

## Fouts Rebuts 'Seventh Worst' Rating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is the fifth- or sixth-friendliest state for business, but no business decides to settle in a state because of the business property tax."

Eliminating the tax would hurt major cities in metro Detroit, such as Warren, Sterling Heights, Dearborn and Detroit, Fouts said. He called the move a tax shift to the back of the single taxpayer. He pointed out that Warren will become a part of a larger pool and funds from the city would come from that tax pool.

"I believe in smaller government," Fouts said. "This tax law was passed by the Republicans, and this doesn't make smaller government, it makes bigger government, because cities become part of a larger entity."

There will be a vote in 2014 on whether or not to put the lame-duck tax law into effect, Fouts said. Even if voters reject it, the city of Warren still loses out on \$900,000 worth of revenue for that year.

Fouts went on to praise Skip McAdams and Jere Green for their work on police and fire matters. Thanks to them, the city has been able to add police and fire equipment without raising taxes.

Warren's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is run by the city and not by a contractor, but is the envy of surrounding communities, Fouts said. That speaks to the quality of the people who work for the city.

Fouts also had praise for Sen. Carl Levin, who recently announced his retirement. Levin was instrumental in saving GM, Chrysler and ultimately Warren. Fouts said he's written Levin a letter asking him to reconsider retirement.

Fouts also spoke out against charter schools, calling them undemocratic warehouses that take control away from local communities.

He cited a Target big box store on 11 Mile Road that is now a charter school. The city receives no taxes, has no say in how the school is run and he said charter school students score lower on tests than non-charter students. Fouts said he's a product of a public school education and he has worked in the public school

system. He called public schools classrooms of democracy.

Fouts also boasted that Warren's serious crime is down. There were no homicides in the city in 2012, there were 11 in 2011. Robberies were down 4.5 percent and auto thefts declined 9.6 percent. The city has also undertaken efforts to fight blight and Fouts is going to propose a city ordinance calling for a \$2,000 fine if a homeowner gets cited twice for blight on his or her property.

"Residents want us to act fast on blight," Fouts said. "Sometimes when the city receives a blight complaint I will visit the home myself."

In one instance, what Fouts saw appalled him. Weeds were all over the yard and filth in the home. He said children shouldn't have to live in a home like that, and neighbors shouldn't have their neighborhoods blighted.

Warren will also be keeping up with the times through a new app called Q Alert. Residents can now use a paperless system that sends complaints directly to city officials. So potholes and downed trees and other problems faced by residents can be instantly reported via tablets and smart phones.

Fouts said Warren's efficiency as a city has made it easy for businesses to invest in the city. GM, Chrysler and the U.S. Army have all, in the past two years, spent tens of millions to hundreds of millions of dollars on their Warren facilities. Campbell Ewald may be leaving the city to inhabit a "cooler" loft in Detroit, but the excellence of Warren's city services should make it easy for the ad agency to find a blue chip buyer for their building.

Fouts said he was told that Warren has no downtown and the agency wanted that downtown vibe. Fouts said efforts by the Downtown Development Authority were less than successful, which is why he replaced members. He is going to propose a bridge that crosses Van Dyke from the GM Tech Center to City Hall to help in the creation of a downtown. The bridge would require some financing from GM.

Fouts also spoke against "right-to-work," saying right-to-work states don't get more employment, but lower wages and benefits.

"I tell people that I will support right-to-work if they will support a rule that says that people who opt out of joining a union don't get to enjoy any of the benefits unions negotiate for their workers."

Fouts said he grew up in a UAW household and it was the unions who raised working people up into the middle class.

But, ultimately, "thanks to the hard-working city workers, Warren is strong," Fouts said. It was number one in house sales, businesses are investing and the city has been able to do more with less.

Take that, *Forbes*!



Warren Mayor Fouts said, like Harry Truman, the buck stops with him.

## Ally Financial Announces Securing of New Credit Lines

Ally Financial Inc. today announced that it has completed the renewal of \$11 billion in credit facilities at both the parent company and at its banking subsidiary, Ally Bank, with a syndicate of 19 lenders.

The secured facilities can be used to fund retail, lease and dealer floorplan automotive assets in the U.S.

"Supporting continued growth of our leading U.S. auto finance franchise through diversified funding sources remains an important priority at Ally, and renewal of these facilities is a key component of that strategy," said Ally's Corporate Treasurer Chris Halmy. "Interest from lenders in renewing these facilities was very healthy and an important demonstration of continued confidence in Ally's financial

strength. Moreover, we continue to drive efficiencies and lower cost of funds through improved terms and reduced fees on these renewed facilities."

"Ally Bank's robust growth in deposits has enabled less reliance on the capital markets, and further strengthened our financial profile and funding options," stated Halmy. "As a direct result of this continued deposit growth, the total facility size was reduced by \$4 billion."


The \$11 billion funding capacity is comprised of two facilities: an \$8.5 billion facility which is available to the parent company, Ally Financial, and maturing in March 2015; and a second \$2.5 billion facility available to Ally Bank which matures in June 2014.

The two credit lines renew the

credit facilities that were initially renewed by Ally in March 2011.

In other news, Ally Bank also announced that it has reached an agreement to sell a portfolio of agency mortgage servicing rights (MSR) to Ocwen Financial Corp. The transaction comprises MSRs related to mortgage loans with an unpaid principal balance of approximately \$85 billion as of Jan. 31, 2013, as well as an estimated \$5 billion of agency MSR created based on commitments made through the end of February.

The purchase price for the MSR asset is estimated to be approximately \$585 million as of the end of January, and the sale includes the transfer of the representation and warranty liabilities associated with the majority of the loans sold.



Central Michigan University's

# Global Campus

in Metro Detroit & Online


Auburn Hills • Clinton Township • Dearborn  
Livonia • Southfield • Troy • Warren • Online

For over 40 years, the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from CMU's Global Campus in Metro Detroit have helped local students start new careers, get promotions, and change their lives. **Shouldn't you start today?**

- Adult-friendly formats let you earn your degree and still keep working
- Face-to-face classes and online options to help you manage your time
- No GMAT or GRE required
- 8-week terms so you can graduate in less time
- Excellent student services to help you every step of the way

**Master of Science in Administration degree**

Want to move to upper-level administration? You'll need a master's degree. With the MSA from CMU's Global Campus, in just 2 years, you can apply for jobs you couldn't even consider before. Choose from 9 concentrations, including General, Human Resources, and Health Services Administration.



Lorron James  
CMU Graduate

**Get it all at CMU's Global Campus in Metro Detroit.**  
**cmich.edu/Detroit • Toll-free 877-268-4636**

CMU is an AA/EQ institution (see cmich.edu/aaeo). cmich.edu/globalcampus CMUglobal@cmich.edu 35504 12/12

**CMU**  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## GRAND OPENING!!!

Newest Treasure Located In Warren's Historic District On Chicago Road  
(former location of Knights of Columbus)

We Invite You To Take A Walk Thru...

**CJ'S COMPANY STORE**  
**DELI & CATERING**

Our chefs create something exciting everyday...



Dine-In • Carry-Out • We Deliver

Call Us For Our Daily Specials

- We now serve Fish & Chips
- Great Corned Beef Sandwiches
- Italian Subs on Homemade Sub Buns

View our complete menu at: [www.cjscompanystore.com](http://www.cjscompanystore.com)

HOURS:  
9-5 M-F  
9-3 Sat.  
Closed Sun.

6177 Chicago Road  
**(586) 825-0067**

Fax  
Orders  
to  
586-825-0068