



New Center Outlook

On behalf of New Center Council, I'm especially pleased to convey our optimism and excitement for the news you'll find on these pages. The stories – big and small – demonstrate timely progress in achieving the goals of our Economic Development Plan. They also represent the crucial role of partnerships in urban redevelopment.

Most notably, the State of Michigan move to the former GM Building will be seen as a pivotal development throughout the State for decades. This will be the first time ever that the State will have a **consolidated** presence in the Detroit Metropolitan area. I believe we will be realizing spin-off benefits from this development for many months and years after the move is complete.

Although we recently learned that TrizecHahn is selling key properties in New Center (below) it is important to note that the company will be managing the new State of Michigan Building long into the future, and will continue to provide leadership for the Council.

At the northern edge of New Center, Gramont Manor will serve as a small, but important “building block” to strengthen the fabric of our neighborhood by adding new homeowners.

I'm sure many observers have wondered about the future of Woodward Avenue retail in New Center, due to the deteriorated condition of the streetscape and buildings. New Center Council has taken on the challenge of giving this district new life, through a systematic, market-driven approach that speaks to the needs of building owners and existing tenants, while looking to the future market demands of our evolving neighborhood. The advocacy work of New Center Council, made possible by a grant from the Hudson-Webber Foundation, has made the important first step of public space improvement a reality.

Similar work on the New Amsterdam Project will see necessary public improvements in place as new residents are moving in. While this type of groundwork doesn't usually make headlines, it can mean the difference between success and failure in a development project. Imagine Harmonie Park without the street trees, wrought iron fencing and historic street lights. They were installed ten years ago, with little fanfare, but have been crucial to the success of that project. New Center Council realizes this groundwork doesn't just “happen.”

In the meantime, day after day, New Center Council staff has continued to make this neighborhood one of the best in Detroit. From public space design and maintenance to security; from marketing (how about this year's Comerica Michigan Tastefest?!) to planning and development, from working with neighborhood kids to representing our members and stakeholders on crucial issues, I consider myself fortunate to be working on this team.

I hope to see you at our annual meeting and watch for more good news.

Michael C. Solaka
President
New Center Council, Inc.



Albert Kahn Building

The Architects Enterprise
IMG Motorsports

New Center One

Co/op Optical Vision
Flash
W-3 Construction Company

Fisher Building

M.E.S. Credit Union
CONNECTS, Inc.
Hargreaves, Charbonneau & Associates
Applied Power & Technologies
WDRQ-FM
Kendall Communications, Inc.
NuVision Technologies
CitiMortgage Corporation
Insight Marketing Group, Inc.

On August 28, TrizecHahn Office Properties Inc. announced its intent to put the Fisher and Albert Kahn buildings up for sale as part of a previously announced \$1-billion U.S. asset sale program that will allow the company to focus on technology interests.

TrizecHahn continues its commitment to New Center. The sale announcement will not affect the company's redevelopment and operation of the former GM Building, which will soon be occupied by the State of Michigan.

The company continues to be a part owner of New Center One with General Motors, and any future plans for the building will be decided jointly with GM.