

WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS: The state Department of Natural Resources and Environment is seeking volunteers to collect native plant seeds and cut invasive shrubs Nov. 6-14 at state parks and recreation areas in Oakland, Washtenaw and St. Clair counties. Volunteers should wear work clothes and bring drinking water, sunscreen and a clean jug for seed collecting. More info: www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers.

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Detroit Free Press

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Woodward Corridor gets \$21M

Money from foundations to go toward schools, housing, more

By JOHN GALLAGHER
FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITER

Detroit's Woodward Corridor will receive about \$21 million from a collaborative of major foundations to boost urban vitality and promote locally owned businesses. Mayor Dave Bing is expected to join representatives from several other cities and Living Cities, a collaborative of 22 of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions, for

the formal announcement this morning at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Living Cities will provide about \$80 million in funding to five cities, including Detroit. The other metro areas are Baltimore, Cleveland, Newark, N.J., and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In Detroit, the money will help finance charter schools, help pay for mixed-use development, and create a commu-

nity land trust that will help build housing along the Woodward Corridor.

Grant money also will help pay for a business development strategy that promotes "live local, buy local and hire local." In addition, money will go to the City of Detroit for land-use planning and for streamlining of small-business services. And some of the Living Cities aid will go to the demographic group Data Driven Detroit to create a database of demographic information that would be easily accessible to the public for such purposes as marketing and study.

The University Cultural Center Association (UCCA), a nonprofit community group based in Detroit's Midtown, will coordinate the money with the Kresge Foundation and the Skillman Foundation.

Other local partners include the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the City of Detroit and several major anchor institutions, including the Detroit Medical Center, Henry Ford Health System and Wayne State University.

Under the program, Detroit would receive \$2.75 million in grants, up to \$4 million in investments in specific pro-

grams and access to \$15 million in commercial loans.

"You're going to see some significant real estate that's going to create a more walkable, more dense district," Susan Mosey, president of the UCCA, said Wednesday.

The UCCA will see its paid staff jump from six people to about 12 to handle the various parts of the program. In addition, the City of Detroit is to hire a small-business advocate to help streamline the permitting process for firms that wish to operate in Detroit.

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Michigan Report: Metro Detroit bridges in poor shape

Michigan's bridges continue to deteriorate, with nearly 45% in metro Detroit outdated or in poor shape, according to a report Wednesday by the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association.

More than 28% of the state's nearly 11,000 bridges show "troubling signs of age and neglect," the report found. In metro Detroit, the report said, 910 of 2,025 state, county and local bridges show signs of deterioration or are functionally obsolete.

In Wayne County, 431 of 684 state-owned bridges are in poor shape, MITA said. In Oakland County, 165 of 446 bridges were rated poorly, and in Macomb County, 117 of 399 were in bad shape.

State officials say drivers shouldn't fear driving on bridges, which they said would be closed before they pose serious risk. The report is at www.drivemi.org.

President: U-M needs to save \$120 million

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman said Wednesday that economic forecasts and declining state support indicate the university will need to identify \$120 million in savings by 2017.

"As we have been, we will be deliberate and thoughtful, focusing on reducing administrative and operational costs, with an eye firmly on enhancing the academic mission," Coleman said during her 2010 State of the University address, according to the text.

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DETROIT

Judge is assigned in perjury case

The perjury, conspiracy and official misconduct case against a former judge, a top drug prosecutor and two narcotics cops was assigned Wednesday to Presiding Judge of the Wayne County Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny.

Retired Circuit Judge Mary Waterstone, former Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Karen Plants and suspended Inkster police officers Scott Rehtzigel and Robert McArthur were arraigned before Judge Margie Braxton, who entered not guilty pleas for them.

The four are charged in connection with a 47-kilo cocaine seizure in 2005 when the officers lied to hide the role of star witness Chad Povish as a paid informant who hoped to collect \$100,000 for his work. Waterstone gave after-the-fact approval, saying she feared Povish would be killed if his role were exposed.

- COMPILED FROM REPORTS BY MATT HELMS, LORI HIGGINS AND JOE SWICKARD

Law called for after 17 fetuses are discovered

By DAWSON BELL
FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU

LANSING — Antiabortion activists renewed a call Wednesday for legislation requiring cremation or burial of identifiably-human remains of aborted fetuses, citing the apparently legal disposal of 17 fetuses in a Dumpster outside a Lansing abortion clinic.

The remains were retrieved by an activist who lived near the WomansChoice clinic and turned over to law enforcement authorities, said Monica Migliorino Miller, director of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society. Miller and several lawmakers who back the legislation, said at a news conference that they were told by prosecutors for Eaton County and Attorney General Mike Cox last week that, because the fetuses had been treated with formaldehyde, they could be legally disposed of with ordinary trash.

THE REMAINS WERE RETRIEVED BY AN ACTIVIST WHO LIVED NEAR THE CLINIC.

"When you look at these torn and crushed bodies, you're looking at something the human eye is not meant to see," Miller said.

Cox spokeswoman Joy Yearout issued a statement saying a joint investigation with the prosecutor "did not find any violations of the public health code."

Miller said the remains of 17 fetuses with identifiable human features were found in the Dumpster on Feb. 26. Each was in a plastic bag that bore the name of the abortion patient, she said. Subsequent trash recoveries at the clinic and another in Saginaw owned by the same company revealed multiple paper records containing the names of patients and medical waste, she said.

The statement from Yearout said paper records reviewed "are not of the nature that would be criminally charged" under state law.

State Rep. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, a cosponsor of the legislation, said it would make the improper disposal of identifiably-human, aborted remains a felony.

The Lansing clinic was closed Wednesday. A woman who answered the phone at the Saginaw office said no one was available to comment.

Planned Parenthood of Michigan, which has clinics that provide abortions but is not affiliated with the Lansing clinic, said in a statement that it "strictly adheres to those laws" for medical waste.

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'HE'S A SYMBOL OF THE RENEWAL OF THE CITY ITSELF'



The Rev. S. Scott Hunter presides over the interment service for Stevens T. Mason, Michigan's first governor, on Wednesday in Detroit.

LAI D TO REST — AGAIN

Michigan's 1st governor is reburied in aboveground vault at park

By ELISHA ANDERSON
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

On the 199th anniversary of his birth Wednesday, Michigan's first governor may finally have been able to rest in peace.

Stevens T. Mason was reburied in Detroit's Capitol Park at Griswold, State and Shelby, where renovations have been made to the park and a memorial to him.

It's the fourth, and hopefully final, burial since his death, Michigan Historical Center director Sandra Clark said.

Mason was only 19 when he first served as acting governor of what was then Michigan ter-

ritory. He was later elected governor in 1835 at age 24, making him the youngest governor in U.S. history, said Michigan State Capitol historian Kerry Chartkoff.

Mason died at age 31 in 1843, she said.

On hand for the ceremony was Mason's great-great-great-grandnephew, who said he was honored by all the people paying tribute to his relative. "We're very proud of our family heritage," said Robert Mason, 42, of Grosse Ile.

An honor guard from the Michigan Army National Guard moved Stevens T. Mason's flag-covered metal coffin

from the hearse and slid it into its new resting place in an aboveground concrete vault that was a new addition to the memorial.

A life-size bronze statue of the governor — originally unveiled in 1908 — is now on top of the vault. It shows the governor as he was in 1836, Chartkoff said.

The former governor was moved from an underground site at the park to give him more prominence at the renovated grounds, she said.

"He's a symbol of the renewal of the city itself," Chartkoff said.

The park has undergone

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several transformations over the years, serving as site of a building that housed Michigan's first capitol and later was a school. When fire destroyed the building in 1893, the land was turned into a park.

Detroit's Downtown Development Authority approved the plans for the park's more than \$1 million in renovations, which include new landscaping, decorative sidewalks and street lighting.

Code violations still haunt Theatre Bizarre

Detroit party site has until today to comply

By B.J. HAMMERSTEIN
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The owner of the grounds where the celebrated masquerade party Theatre Bizarre is held is facing a series of code violations — and he has until today to get the property in compliance, City of Detroit officials said.

"If the owner does not act to remedy this dangerous situation in a timely fashion, we may have the structures dismantled by a contractor and charge the owner for the cost," said Kimberly James, director of the Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department. Misdemeanor tickets, which could be issued as early as today, probably would be the city's first step.

Theatre Bizarre, which began 10 years ago as a bonfire Halloween party among a few hundred friends, has evolved into a sensational spectacle

that sprawls over about a half a city block on West State Fair. This year's event, scheduled for last Saturday, was shut down by the city before it happened because it did not pass the inspections required to receive a 24-hour liquor license, James said. Organizers moved the party to the Fillmore Detroit.

But for thousands of devoted fans, it's the decade-in-the-making interactive environment of the grounds that makes Theatre Bizarre such a

landmark happening.

A number of violations were issued Monday, including violations for lack of occupancy permits and unapproved and unsafe structures.

Poirier said he wants to be in compliance.

"Honestly, we don't have the resources to do all this by Thursday," he said.

James said that the enforcement is about protecting public safety and she hopes that the city and organizers can work together.