

# Pistons fire coach John Kuester

# WHO'S NEXT?

DREW SHARP: IF HIS SEVENTH COACH ALSO FLOPS, DUMARS WILL FEEL THE HEAT

SPORTS, 1B

Kuester's two-year record: 57-107.

DOUG PENSINGER/Getty Images



SCOTT BOEHM/Getty Images

DETROIT 7, CHICAGO 3

Grand slam by Raburn leads Tigers over White Sox

SPORTS, 1B

## BREAK ROOM

Celebrating a life lived well with Irish style

JEFF SEIDEL, 2A

## RABIES SURVIVOR

Teenager who made history graduates from college

LIFE, 1D

84 High 69 Low



## Picture perfect

Another day for sunglasses. FORECAST, 2A

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ON GUARD FOR 180 YEARS

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# PALMER WOODS PUMPS UP SECURITY



KATHLEEN GALLIGAN/Detroit Free Press

Kevin Kyle chats with Dale Brown, at the wheel of a black Hummer H2 pickup while patrolling the Palmer Woods neighborhood near 7 Mile and Woodward in Detroit on May 11. The security patrols are provided by the neighborhood association.

## Residents of upscale Detroit neighborhood on board with paramilitary-style patrols

By NAOMI R. PATTON  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

It started with the traffic. Three years ago, members of the Palmer Woods Association began working with the City of Detroit to limit traffic access through their neighborhood as part of an effort to reduce crime.

But living across the street from a Detroit police precinct didn't shield the residents from break-ins and other property crimes, especially with vacant homes becoming more common in the long-prominent, upscale neighborhood.

Brian Johnson, the association's security director, said residents realized "that it wasn't enough ... there was no unique, real idea as to how to maintain a neighborhood and provide a disincentive" against break-ins.

So the association went a step further in

March, hiring Detroit-based Recon Security — a firm with paramilitary-style personnel, owned and operated by a Highland Park police lieutenant — to patrol the neighborhood. The patrols even stop nonresidents to make sure they have legitimate business or a connection to residents.

Most Palmer Woods residents immediately embraced the presence of the guards. Others were initially put off.

Karoy Brooks, a retired Detroit Public Schools principal who has lived in Palmer Woods for 25 years, was among the apprehensive.

"I had some questions, and I was wondering how the neighbors would react," she said. "I think everybody's definitely on board."

"They're very active," she said about Recon.

■ ON PATROL IN PALMER WOODS. 4A



SUSAN TUSA/Detroit Free Press

Currently, Michigan drivers must have unlimited personal-injury coverage. Policy alternatives could lower the number of uninsured drivers.

# Cheaper insurance option is in the works

Lawmaker's plan: Let Detroit test auto policies with limits on costly injury coverage

By DAWSON BELL  
FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU

Detroit could become a test site for a stripped-down, cheaper form of auto insurance under a proposal aimed at convincing the large number of uninsured drivers in the city to drive legally.

State Sen. Virgil Smith, D-Detroit, said last week that he hopes to introduce legislation this week to authorize insurers to offer Detroiters of modest means policies without the expensive, unlimited personal-injury coverage required of Michigan drivers. The policies would be available to good drivers with income no greater than three times the federal poverty guidelines and cars worth less than \$20,000, he said.

Smith said he hoped the policies could be made available for less than \$1,000 per vehicle per year — half or less than what a bare-bones policy costs now.

He said the pilot program could help answer questions that, for decades, have stymied efforts in Lansing to address the high cost of insurance and consequently, the high number of uninsured drivers. If it works, it could be extended to other drivers.

Such a change would test the theory that insurers would offer low-cost policies if Michigan's unique-in-the-nation unlimited medical-expenses requirement for drivers was waived and also test whether uninsured motorists would buy them.

■ PROPOSAL TESTS INSURERS AND DRIVERS. 2A  
■ HOW SIMILAR IDEA WORKS IN CALIFORNIA. 2A

# Do young people have the skills or the interest to get, keep jobs?

Last of two parts  
We all know a young man or woman who is in the first or second year of college and has never had a job — and frankly, isn't looking.

And we all can imagine how uncomfortable things could get on that first job for the boss and the new, twentysomething hire.

"Kids are texting at will," said Nancy Zambardi, a career specialist with



SUSAN TOMPOR

the Troy School District.

While that might work if you're the boss, but not always, texting on the clock is a definite no on most jobs.

With only about a third of Americans ages 16-19 in the labor force today, the worry is that a growing number young people will face similar challenges, said Joy Mason, director of youth services for MichiganWorks! in Highland Park and

the city of Wayne.

Employment experts, counselors and others are concerned that the length of the recession — and growing demands on teens' time from sports to volunteering to build the right credentials for college — could create a larger pool of young people without job smarts and actual work experience.

"They're just not prepared to work," Mason said.

■ GOOD, YOUNG WORKERS HARD TO FIND. 5A  
■ FUNDING CUTS LEAVE JOBS VACANT. 5A



JARRAD HENDERSON/Detroit Free Press

Tina Vaughan, regional merchandiser for Masterpiece Flower, which handles flowers at Meijer, said she had a hard time finding workers who wanted jobs at \$9 an hour.

## Want to know how to look for a summer job?

Join us at [freep.com](http://freep.com) for a Web chat noon-1 p.m. today. Paul Duford, youth work-force programs manager for the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance MichiganWorks! will give tips on how teens can make their job search more successful. Karen Levinson, youth coordinator for Ferndale Career Center MichiganWorks! will offer advice, too.

Also at [freep.com](http://freep.com), read Sunday's report by Susan Tompor on the dramatic drop of teens in the labor force.



## Wayne

DETROIT

## Officer hit by wrong-way driver

A Detroit police officer patrolling Greektown on foot was hospitalized Sunday after he was hit by a man driving the wrong way, a police spokeswoman said.

The veteran officer from the Central District was listed in temporary serious condition, Sgt. Eren Stephens said. The officer's name and details of his injuries were not released.

The officer was hit crossing Monroe Street at St. Antoine around 12:30 a.m., she said.

Police arrested a 30-year-old man from New York who was driving a Ford Focus, but he has not been charged.

## Police to host community dialogue on Saturday

Detroit Police Chief Ralph Godbee Jr. and members of the Detroit Police Department are hosting a Community One on One dialogue on Saturday.

Residents can meet with command officers to discuss issues or concerns 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Eastern District, 11187 Gratiot; Northeastern District, 5100 E. Nevada; Central District, 7310 Woodward; 12th Precinct, 1441 W. Seven Mile; 10th Precinct, 12000 Livernois; 6th and 8th precincts, 11450 Warwick, and Southwestern District, 4700 W. Fort.

## Deadline June 30 for Fuel Detroit proposals

The Detroit Foundation, a new nonprofit organization, has launched its inaugural granting campaign, Fuel Detroit.

The campaign calls on metro Detroiters to submit grant proposals for projects that benefit the city and help grow the local creative economy. The deadline is June 30.

The proposals will be reviewed during a two-week window, and a winner will be announced.

The organization hopes to award one grant of \$5,000. The Detroit Foundation, created in 2010, supports social entrepreneurship and the growth of the creative and knowledge industries in metro Detroit.

For information, go to [www.detroitfoundation.org](http://www.detroitfoundation.org).

## State Police offer driving class for teens

Seven teenagers will have an opportunity to attend a Teen Defensive Driving class taught by the Michigan State Police Precision Driving Unit at the end of the month.

Teens have until June 13 to apply for a scholarship for their chance to be randomly selected. To qualify, the teen must be between 16 and 18 and have a level 2 graduated driver's license.

The class includes seven hours of hands-on training and one hour of classroom instruction.

The scholarships are made possible by a donation from the Keisha MacDonald Dare 2 Dream Foundation, created to honor Keisha Michelle MacDonald, who was killed in a car accident on Feb. 7, 2007.

The scholarship recipients will be announced June 14 and will attend the class on June 29 and 30.

For information, go to [www.michigan.gov/msp](http://www.michigan.gov/msp).

## Oakland

SOUTHFIELD

## Homeowners can get tips

CitiMortgage and GreenPath Debt Solutions, a non-profit debt counseling company, will host a free homeowner assistance event Tuesday for distressed homeowners.

CitiMortgage client assistance representatives will consult with homeowners having difficulty making their mortgage payments or facing potential foreclosure. Homeowners whose loans are serviced by other mortgage companies will be able to consult with GreenPath foreclosure prevention counselors.

Homeowners should bring copies of their mortgage statement and copies of the two most recent pay stubs indicating year-to-date earnings.

The event is noon-7 p.m. at the Westin Southfield Detroit, 1500 Town Center in Southfield.

## Join the mayor for a walk and a talk

Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence is to begin her walking program today.

The "Mayor's Walks: A Healthy City Is a Strong City" program starts at Inglenook Park, on west 12 Mile Road between Lahser and Evergreen roads.

Southfield residents and businesspeople can join Lawrence and other elected officials, department heads and community leaders for a walk every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through July 29.

The walk begins with a warm-up at 6:45 a.m.; the walk is 7-7:30 a.m.

The goal is to foster physical fitness while allowing residents an opportunity to talk with their elected officials.

For information, call Marty Williams, executive assistant to the mayor, at 248-796-5100.

## Macomb

MT. CLEMENS

## Museum seeks \$40,000 for study

Macomb Children's Hands-On Museum organizers are seeking 40 donors to contribute \$1,000 each.

Proceeds will be used to hire a nationally known consultant to complete the feasibility study.

Letters are being mailed to more than 200 residents and community leaders asking for their support of the campaign. A meeting for donors will be noon June 14 at the Anton Art Center, 125 Macomb Place in Mt. Clemens.

Feasibility Consultant Robert (Mac) West of Informational Learning Experiences will be discussing the project and process.

For information, call Monika Rittner at 586-615-7928, e-mail [macombchm@yahoo.com](mailto:macombchm@yahoo.com) or go to [www.Macombchm.weebly.com](http://www.Macombchm.weebly.com).

## COVER STORY



Photos by KATHLEEN GALLIGAN/Detroit Free Press

Dale Brown of Recon Security's Threat Management Division checks out the perimeter of a home where an alarm went off May 11 while he was patrolling the Palmer Woods neighborhood in Detroit. Part of his job is to make a video and e-mail the homeowner when an incident occurs.

## Palmer Woods getting a boost from security

Private patrols are cause for civic pride — and a selling point

By NAOMI R. PATTON  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The black Hummer H2 pickup appeared intimidating as it rolled at around 5 m.p.h. through the quiet streets of Palmer Woods near 7 Mile and Woodward on a sunny afternoon.

On the front doors on both sides, an equally imposing silver seal read: "THREAT MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS DETERRENCE DETECTION DEFENSE."

At the wheel of the Hummer was Dale Brown, unarmed, wearing gray camouflage pants, black combat boots and various holsters strapped to his leg and shoulders. Two cell phones were at the ready, with an iPad in a dock attached to the dashboard to track his personnel.

Brown waved from the window, calling out in a cheerful, full voice to contractors and residents alike, "How are you doing today?" "Is everything OK?"

## Validated by videos

When an alarm went off at a house, Brown walked the perimeter, peering in all the windows, while video-recording the stop for the homeowner, to whom he made a call and e-mailed the video.

"It's not about trust," Brown, 42, said of the patrols performed by him and his team. "It's validated," he said, referring to the videos they make of all home perimeter searches and the interaction they have with nonresidents who come into Palmer Woods.

"You can create a positive environment for families to exist," said Brown, who served in the Army in the early 1990s.

He and his staff, who have patrolled Palmer Woods since March, are part of Recon Security's Threat Management Division, a partnership between Recon Security, owned by Highland Park Police Lt. Robert Howard, and Brown's Threat Management Centers based on Detroit's east side.

Howard describes the division as a type of SWAT team that operates "in a tight parameter in terms of what the law allows them to do."

"We pound into these guys: 'You're not police officers,'" Howard said.

Their procedure — asking for identification from contractors or anyone who appears suspicious — is legal because they work for the Palmer Woods Association, which is a private entity, not a government body.

No one is obligated to show



Contractors now are checked out by the security patrol to confirm that they are working in Palmer Woods.

ID, and there is no bellowing over a loudspeaker for anyone to pull over. Brown and his staff discreetly monitor the person, confirming with a homeowner to determine whether the person is a valid guest or contractor. If they see suspicious or criminal behavior, Recon staff members call police.

Detroit Police Lt. Kevin Robinson, who worked with the association for the last four years as he worked in the former Western District, now the 12th Precinct, acknowledged Recon's work in assisting police as a deterrent to crimes of opportunity.

## An affordable option

Brian Johnson, the association's security director, learned about the firm from a neighbor who saw it featured on a news report. He touted Palmer Woods' relationship with Robinson and the 12th Precinct, but said Recon was an affordable boost to the neighborhood's security.

Robinson was quick to credit Palmer Woods residents for activism in protecting their neighborhood, adding that he sees a movement in protecting neighborhoods and "pride coming back to the city."

In the city's Boston-Edison and University District neighborhoods, by comparison, security efforts range from traditional Neighborhood Watch patrols to citizen radio patrols and subscriber security firm patrols.

"It has worked for us," said Pamela Miller-Malone, president of the Historic Boston-

Edison Association, about its community and subscriber patrol. The association also has e-mail alerts and a phone tree for older residents.

## Neighborhood selling point

While patrolling Palmer Woods on a May afternoon, Brown stopped to greet Carol Garibaldi, who was moving to the neighborhood with her husband, new University of Detroit Mercy President Antoine Garibaldi. She said the security "was a big reason why we decided to move into this neighborhood."

"They use good judgment; they don't scare off any visitors. ... They're very polite," she said.

Barbara Barefield, who has lived in Palmer Woods for 24 years, agreed. She was concerned about the firm when it started, because it doesn't keep a set patrol schedule.



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"They're really focused on what they're doing," Barefield said about Brown and Recon. "It really felt like we were getting people that cared about the city."

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