



# The Detroit News

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## PERALTA OPENS UP OPTIONS

TIGERS LOSE TO YANKEES  
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## UAW puts sale of lake retreat on hold

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# Charter schools reach out to homeless youth

Covenant House has only academies in Mich. for at-risk teens

BY MARISA SCHULTZ  
The Detroit News

**Detroit** — Some students in Covenant House Academies don't have parents or beds to call their own. Others wear court-ordered ankle tethers. Many have children of their own.

These students are the highest risk population to educate. But to Covenant House, they are exactly the types of students they strive to teach.

"These are kids that nobody else wants to serve or has had success in serving," said Stanley A. Childress, superintendent of Covenant House Academies, which has three charter high schools in Detroit. "We embrace this child. ... That's our mission."

The charter schools are expanding their reach to serve more dropouts as well as at-risk and homeless young adults in

### Covenant House Academies

It has these three campuses:

- Central: 2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- East: 7600 Goethe St.
- Southwest: 1721 Junction

To enroll: (313) 463-2007

For information: [www.covenanthousemi.org](http://www.covenanthousemi.org)

Metro Detroit who have been forced out of or have given up on traditional schools. Detroit Public Schools reauthorized Covenant House's charter this year and has approved 500 students — up from 350 — at each of its three schools. Students are typically 16-19 years old, but a change in state law allows Covenant House to enroll dropouts up to age 22, particularly homeless young adults.

Covenant House Academies has the only charter schools targeted to homeless and at-risk youth in Michigan and one of a few in the nation operated

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John T. Gralick / The Detroit News

Social studies teacher Jerry Saddler helps Liekeya Holmes, 16, who says she feels safe at Covenant House Academies.

# Bing moves to jump-start plans to reshape Detroit

Public hearings set; city won't force residents to relocate

BY CHRISTINE MACDONALD AND DARRENA NICHOLS  
The Detroit News

**Detroit** — Mayor Dave Bing vowed Tuesday to reshape the city and said his top priority is developing a plan to address de-

clining population and a glut of vacant land.

The prospect already is controversial, so Bing said he plans to engage residents during the 18-month planning process, starting with public hearings in September.

"This plan really sets the stage for the next 20, 30 (or) 40 years, so I don't want to be rushed into a final decision without the input from the community or the leadership

around the table," Bing said.

"Nobody likes drastic changes. But this city today, or 20 years from now, won't be what it was 40 years ago. There are things we absolutely have to do in terms of change. We've got an infrastructure that's crumbling at a cost that we can't continue."

A task force of more than 50 community leaders met Tuesday night to start the process. The first public meeting is Sept. 14.

The challenge: Detroit's population is half its peak of 1.8 million in 1950, nearly a third of its 139 square miles are vacant, and the cost of providing services is increasing.

One part of the effort already is under way: using millions of dollars in federal money to demolish up to 10,000 homes in targeted neighborhoods in the next four

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Clarence Tabb Jr. / The Detroit News

Sean Conrad, left, and Dan Machuta work on a drilling rig recently in Napoleon Township, near Jackson. State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, is pitching tighter restrictions for the industry via a constitutional amendment, which he wants to get on the November ballot.

# Mich. oil firms face tougher regulations

Recent disasters prompt calls for drilling restrictions

BY JACLYN TROP  
The Detroit News

Two recent high-profile oil spills, one in the Gulf of Mexico and a second that despoiled the Kalamazoo River, could result in tighter restrictions on Michigan's \$1.2 billion oil and gas industry.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has proposed amending Michigan's constitution to hold oil companies and other businesses account-

able by allowing residents to sue for damages from corporate pollution, and eliminating taxpayer subsidies that help polluters clean up spills.

Anderson also wants to make it more difficult to change the state and federal ban against offshore and slant drilling beneath the U.S. portions of the Great Lakes by putting the ban in the state constitution.

The lawmaker hopes to get the measures on the November ballot.

Increasing oil industry regulation received more attention with the rupture last month of an Enbridge Energy Co. Inc. pipeline that released more than 840,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River.

"What has happened now highlights the need to make it a permanent ban," Anderson said. "We need to protect the value of what we have in our Great Lakes."

The proposed constitutional changes pit environmentalists who want more

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