

Pontiac Schools' Healthcare Borne by Local Companies?

The question of who pays for a funding shortage in the Pontiac public school system has become an issue of great concern to the Chamber of Commerce of Auburn Hills.

Todd Lancaster, chamber chairman and owner of the Auburn Hills-based YourSource Management Group, stated in a letter sent to Chamber members that a recent court decision means business and residential property owners in "Auburn Hills, and seven other communities with parcels within the Pontiac School District, could have to take responsibility for \$7.8 million in unpaid health insurance premiums."

Lancaster's letter goes on to explain that the district owes \$7.8 million to the Michigan Education Special Services Association, money the district doesn't have. To make matters worse, the question of payment went before the Oakland County Circuit Court and a \$7.8 million judgment was entered against the school district on behalf of the insurance carrier.

So the district must find some way to come up with \$7.8 million, Lancaster said. Auburn Hills city manager Peter Auger said that there has been talk of the district

borrowing the money, but he questioned the appropriateness of that move.

"I just know what I read in the newspapers," Auger said. "But I question the sanity of borrowing more money when they don't have the funding for current costs."

That leaves some sort of levy on property owners, both business and residential, within the school district to pay the \$7.8 million owed, Auger said. What many people outside the district don't know is that the district is made up of – in addition to the city of Pontiac – parts of Auburn Hills, as well as Lake Angelus, Sylvan Lake and the townships of Bloomfield, Orion, Waterford and West Bloomfield.

And, Auger said, about 70 percent of Auburn Hills is in the Pontiac school district. The land in that portion of the city is worth about twice the value of all the land in the entire city of Pontiac. The end result is that any additional school tax based on property values would result in Auburn Hills businesses and residents within the school district paying the lion's share.

Auger said he hasn't "done a

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A new North American headquarters for Faurecia is about to break ground in Auburn Hills.

New Headquarters Coming to Auburn Hills For Faurecia's North American Operations

Three years into what company officials are calling a remarkable surge in growth, Faurecia North America announced on April 2 more details of its plans for a new headquarters building in Auburn Hills.

Since 2010, Faurecia has opened 15 new plants and tech centers in the U.S., Mexico and Canada and has nearly doubled the size of its workforce to more than 20,000. The North America region now accounts for 30 percent of Faurecia's global sales.

In Michigan, that growth has

taken the form of six new locations since 2010 and a total of 13 sites that collectively employ more than 4,000 people.

Besides being home to the supplier's headquarters, the new building also will house technical centers for Faurecia Automotive Seating and Faurecia Automotive Exteriors.

"As the auto industry has reinvented itself over the past few years, Faurecia has been a notable success story," said Faurecia North America President Mike Heneka. "We have grown

substantially and now we are ready to extend our technical centers and headquarters operations to further support that growth.

"Our new location presents a distinctive opportunity to build from the ground up in a way that most suits our needs and to centralize our technical teams and administrative functions."

The new headquarters facility, at 2800 High Meadow Circle in Oakland Technology Park near I-

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Chrysler Named Among Top Supporters Of Engineering at Black Universities

Chrysler Group has been named a top supporter of engineering programs at the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for the third consecutive year, according to *U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology* (USBE&IT) magazine.

In making its final selection, USBE&IT considered input from the deans of the nation's 14 accredited HBCUs and from members of the corporate-academic alliance, Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering. Each year, the magazine selects 10 corporate and 10 government or nonprofit organizations that provide the most support to HBCUs. The "Top Supporter" list has been in existence for 10 years.

"On behalf of Chrysler Group, we are honored to be recognized for our commitment to the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities as a great source of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) talent," said Georgette Borrego Dulworth, director – Talent Acquisition and Diversity at Chrysler. "Identifying and recruiting diverse talent with world-class skills is imperative to our company's continued success."

Chrysler officials said the company also remains committed to developing and nurturing its diverse technical leaders in the STEM disciplines. In February, USBE&IT awarded its 2012 Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA) Visionary Award to Chrysler Group's Larry Williams, director – Interior Engineering. The BEYA Conference honors outstanding leaders in the STEM fields and provides opportunities for professional development, network-

ing and recruiting. Williams was the latest in a long list of BEYA-winning engineers at Chrysler.

In October 2012, USBE&IT recognized Chrysler Group's Olabisi Boyle, director – Engineering Planning, with the 2012 Women of Color Leadership Award, recognizing her extraordinary accomplishments in leading and managing in the STEM disciplines. Boyle was previously recognized as a Women of Color "Technology Rising Star" and is a past recipient of the Black Engineer of the Year Award.

"We are consistently finding many organizations that are doing their fair share in building the STEM pipeline," said Tyrone Taborn, editor-in-chief of USBE&IT magazine. "Black students and professionals want to know what these organizations are doing for their colleges because they want to work for employers that are committed to their community."

In 2012, the *Detroit Free Press* named Chrysler Group as one of the best places to work in the state of Michigan. In 2011 and 2012, the editors of *DiversityInc* magazine named Chrysler to the magazine's list of "Top 50 Companies for Diversity." This coveted annual benchmark is comprised of companies the magazine's editors believe are diversity-management leaders.

In addition, Chrysler Group has been named one of the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" by *Working Mother* magazine 13 times, and has been recognized six times by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as a leading corporation supporting diversity and inclusion of LGBT employees.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game, Buy Me A . . .



Both Chevrolet and the Detroit Tigers got ready for the baseball team's home opener, held on April 5 at Comerica Park. Chevy has been the official automotive sponsor of the Tigers since 2010. This year, the brand will be displaying the Silverado and the Impala. Both Chevy and the Tigers expect 2013 to be a very good year. The Tigers are looking to repeat as American League Champions and Chevy has introduced refurbished models designed to attract both new and old buyers to the brand. Here, workers load both vehicles onto platforms at Comerica Park, positioning them for all Tigers fans to see as they watch Miguel Cabrera, Justin Verlander, Prince Fielder and the rest of their heroes on the field.

GO GET 'EM, TIGERS

