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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

# New Center News



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## City Planner Envisions Light Rail Line in Detroit

By Gerald Scott  
Staff Writer

Anybody who says that Detroit doesn't have any "big thinkers" or big dreamers apparently has never met Alex Pollock.

By all accounts, Pollock is a mild-mannered principal city planner for the city of Detroit, working with the city's Planning and Development group at the Cadillac Building downtown, the one often called the "Barry Sanders Building" because of the larger-than-life Nike painting of the Detroit Lions' running back on the side of the building.

Pollock not only does regular business planning for Detroit, he also thinks big, real big, as in echoing the late Chicago architect Daniel Burnham's mantra of "Make no small plans."

Among Pollock's more elaborate plans for Detroit are a light rail system up and down Woodward between the New Center Area and Grand Circus Park, as well as an automotive theme park called the Toy Testing Laboratory with emphasis on adult-sized toys — cars, hydroplanes and the like.

"A world-class city has unique characteristics that people 'have to go see,' just like we have the capability of building an aerial tramway between Detroit and Windsor across the international waterway," Pollock said, explaining his sweeping view of a futuristic Detroit skyline.

"That is a world-class function that no other city in the United



ALEX POLLOCK, a principal city planner with the Planning and Development department, envisions a light rail system running from Grand Circus Park to the GM Building.

States or North America could duplicate. We could do it, but we don't do it. It would run from casino to casino (from the U.S. to the Canadian side) with 30 cars and each one holding 1,800 passengers. The tramway has been talked about for 30 years."

So has a new light rail system up and down Woodward since Detroit's first interurban light rail way to the suburbs in 1955.

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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY dean of libraries Patricia Senn Breivik is also president of DALNET, a consortium of area library computer networks promoting local and global on-line access.

## Detroit Libraries Pool Resources to Create New Online Network

By Gerald Scott  
Staff Writer

It didn't get the attention it deserved.

A new computer network designed to become an easier on-ramp for Southeast Michigan residents to cruise onto the information superhighway was born Oct. 21.

It's called DALNET, for Detroit Area Library Network, and chances are you'll be hearing more about it as it becomes more fully operational by 2000.

In the meantime, DALNET, Wayne State University and Ameritech Library Services penned an agreement establishing a technical infrastructure for the new network, which is a makeover of the current older DALNET library consortia.

DALNET is a uniquely diverse consortium, made up of 21 libraries, including public, community college, university, medical, law and art libraries located throughout Southeast Michigan. This consortium will team with Ameritech to build the hub using Ameritech Library Services' award-winning online library automation system, Horizon, and an

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MOTOR CITY

Brown said. "State workers moving in is the most wonderful thing I've ever heard. We've got to keep the city moving and this should do it."

The AAA Michigan Travel Center in the GM Building is a busy and happy place as well. Travel is one market that seems to be a certain draw, regardless of whether the local traffic comes from GM workers or state government workers.

Nancy Cain, AAA Michigan's regional spokeswoman in Dearborn, observed that, "We're delighted to see new tenants coming into the GM Building."

"We hope that they take lots of trips, both corporate and private as well."

Many New Center retailers have

ago to less than 4,000 today, with only 1,600 of those GM employees still working inside the GM Building.

Not so at the American Hair Center, a combination men's barber shop and women's beauty salon, where owner Vic Groeb reports that his business has been steady throughout the GM contraction.

Like his peers, Groeb is pleased that a new body of state workers guarantees the GM Building's commercial retail viability going into the 21st century.

"I think it's going to be really nice," Groeb said. "The area really needs the influx of workers. I think, but even though we have a smaller shop we've been actually doing quite well."

"We're staying put."

Although a November chill had set in during the week of their "bake sale with bricks," football team members were all happy to be helping out their program.

One visitor to the Hudson's brick table at WSU was Chuck Pokriefka, the University's director of facilities for the Medical School. Pokriefka, 49, is old enough to have worked in the Hudson's Building for two years in the advertising department on the 19th floor and was eagerly purchasing bricks as souvenirs.

"I went to the Goodwill store at 12 Mile and Dequindre in Warren and people were standing in long lines just to get chips and slivers from bricks, all of the full bricks had already been purchased," Pokriefka said.

"Hudson's was a great place to work at and a number of people I worked with there, I also happen to work with now at Wayne State. The bricks will make a great paperweight."

## DALNET

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Ameritech high speed data network with public access.

"The Southeast Michigan Information Hub is designed to serve people throughout the seven-county Detroit regional area in their lifelong educational, cultural, research, professional and creative endeavors," said Patricia Ann Brevik, DALNET president and dean of the Wayne State University Library System.

Brevik is the author of "Information Literacy: Educating Children for the 21st Century," a scholarly tome that examines how people learn and how Americans are coping with the online information glut now flooding our society.


Brevik preaches resource-based learning to promote information literacy, or, the ability to critically analyze and use information rather than just having access to a data base. She cited the fact that there are 40,000 web sites dedicated to the "medical" field alone and that, theoretically, DALNET will eventually be able to help navigate a given user to get where they need to go in the shortest amount of time.

Another curious problem with on-line database access that Brevik cited is that the "local" has been sacrificed for "global" so that it's still difficult for Southeast Michigan computer users to find,

say, specific Detroit-related information about small business start-ups.

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