



Lansing Labor News

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 4

VOICE OF 27,000 UAW MEMBERS



MAY, 2009



The Women's Committees of Local 652 and 602 held their first joint women's workshop. The title of the workshop was "Triple Threat - Strong, Educated and Beautiful." The speakers enlightened the delegates about weight management, money management, skin care, and tips on how to be strong, get educated and remain beautiful. A special thank you goes out to Connie Leak from the UAW International Women's Department for joining the workshop that day.

724 golf outing

Saturday July 11
Centennial Acres Golf Course
12485 Dow Rd. in Sunfield
(517) 566-8055
TEE OFF at 8:30 a.m.
Registration at 7:30 a.m.
A Bargain at \$50.00 per player.
All payments need to be turned into the Local in the form of cash or money order. This covers 18 holes with cart. Open driving range in the a.m. Rolls and coffee in the a.m. All-you-can eat barbecue starting 60 minutes after shotgun, and ending at the conclusion of golf.
Trophies for first, second, and third place finishes. Prizes for Longest Putt, Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin.
The outing is a four-person scramble open to all active and retired UAW Local 724 members and to their family or friends. All alcoholic beverages must be purchased at the golf course.
Entry Deadline: Friday, June 26. If you have any questions, please call the Local at 517-482-7377 or Todd Collins, UAW Local 724 Recreation Chairperson, at 517-749-6642.

Vets golf outing

UAW Local 652 Veteran's Committee presents its second Annual Golf Outing, Saturday, June 27 at Centennial Acres Golf Course.
Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. - 4 person scramble. \$55 per person.

Please make checks payable to: "Veteran's Committee - UAW Local 652." (Credit card payment on site.) Proceeds to a local veteran and family.

Price includes: 18 holes of golf w/ cart; draft beer w/BBQ (at turn); and steak dinner at the 19th hole. There will also be prize holes.

We invite all hourly, salaried and friends to join us. For a registration form or info, call Mike Melfi at (517) 285-4070; Ron Olivarez at (517) 775-4832; or Candice Morrison at (517) 749-4896.

**Ninth Annual
Pride Ride
For Motorcycle Safety Month
May 15**
UAW Local 652 Hall
426 Clare St., Lansing
Everyone is invited to participate in this ride and show.
Registration: 8:00-9:00 a.m.
This year we are offering long-sleeve as well as short-sleeve T-shirts.
Order T-shirts by April 15.
For us to plan, please send registration early even if you don't order a shirt. Pick up forms at the union hall, or contact Linda Mogyoros at turtlehatch@att.net or (517)694-7914 or you can email Barb Adelman at baroercrc@aol.com.

Keep work in the U.S.A.

By Mike Green, Local 652 President

I would like to share the following letter that was sent to President Obama by our Regional Director Duane Zuckschwerdt. Our thanks to our director, and remember that we all must contact our representatives to ask for their help in keeping our factories and industrial base in this country.



President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding proposed changes to the General Motors Corporation. These changes will affect not only the UAW members of Region 1-C for whom I have direct responsibility, but also the communities in which they reside.

From the information I have received, it is evident that GM will be focusing on moving more of its production outside of the United States at the expense of American jobs. It is also reported that within the next five years GM plans on importing 5,251,028 vehicles into the United States which is a 23% increase in their current levels.

Considering the normal capacity of an assembly facility, this number equates to four US assembly plants, the same number that GM plans to close by year's end. If this happens, we will also lose countless supplier facilities as they will be forced to close or move into bankruptcy protection.

History has shown that when a facility is closed, it is gone forever taking along potential employment opportunities in the community and the tax base. Once these plants are gone and sales start to improve, current trade laws will allow GM to dramatically increase the amount of imports into our country to meet consumer demand. The source of these imports will come from low-cost countries where GM has made significant investments,

While UAW members work tirelessly to protect jobs in this country, GM has been the recipient of \$13.4 billion of federal assistance at the same time they were shifting production out of the country. For example, GM is preparing to transfer the next generation of the Cadillac SRX to Mexico from its current home in my Region, the Lansing Grand River Assembly plant. This troubles me greatly since many of our members are permanently laid-off from this facility. As you know, our state leads the nation in unemployment at 12.6% and many analysts expect that number to increase.

Also troubling me is the forgotten group in all of the discussions pertaining to a potential GM bankruptcy, our retirees. While there are more than 350,000 GM retirees and surviving spouses living in the United States, in my region

alone we have over 58,000. These retirees rely solely on their pension and health care (VEBA) to survive. Many are in their 50's and therefore are not eligible for Medicare or Social Security benefits. They worked 30 years or more and were enticed to leave through special attrition programs that allow GM to hire new employees at reduced pay and benefits.

If GM is allowed to file bankruptcy, these retirees are faced with a severely reduced pension and no health care coverage. They will be forced to look for work in an economy that is currently turning away young people with college degrees in droves.

While the direct impact will be on the auto industry, the indirect impact will affect every segment of the community, including the health care industry and government-provided programs that are currently overutilized and underfunded. Primary care physicians are reporting that office calls have significantly declined as people who have lost their health insurance can no longer afford preventive medical treatment. Hospitals in my region are already reporting that they are burdened with more and more people turning to emergency room visits for primary health care. If the 58,000 GM retirees in Region 1-C lose their health care, the situation will only worsen.

Mr. President, I am asking you to use your influence to do the right thing and help save an AMERICAN industry and AMERICAN jobs. UAW members believed your campaign promises. We believed that you were the change this country so desperately needed and we rallied on your behalf. Our tax dollars support our elected officials and our government and now we are asking that you stand in support of us. Do not allow GM or your task force (with no experience in the auto industry) the use of our hard-earned tax dollars to shutter more American factories, only to import more foreign, vehicles placing more AMERICANS out of work. We cannot continue to be a nation of consumption only. We must save our remaining manufacturing base. President Obama, you are our only hope. Please don't let us down.

Duane Zuckschwerdt, Director
UAW Region 1-C

Stand down for homeless vets

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 20** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The memorial is on the Michigan Hall of Justice lawn on West Allegan Street (one block east of MLK Blvd. in Lansing). Services to be provided include: veterans services, haircuts, health screenings, legal services, social security advice, vision testing, job assistance, clothing, lunches, and a "diddy" bag full of goodies will be provided to each attendee. Inquire at (517) 484-4414 x 103.

Car show

The Community Service Committee is putting on a car show here at Lansing SPO warehouse, (4400 W. Mt. Hope & Old Lansing Rd.) on Sunday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be three classes: Cars, Trucks, and Motorcycles. NO FOREIGN ENTRIES. Prizes for each class and also kids' winners. Like all car shows, there will be food, raffles, and activities for kids. \$10 for early entries and \$15 on the day of the show. If you have any questions or can volunteer your time for the show, e-mail questions to Mysticlakecarshow@hotmail.com or call 1-517-304-5663. This Community Service group is looking for your help, I hope you can do so.



The money that is raised at this car show will go to send kids to the YMCA Mystic Lake summer camp for a week this summer. In all honesty, Local 1753 used to put up the money for this project. With the shrinking membership and our smaller amount in the general fund for Local 1753, this was one of the few options we had. It just goes to show you the class of people we have here Lansing SPO that step up and raise funds for those in need, when needed.

All is quiet on the GM front as I send this article to the LLN. We lost nine members with the last buy-out: J. J. Jones, Ron Royston (who am I gonna pick on now?), Joyce Hattaway, Mike Stuller, Bryan MacKensie, Johnnie Montgomery, Jill Barner, John Sidange, Lori VanNortwick, and Jan Fulton (my favorite pizza girl) who retired off the bridge program.

Retirees picnic (old and new) Thursday, June 11 at noon at Hawk Island Park in Lansing. Bring a dish to pass if you can. Meat furnished. Any questions, call 487-1753.

My food for thought: Tough times don't last ... tough people do.

DEAN POGGIALI, LOCAL 724

Challenging year

Although winter had to have its last hurrah with our early April snow, we hope that with the burgeoning arrival of spring, we can also see our economy spring forward as well. The Obama administration has been working diligently to get us back to at least the top of the chasm we have slid into. Many of the stimuli may take a while to circumvent our rocky economy. The American people have a resiliency that allows us to adapt, but we need to start to see our members getting back to work.



Turning the pendulum to the Local 724 scene, not much has changed since our last entry. Many of our members continue to await recall and are looking for a ray of sunshine on which to latch. Additionally the Dakkota, Dimondale, Dr. Pepper, and RSDC Units all have contract talks scheduled or being sched-

uled this year. They will have their work cut out this go-around.

We have had a servicing rep change with our Delta Dental Unit. Carrie Haynes will now be the servicing rep for the unit. Carrie is from our area, Local 1488, and has extensive experience in the Technical, Office, and Professional (TOP) sector. She has been a busy organizer in the TOP ranks and now we welcome her to the Local 724 family.

Our Unit V-CAP drives are back in full swing. The Bharat Forge, Delta Dental, Huntsman, and Woodbridge Units will be finished by late April. Bridgewater is scheduled for May. Please remember that in order for your voluntary contribution to go to worker-friendly candidates here in Michigan you must sign a new card check-off every year.

Alluding to the Huntsman Unit, Tony Chandler sends everyone back home in Michigan his best wishes. As a refresher, Tony is now on staff as an organizer assigned to cover Alabama in UAW Region 8.

Don't forget that on May 9, the National Association of Letter Carriers will be conducting their annual food drive. This one-day event, the largest food drive in the country, is a major force helping fill up our exhausted food bank and pantry network. Although we are all helping family members with their tough times, please consider donating a few non-perishable items and place them at your mailbox the morning of May 9. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the food drive, please contact me at 203-5027 and we will try to get you placed.

In these most difficult times, we must try to keep family, faith and community in our hearts. As we may have to ask for help from our brothers and sisters, take the opportunity to thank them and then when you are able, pay the kindness forward as those have done for you.

May the wind be at your back and peace and joy within your soul.

BOB SMITH, LOCAL 652

May events

Local 652 Skilled Trades (Tool & Die/Plant Engineering) retiree meeting at

Local 652
May 21
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Donation: \$3.00

Food and beverage provided

Pride Ride

May 15
Registration: 8:00-9:00 a.m.
at Local 652



DEBRA MILLS, LOCAL 724

Perkins' legacy

With U.S. unemployment at 8.5 percent in March, the highest rate in 25 years, more than 6 million Americans are making ends meet because of the idea and determination of the nation's first female Cabinet member, Frances Perkins, a "canny but little-known social worker" who became



President Franklin D. Roosevelt's labor secretary during the Depression.

In a guest column at the AFL-CIO website, Kirstin Downey, a journalist at The Washington Post, says the vital need for many New Deal programs is especially clear now as we struggle through our current economic crisis.

Downey, says Perkins and Roosevelt "propelled into existence" the unemployment insurance system, part of the package of social safety proposals born in the New Deal, including Social Security. Perkins brought her drive and commitment to the effort, and Roosevelt won the necessary political support.

Yet today, most people don't know who she was. But more than 6 million households have reason to offer her their thanks. —AFL-CIO

CONNIE SWANDER, LOCAL 602

Safety first

Spring has come to Michigan. A few flowers are in bloom and the grass is growing. It's almost time to break out the lawnmowers and start the never ending chore of yard work.

Remember, when you're out there working or playing in the yard, be safe. Wear proper clothes and shoes and the appropriate safety equipment for the task. I hope that you have a safe and fun-filled summer.



Local 602 Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for May 17 and June 14. The executive board meets at 5:30 p.m., general membership at 7:00 p.m.

Local 2256 meetings

Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The executive board meets at 6:30 p.m. and the general membership meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are at the hall, 2114 N. East St., Lansing. Phone 485-5883.

Local 1618 meetings

The executive board and membership will meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Local 1753 hall on West St. Joseph.

We do matter!

The recent announcement of no down weeks at LDT comes as a mixed blessing. While we are relieved that our membership will remain working through the summer, our hearts go out to the thousands of UAW brothers and sisters who will be on layoff.



There are many things that affect the future of our jobs and families that seem out of our control, but there is something you can do about it. You can write to the White House and your state and federal representatives telling them that we matter.

We need your help. As you know, we are facing unprecedented challenges in the auto industry. With our jobs and our livelihoods under attack, NOW is the time to contact those who work for us, our federal leadership.

It is critical that we let our elected officials know how devastating the proposed changes to GM will be to us, our families and our communities. We must ask them to support our active and retired UAW members during the auto task force talks in Detroit. Your voice does matter and by spending a few moments to communicate your thoughts, you can help make a difference. That is something we CAN control.

Peace Corps bound

On June 30 Melissa Foster will leave for Honduras to work for the Peace Corps in its Protected Area Management program. Melissa's parents are Myra Foster, alternate union rep at Local 724's Delta Dental Unit, and Roger Foster, retiree from Local 650 and Region 1-C International Local 494. They're proud of their daughter's accomplishments: bachelor's degree from MSU; master's degree in wildlife biology from University of Tennessee, and entry into the Peace Corps.



LOCAL 1753 MEETINGS

Executive Board will meet April 21 at **4:15 p.m.** at the hall. (Note new time.) General membership will meet April 22 at 2:15 p.m. at the hall.

Lansing Labor News

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VOICE OF 27,000 MEMBERS

MAY, 2009



“Working in teams—
good for patients, bad for cancer.”

LUCIANO M. DICARLO, DO, RADIATION ONCOLOGIST, MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM



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SPARROW

Also featured (from right to left): Muhammad Hamdan, MD, Hematologist/Medical Oncologist; Joseph Meunier, DO, GYN Oncologist; and Pamela Stave, Physician Assistant



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LAFCU Wishes to Remember and Thank All Those Who Have Served Our Country

We look forward to Memorial Day as a day of rest and relaxation with our friends and family. At LAFCU we would also like to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day... a time to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Freedom is a privilege that we should never take for granted, a fact that LAFCU is proud to recognize during the Memorial Day Holiday.

517.622.6600



www.lafcu.com
LAFCU
YOUR CREDIT UNION FOR LIFE

652 retirees

Our snowbirds have returned. It is good to see everyone back!

Our monthly schedule of events is as follows:

First Tuesday of the month is Bingo. The games start at 6:00 p.m.

Third Tuesday of the month is our Bohemian dinner and business meeting. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Dinner starts at noon.

Fourth Tuesday of the month is card night starting at 6:00 p.m. Card night is for Locals 652, 602, and 1618.

The April 14 Euchre Tournament at Local 6000 was well attended. The first- and second-place winners were John Guthrie and Dennis Sleep from Local 602. The third-place winner was Fred Davis from Local 652. Fourth-place winner was Virginia Merriman from Local 6000. These individuals will represent Lansing in the playoff against Flint.

The Safety Patrol Picnic is May 20 at Hawk Island Park from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to work at this event, please call 372-7581 ext. 147, and leave your name and phone number.

August 13 is the Lansing Area Retirees picnic. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The picnic will be held at Hawk Island Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Rd., Lansing, starting at noon. This event is for retirees and spouses only, please.

September 16-21 is the chapter trip to Rutland, Vermont. Call Marni at (517) 321-6871 for more information.

The following members and associates are in our thoughts and prayers: Robert Abernathy, Jewell Carrier, Marvin Davis, Jean Schneider, Bill Smith, Rosemary Spitzley, Al Woodhams, and any others we may have missed.

Condolences to the families of Fay Kingsley and Roger Bradow.

The Food Bank could use our help. If possible, bring canned goods to donate to the area Food Bank when you attend retiree events.

Send your change of address to: Lansing Labor News, 210 Clare St., Lansing, MI 48917. Please include your current address and the old address when requesting the change.

You may contact us at the following email address: retiree652@hotmail.com

Worry is like a rocking chair – it will

652 retirees, join our trip to: Rutland, Vermont Sep 16-21, 2009

Open to Local 652 retirees & spouses. Bus transportation from Local 652 Union Hall, traveling through an overnight in Syracuse, New York. En route, stop at Quechee Gorge, Vermont's Little Grand Canyon. Stay in Rutland four nights, with day excursions to: New England maple museum and market; Vermont's marble exhibit; Wilson Castle; Rock of Ages, world's largest granite quarry; Green Mountain flyer scenic train ride, 20-mile train excursion, covered bridges, etc.; Stratton Mountain Village, etc. Price includes four dinners in Rutland and continental breakfasts. Contact Marni at 321-6871. All reservations must be in and paid for *in full* by **June 30**.

give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

1753 Retirees

Sorry, there is not an article from Laura this month, but here are a couple of important dates to remember:

May 14 Retiree – Lunch and meeting at the hall (lunch at noon). Picnic volunteer meeting to follow (volunteers needed).

May 17 – Car show at GMSPO, 8 a.m. till 4 p.m., to raise funds for Mystic Lake Camp for kids (volunteers needed). Call the Community Services Chairman at 517-304-5663 to help.

June 11 – Retirees Picnic at Hawk Island Park, lunch at noon. It's potluck! Bring a dish if you can! See ya there!

DOROTHY STEVENS, LOCAL 602

602 retirees

President Obama has called for a level playing field for Medicare Advantage which are government subsidized private insurance plans written into the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 and put into law by special interests. It is now draining \$15 billion from Medicare in what amounts to overpayments to private insurers *at your expense*.

The powerful insurance industry lobby is rallying to protect its Medicare "Cash Cow".

With Billions in subsidies going to Medicare Advantage instead of helping seniors gain affordable access to health-care, the well-being of millions of beneficiaries is at risk.

An army of insurance industry lobbyists is being paid to sway Congress just like it did in 2003 to get passage of the Medicare Modernization Act.

Medicare Advantage exists today because this powerful lobbying force convinced lawmakers to lavish \$149 billion on private insurers.

Private insurance companies continue to receive billions of government dollars as incentives to accept more senior patients and hasten the privatization of Medicare.

This has resulted in higher out-of-pocket costs for all beneficiaries, even those who did not sign up for Medicare Advantage.

You lawmakers need to know that YOU and millions like you support President Obama's call to end the Medicare Advantage subsidies that are cheating America's seniors.

Because if Congress gives in to the special interests and allows Medicare to continue funding large subsidies to private plans, the Medicare program will continue to erode at an even faster rate, and along with it, your benefits.

Please contact your members in Congress asking them to support President Obama's call to end the subsidies to Medicare Advantage today—we can't afford to wait another day.

Mark your calendars: Wednesday, July 22 is when Fisher Body Retiree Girls meet for our annual luncheon at Finley's on South Cedar Street, at 1:30 p.m. Hope to see everyone there.

For our sick and shut-ins, you are in our thoughts and prayers. For those who have lost a loved one or dear friend, we send our condolences.

1618 retirees

Hi out there all you wonderful people! Ted Gauss's breakfast – June 2 at 9:00 a.m. (Tuesday) at Guerrazzi's – 15643 Business 27, DeWitt Township. Call Ted: 517-321-4754.

Next meeting will be May 13, second Wednesday of the month. Hamburgers, hot dogs and brats are on the grill. It will be a picnic – you bring the trimmings.

The travel committee will be having a pancake breakfast and bake sale at 1753 union hall on July 25 from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Bring family and friends. Let's make it a big one.

Hawk Island Park for the area-wide picnic. Bring dish to pass and your own table service. August 13 (Thursday). We'll eat at noon. No dogs allowed in picnic area. A dog run is down the road. Meat, potatoes and veggies are furnished.

Once again I'll be at the sign-in table. Make sure you sign in and get your ticket for the drawing.

On our sick list – Harry Henderson, back surgery; Jim Kish, knee surgery.

Claude Harris is doing much better. He came to our meeting in April. To all on our sick list – you're in our prayers.

Condolences to the families of Curtis and Connie Dunn on the loss of their son; Bill Mason on the loss of his wife; and John Williams on the loss of his wife Ora Johnson Williams.

Belated anniversary: to Bud Miller and his bride of 40 years. Diane and Richard Zelenka for 45 years of marriage.

Happy birthday in May to Betty Varney, Doris Williams, Paula Morrison and myself - Lois Schultz.

Our trip to Kewadin was a success. Just too much smoke for me. Don't know if anybody won any money. Thanks to Connie and Chairman Curtis Dunn for their hard work.

Diane Zelenka got Canda Anthony a big cake for her birthday which we ate on the bus. Canda would like to thank Diane and all for the nice surprise and being there for her.

Trips!

Eaton area senior center is having some great trips: May 7 to Holland tulip festival with Bobby Vinton (\$95). June 14-19 – Maine. (\$799). June 22 – Detroit Riverboat Freedom Festival (\$125 prepaid). June 19-23 – New York City, stay in Manhattan (\$575 prepaid). Detroit Tigers – August 3 (\$42). Many more – call the center at 517-543-2935.

Debby Cook is the host of the SSR-club. If you have anything pertaining to the little truck, they might like to buy it. Her phone: 586-215-4152.

My daughters and I went to Florida. We got to stay at a condo owned by Debbie and Richard Snell. We went to the wedding of Michael Anderson and Lillian Anderson (no relation). Lillie is Canda Anthony's goddaughter. Proud parents: Steve and Debbie Anderson.

The 2002 Cadillac de Ville of Maryann Elsenheimer got 27.6 miles to the gallon. GM has some really good cars. It's not enough for some, they know it all. We, the workers and GM, they just plain don't want us around.



The euchre tournament was once again a great one with Dick Bauer coming in second at the first round. But he could not do a thing in the second round. He took home \$ 30, which made him happy.

My address is 3009 Luella Ln, Springport, MI 49284. My phone is 517-543-5385.

602 Obituaries

Gary Lambert – Retired Maintenance
Louie E. Kellogg Jr. – Father of Sue Kellogg, Retired Material
Pamela Wagner – Mother of Diane Wagner, Retired Body Shop
Clyde M. Haney – Retired
Mary R. Thomas – Wife of Robert Thomas, Retired Material and Stepmother of Kenneth Thomas, General Assembly (Quality)
Michael E. Cooper – Father of Michael Cooper, Body Shop (Underbody)
Theodore Beaderstadt - Retired

602 Thank You

Thank you. Our UAW family always surrounds us in our time of need ... Duane and Connie Zuckschwerdt.

Thank you does not say enough to all of Patrick Gallagher's friends at Fisher Body and elsewhere. The Bible is a beautiful remembrance. We will miss him every day – forever. Thank you again ... Will and Colleen Blossy and Lynn Wright.

Thank you for the beautiful Bible in the wonderful wooden box. Our family will cherish it always and hold it close to our hearts in Gary's memory ... The Family of Gary Lambert

652 Obituaries

Bibles were sent to the families of:
Charles Bagwell - Brother of Elmer Bagwell
Marilyn Bolton - Wife of Jack Bolton
Roger Bradow - Retiree
June L. Byrnes - Mother-In-Law of Robert Waltz
Jeffrey Crawford - Son of Gary Crawford
Roy Fomby - Brother of Benjamin Fomby
Larry Hankins - Brother of Thomas Hankins
Fay Kingsley - Retiree
Ina Pierce - Mother of Jack Pierce
Hazel Price - Mother of Roger D. Price
Earl Six - Retiree
Leonard Smigielski - Member
Jan Thrush - Brother of Colin Thrush
Norma Tickner - Mother of Scott Tickner
William Trew - Retiree
Maria R. Velasquez - Mother of Terri Sharpe
Pamela A. Wagner - Mother of Thomas Wagner

652 Thank You

Thank yous were received from:
The family of Fay Kingsley
The family of James Sivyer
The family of Leonard Smigielski
The family of Harold Verrette
The family of Viola Zuckschwerdt
The family of Roger Bradow

724 Obituaries

Vondah Bellah – retired from Atlas Drop Forge

Optiview

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LANSING

5857 West Saginaw
517/323-8221

SAGINAW

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989/791-1044

FLINT

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3192 S. Linden
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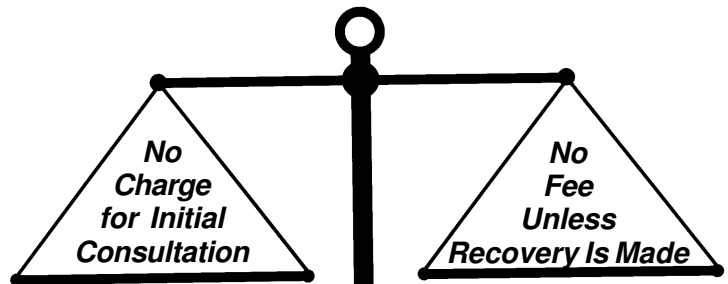
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