



Chevy Volt

GM making strides with Chevy Volt

As GM makes strides toward bring new technology to its brand, they are making a lot of noise with the new electric Chevy Volt. The company announced earlier this week that the car is slated to receive a rating of 230 mpg in city driving.

"From the data we've seen, many Chevy Volt drivers may be able to be in pure electric mode on a daily basis without having to use any gas," said GM Chief Executive Officer Fritz Henderson. "EPA labels are a yardstick for customers to compare the fuel efficiency of vehicles. So, a vehicle like the Volt that achieves a composite triple-digit fuel economy is a game-changer."

The Volt, which is scheduled to start production in late 2010 as a 2010 model, will feature an on-board gasoline generator that will recharge the batteries after 40 miles. While actual gas-free mileage will vary based on distance and other factors, fuel efficiency will definitely be an improvement.

Can petroleum "Go Green"?

Michigan Forward will host "Can Petroleum Go Green" a discussion that will explore how U.S. and Global energy policies are affecting the petroleum industry. "Can Petroleum Go Green" will take place on Thursday, August 20, 2009 from

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Java Exchange located at 440 Burroughs in Detroit.



"Can Petroleum Go Green" is the second installment in the Forward Conversations series presented by Michigan Forward. Forward Conversations seeks to expose Metro Detroiters to domestic and foreign issues that shape Michigan's local urban centers.

"Our world runs on petroleum," says Brandon Jessup, executive director, Michigan Forward. "Because of Michigan's position as a leader in the automotive world our rise and fall is interconnected to the policies that govern this very important industry."

In addition to discussing the effects U.S. and Global energy policies have on the petroleum industry "Can Petroleum Go Green" will also explore how Michigan's oil refineries and corn growing environment can contribute to rising energy demands.

Michigan Forward is a local non-profit, non-partisan organization that was created to research, strategize and advocate around

public policy issues from the perspective of urban communities.

For more information on Forward Conversations please contact Brandon Jessup at brandon@michiganforward.org.

Motor City's Iridescence welcomes new chef

Chef Don Yamauchi has taken the reigns at Iridescence located in the Motor City Casio Hotel. The James Beard Award-winning chef brings with him a fresh take on upscale comfort-inspired foods presented in an unforgettable setting.



Chef Yamauchi introduces each dish.

A graduate of the culinary School of Kendall College in Evanston, Ill, Yamauchi understands the nuances of the Midwest dining scene. With signature menu items such as Chicken Two Ways, Crab Louie with avocado puree, Wagyu Beef Sliders, and Pan-Seared King Salmon, his fresh upscale take on comfort foods places Iridescence in a new class as a restaurant destined for greatness.

While their aim is to present a memorable dining experience, the new menu will feature modest pricing in consideration for the current economic status.

For more information about Iridescence, please visit www.motorcitycasino.com.

Jeffrey Davis name VP of Finance for Walmart

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced the promotion of Jeffrey A. Davis to senior vice president of finance for Walmart U.S. store operations. Davis and his team will be responsible for supporting store operations through the initiation and application of financial and operational strategies. The team's goal is to help enhance the Walmart shopping experience, improve efficiencies and reduce overall costs for the nearly 3700 Walmart stores nationwide.

Davis joined Walmart's finance department in January 2006 as a vice president. In April 2007, he was promoted to vice president of Finance for U.S. store operations. During that time, Davis was awarded the Sam M. Walton Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the highest honor awarded to a Walmart associate, for his role in the design and implementation of the company's \$4 prescription drug program.



Davis

HEALTHCARE: only when we have to

By Jason Johnson

Americans seem to hate the forest but love the trees. No matter the issue, Americans have no problem decrying a system as a whole but expressing undying loyalty to their small part in it.

Turn on any talk radio show and you'll hear someone railing against lazy teachers and disinterested administrators in public schools in general, but turn right around and claim their kid's school is the best in the county. Congress' overall approval level has been lower than 40 percent for almost a year yet many people will swear to you that their congressperson is the only prince in a den of thieves. It's this curious contradiction in American attitudes that explains why President Obama is losing ground on the health care debate: Americans all agree that our health care system needs to be fixed but too many people are satisfied with their own health care for anything radical to really get done.

According to a recent Rasmussen poll, only 35 percent of Americans rate the health care system as good or excellent, but amongst those that actually have health care 70 percent rate their personal coverage as good to excellent. That is followed by a recent Pew Charitable Trusts poll showing that only 25 percent of Americans are even paying that "close" attention to the health care debate. How can these attitudes exist simultaneously across so much of the

United States? Easily, because the core of the health care debate is pitting the haves versus the have-nots even though neither side necessarily knows they're playing for that team.

The majority of Americans are healthy and the majority of Americans still have jobs. Yes, many of us feel we could lose a few extra pounds here and there but by and large Americans feel pretty healthy. What's more, health care in the United States is usually linked to employment; if you have a job, you have health care. You may not think your provider is the greatest but since most people are healthy they don't think about their health care plan much as long as they know they have one.

If the paragraph above describes you, you're one of the haves and you probably aren't paying that much attention to the health care debate. And when you do, you're seeing scary commercials run by the health care industry telling you that Obama wants socialism and that a national health care plan is going to be like a Saturday afternoon at the DMV; long waits, bad service and general incompetence.

The challenge that Obama wants to head off is the increasing number of have-nots who are getting more and more worried about their coverage and have evolved from the working poor to the recently downtrodden middle and upper class. With almost 10 percent unemployment nationally and over 15 percent in

some states, millions of Americans are without jobs for the foreseeable future and therefore they and their children and dependants are without healthcare.

When you add to that the impending retirement and health care needs of Baby Boomers, we're staring down the barrel of the greatest policy crisis since the depression. To be honest, Obama's health care proposals aren't really that revolutionary. His main plan still links his government health care plan to employment but at least it provides a cheap alternative to some of the private plans that employers buy and improves access for people who have been denied coverage by private providers.

All too often when it comes to health problems and policy we're afraid of making any serious changes when the problem is manageable. We avoid going to the doctor for a stomach ache because we're afraid she'll look at us for five minutes, give us a bottle of Robitussin and charge us \$250. A few months later when we can't sleep at night, we don't go to the doctor because we think it'll cost \$500 for an X-ray that we just can't afford right now. A year later when the pain is unbearable and you finally go to the doctor it's a \$100,000 problem and you're reduced to church fundraisers and putting a sob story picture and coin cup next to the McDonald's cash register to raise money for surgery.

Right now America's health care problem is at the \$500 level, but if we don't start paying attention and demanding an equitable plan from Congress it's going to grow to the \$100,000 range. And there aren't enough church fundraisers and sob stories in the world that'll be able to bail us out of that catastrophe.