment and the dangerous chemical byproducts that come from producing the highly addictive stimulant.

The number last year, 861, was a record and adds to the Great Lakes State's reputation as one of the fastest growing areas for production and distribution of the drug.

Michigan State Police Sgt. Steven Spink describes Michigan's meth crisis as "a real nightmare" that has stretched state and local public safety budgets to the limit. No community appears safe.

"Meth is nasty stuff," Spink said. "We've seen people that have gone to the hospital because they've been burnt while trying to cook it, and they start cooking it again the day they're out."

Labs are a year-round problem in Michigan, and April is typically the month where dumping sites start popping up along highways, residential streets, parks and other public spaces.

It's not uncommon for police officers to find dangerous chemicals used to cook meth stored in coolers, backpacks, trash bags and soda bottles just a few miles away from where the drug was cooked, Spink said.

Cleanup costs for a meth lab or dump site can range anywhere from \$500 to \$2,500.

Since federal funds to cover some meth-related cleanup have ebbed in recent years, it adds more pressure at the state and local levels to find answers.

The Michigan Legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder set limitations last year on availability of cold and allergy medications that can be used to create meth.

A law went in effect Jan. 1 that limits the purchase of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine or a mixture of the drugs to no more than 9 grams within a 30-day period. The law also prohibits a person from possessing more than 12 grams of either chemical or a mixture of the two.

Officials agree that educating the public about meth, its production and distribution, and the hold it can have on addicts is one of the most proactive ways to address the problem.

Haney is an outpatient counselor at Michigan Therapeutic Consultants in Lansing who has seen the number of clients trying to recover from meth, opiates and other drugs rise from 75 to more than 160 in the past year.

Meth's grip on Michigan is easy to understand; it's cheap to make and always in demand because of its euphoric effects, Haney said.

"When you first start using it, you feel like you're invincible and that nothing can stop you," said Haney, who was an addict for nearly eight years. "Then you realize you haven't been to sleep for three days, you're seeing crazy things and you're hearing voices."

Call the State Police anonymous tip Me at 866-638-4847 to report suspicious activity that could be meth-related.

Reprinted from the Detroit Free Press & submitted by Wayne Koehler, Pres, R.E.I.A. of Wayne County

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12/14

## BOARD MEMBERS INFORMATION

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# Bills Aiming to Protect Property from Overzealous Forfeiture Clear First Hurdle

*House overwhelmingly approves eight bills*

By ANNE SCHIEBER

House lawmakers overwhelmingly passed a package of bills that will improve uniformity, transparency and accountability for the practice of civil asset forfeiture in Michigan and raise the burden of proof in cases from “preponderance of evidence” to “clear and convincing.” Another bill prohibits police from seizing cars in possession cases of one ounce or less of marijuana. There were eight bills in total (HB 4499, 4500, 4503, 4504, 4505, 4506, 4507, 4508) and all except 4508, the bill protecting vehicles in marijuana possession, passed by 100 or more votes.

Sponsors of reform were encouraged by the strength of passage and think that will bid well for favorable reception in the Michigan Senate.

“I think I did my diligence as chair of the Judiciary Committee (which reviewed the bills initially). I was a prosecutor and did forfeiture cases. I had contacts and got their input and knew the issues,” said Rep. Klint Kesto, R-Commerce Township, who sponsored one of the bills, HB 4504.

“As far back as the Ten Commandments and ‘thou shalt not steal,’ private property rights has been a defining value in the Judeo Christian ethic. These bills are all about protecting property rights,” said Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland, who sponsored HB 4499.

Also in favor of the bills was Rep. Tom Leonard, R-DeWitt Township, a former drug prosecutor in Flint.

“I never witnessed abuse but always questioned where it could happen. Anytime you have a system in place that doesn’t have heightened scrutiny in place and it is not transparent, it opens the door for abuse. Today was a great step and huge victory for the people of Michigan,” Leonard said.

The bills do not end civil asset forfeiture altogether. But Rep. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, who sponsored the bill on vehicle seizures in marijuana cases, supports such a change. He believes the current bills are a good first step.

“We are leading toward meaningful reform. We are targeting the worst abuses and for now I think this is a responsible way to approach this,” Irwin said.

Kesto thinks once more stringent and uniform reporting requirements in place, lawmakers will have a better idea how far they need to go in protecting private property.

“Once you start gathering the data, you can analyze it. And once it is clear and you have consistent reporting, then we can look at the data and do this better,” Kesto said.

He says currently there is no way to verify what has been seized and forfeited. Police may deny seizing all property claimed by individuals because there is no documentation.

Leonard also voted for the bill.

The main bill, House Bill 4504, creates the Uniform Forfeiture Reporting Act, which requires all police agencies to report the number of forfeiture proceedings, their status, an inventory list, the date and value of property seized and its final disposition. The Michigan State Police would compile this information each year and post the data on its website.

Irwin believes that with stricter reporting requirements, police may think twice about what is forfeited and why.

“I think there is going to be some self-correction. This can have a big impact on the potential to protect the injured, just like we saw in body cameras on police in California,” said Irwin.

Michigan scored a “D minus” in a 2010 review in civil asset forfeiture laws by the Institute of Justice. The institute testified in support of the bills, as did the ACLU, the National Federation of Independent Business, Michigan Moms United, and Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP).

Taken from michigancapitolconfidential.com and submitted by Bill Beddoes

# House Road Plan Leaves Plenty of Money for Pure Michigan Campaign

Threats that plan to fix roads jeopardizes state's tourism campaign is a red herring

By JACK SPENCER

Republican road funding plan. Credited largely to House Speaker Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, the plan would earmark specified amounts of future state income tax revenue to roads, thereby avoiding major tax hikes. Income tax revenue is projected to grow by a larger amount than road repair earmarks, meaning there would still be more money available for other spending.

But the plan would nevertheless take hundreds of millions of increased income tax dollars off the table that would otherwise be available for additional non-road spending, which places it squarely in the rhetorical crosshairs of the Lansing establishment's government-centric culture.

In addition to the income tax earmarks, the plan is also attracting Lansing opposition due to a provision that would transfer \$187 million from corporate welfare programs to road repairs. On the day the plan was announced in mid-May, Steve Arwood, head of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (the state's corporate welfare arm) began sounding a particular false alarm.

Arwood claimed the proposal would put in jeopardy the popular Pure Michigan advertising campaign, which is overseen by the MEDC. That claim is unwarranted. The MEDC budget is \$400 million annually, which means that even if \$187 million of it were shifted to roads, there would still be \$215 million available to fund the Pure Michigan program, which currently spends \$29 million. In other words, the only threat to Pure Michigan funding would be if the MEDC itself - which has 52 employees with salaries in excess of \$100,000 - decided not to fund it.

Prominent opponents of the House plan, including ones who have consistently pursued a large tax hike for road funding, have echoed the groundless concerns about Pure Michigan. More than likely the ruse was employed because Pure Michigan is the most visible and possibly most popular MEDC program. The fact that the House road plan clearly would not endanger its funding was apparently deemed irrelevant.

Elements of the regular news media also picked up the theme, apparently without bothering to look at the actual



budgetary details. Seemingly, much of the media has judged that a little thing like examining the basic math involved should not get in the way of their story.

On Thursday, Michigan Capitol Confidential asked Cotter if he would consider placing language in the bills specifically authorizing continued funding for Pure Michigan, so as to quiet the accusations.

“Yes, actually we did that yesterday in committee with a series of amendments that make it clear our intent is that Pure Michigan be funded,” Cotter said. “Not only that, but we backed it up with budget language that would actually slightly increase funding for Pure Michigan.”

“Under our plan, MEDC would have to do some belt tightening,” Cotter continued. “Our position is that maintaining the roads should be considered a vital part of economic development. However, the way this has played out, because Pure Michigan is popular, there has been an effort to promote an inaccurate perception that Pure Michigan is somehow threatened by the plan. We need to make it very clear that that is not so.”

Michigan Capitol Confidential asked Cotter what he thought the chances are that the House Republican plan, or major portions of it, would be enacted.

“It’s hard to say,” Cotter said. “Our purpose is not to just to see it pass so that we can get credit for moving it. We believe in this plan. But this issue will not ultimately be determined by us alone. I think we’ll be seeing the Senate’s plan pretty soon.”

“I wouldn’t say that I expect everything in our plan to be in the final legislation,” Cotter continued. “I am truly committed to getting this issue resolved and I believe our plan is a real good start.”



## **New regulations mean you'll be paying more for a water heater**

If you need a water heater, but aren't looking to spend a lot of money, now might be the time to buy.

New federal regulations that went into effect April 16 require all new water heaters to meet updated standards to promote energy efficiency.

But these changes translate into more expensive - and slightly larger - heaters. However, paying a little more now could mean paying less later.

Manufacturers are allowed to sell their remaining stock of old models, but all newly made heaters must meet the new U.S. Department of Energy requirements.

"Vendors are shoring up their stock because they know it's cheaper. Contractors will want to spend less and make sales to customers," said Scott Johnson, president of Macomb Mechanical, a Sterling Heights-based contracting company.

Experts estimate that buyers have about two to three months before the stock of older, less-expensive heaters runs out.

The new heaters will cost about \$100 to \$200 more or approximately 20% higher than current costs, depending on the model.

The DOE forecasts that the updated National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 standards will mean approximately \$63 billion in energy bill savings for products shipped from 2015 to 2044 and an estimated 172.5 million metric tons fewer carbon dioxide emissions, which is equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions of about 33.8 million automobiles.

Now, before you rush out for an older heater, paying a little more now might save you in the long run.

According to Johnson of Macomb Mechanical, a typical water heater - natural gas-powered, 40-gallon capacity - costs around \$300. He expects the price to bump up to \$360.

"If you're saving \$5 a month and \$60 a year and if a heater will last you five to 15 years, everything after that is money in your pocket," he said. "Whatever the reason the government is mandating this is, it saves you money."

To get the heaters to run more efficiently, they now must be better insulated. The form that generally takes is more foam insulation between the inner tank lining and the outer one, adding inches to the height and circumference of the heater.

For people whose water heater space is very tight, even a couple of inches can mean trouble.

"Some manufacturers have made tanks slightly smaller, so maybe there's 38 gallons of capacity, so you can keep the jacket size smaller, but then, you're going to get less (hot water)," said Brian Burke, principal of the Burke Agency, plumbing and heating manufacturers' representatives in Walled Lake. "It's not that dramatic of a change. Most homes in Michigan have basements and homes can accommodate an additional one to two inches of added height or width. It becomes tricky when it's a mobile home or an apartment."

*Contact Zlati Meyer 313-223-4439 or [zmeyerfreepress.com](http://zmeyerfreepress.com).*

*Reprinted from Detroit Free Press & submitted by Wayne Koehler, Pres, R.E.I.A. of Wayne County*

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# Sen. Gary Peters Wants Higher Minimum Wage — Except for His Unpaid Interns

*But senator wants others to be subject to wage mandates*

By JACK SPENCER

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Michigan, is a proponent of increasing the minimum wage for low-skill, limited-experience workers. Unless, that is, they work for him.

Earlier this year, Peters joined with 32 of his colleagues to co-sponsor a bill that would hike the federal minimum wage mandate to \$12 an hour by 2020.

“Nobody who works full time in this country should have to live in poverty, but that is the brutal economic reality for millions of families across the country right now who can’t make ends meet in the face of stagnant wages and increased costs of daily necessities,” Peters said in a news release touting the legislation.

However, Peters’ office participates in internship programs in which young people work without pay for Congress. These unpaid internship positions are offered on the basis that they are an opportunity to gain experience.

A notice posted by Peters’ office seeking applicants for the intern positions Included this:

“An internship provides an excellent opportunity to gain valuable experience and observe firsthand how our government operates. Interns gain practical work experience by undertaking a variety of administrative and legislative responsibilities in the office.”

It would appear that Sen. Peters understands well enough that gaining experience can be valuable enough to justify someone working for nothing, at least if the job is in government. But he refuses to apply the same principle to employment in the private sector, which also provides experience to entry-level employees.

The Michigan Democratic Party also uses unpaid interns, advertising that the positions provide a “well-rounded experience.” However, the party continues to support imposing a minimum-wage mandate on private businesses.

Another example in the news of “mandated minimums for thee but not me” involves a Los Angeles City Council proposal to mandate a \$15-an-hour minimum wage. Unions there have lobbied to exclude their own members by creating an exception for unionized employers with collective bargaining agreements. A union spokesman told the Los Angeles Times: “This provision gives the parties the option, the freedom, to negotiate that agreement. And that is a good thing.”

Peters’ office in Washington, D.C. and the Michigan Democratic headquarters in Lansing did not respond to requests for comment.

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Taken from [www.michiganconfidential.com](http://www.michiganconfidential.com)

& submitted by Bill Beddoes



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**Lead Base Paint Pamphlets?**

- www.hud.gov.lea



**Need to E-mail any questions or articles or anything for us?? Our web address is [ApPrint1@aol.com](mailto:ApPrint1@aol.com) Send us your email for meeting reminders and to get your newsletter sent to you. Or fax your email address to us at 313-386-7600 or [reiaawaynecounty.org](http://reiaawaynecounty.org) or 24hr recording (313) 437-2945**

— **MEETING AGENDA** —

**RED LOBSTER ON EUREKA • SOUTHGATE**

*Next to 7-11, near Trenton Rd.*

**6:00 - 7:15 ... Dinner and Networking**

**7:30 - ..... Meeting — (\$20.00 FOR GUESTS)**