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In This Issue

[MI auto suppliers benefit from fed stimulus funds](#)

[Beat the winter blahs. Take a bus ride to these cool places.](#)

[Check-in on Foursquare](#)

[Route 8 now serving Michigan Works!/Clover stop](#)

[Got transit? It's good for everybody.](#)

[Befriend us, Valentine](#)

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Editor's Note:

Well, the groundhog saw his shadow Feb. 2, and that means six more weeks of winter. But spring will be here before we know it, and soon MAX passengers will be enjoying that "new bus smell." This spring, MAX will take delivery of four new state-of-the-art Gillig low floor buses that will have a positive impact on Michigan's economy. We're also busy implementing a new Intelligent Technology System (ITS) that will allow us to know the exact location of all of our buses at all times, and better manage our paratransit services. But until we see the robins hopping about, enjoy the rest of winter by riding the MAX to some of the 'cooler' spots around town.

MAX's stimulus funds benefit Michigan suppliers

MAX's receipt of \$1.6 million in federal stimulus money to purchase four new low floor buses from Gillig of California will benefit Michigan auto suppliers. While MAX ordered the buses from the West Coast manufacturer (there are no commercial bus manufacturers in Michigan), some of that stimulus money is making its way back to our state. At least nine components used by Gillig to built MAX's buses are provided by Michigan suppliers:



- Fiamm Technology of Cadillac (horn)
- Air-Way Manufacturing of Detroit (air and fluid fittings)
- American Seating of Grand Rapids (passenger seats)
- American Cooling of Grand Rapids (fans)
- Center Manufacturing of Byron Center (surge tank cap)
- Trelleborg of South Haven (cushy float/engine mounts)
- Rich-co Transportation of Lake City (freight services)
- SAF Holland of Muskegon (front and rear suspension system)

MAX was among the six transit systems or communities that received \$14 million in Recovery Act Funds for Transportation Upgrades announced in June by Gov. Granholm's office.

Winter blahs? Ride the MAX to these cool places

Mid-winter doldrums? Here are a few cool places on MAX's fixed bus routes. They're a great pick-me-up when you've got a bad case of the winter blues.

- DeGraaf Nature Center (Route 3) - Take a hike along the trails

2009 Annual Report Available Online

Our 2009 Annual Report is available to view and print online. Click here to access the report. [2009 Annual Report](#)

- to heighten the senses and sooth the soul with nature's beauty.
- DePree Art Center and Gallery (Route 3) - View the latest art exhibits to get your creative juices flowing.
- Doubletree Hotel (Route 6) - Enjoy their special rates and packages and treat the family to dip in the pool and pretend you're in Florida.
- Westshore Mall (Route 1) - Almost everything is on clearance after the holidays. Stretch your dollars by taking advantage of the outrageously low prices from the mall stores.
- Downtown Holland (Routes 2,3) - Downtown Holland retailers are having their annual winter 'Meltdown Sale' Feb. 11-13.
- Century Bowling Lanes (Routes 6, 7) - Every Tuesday is "Quartermania." Bowl for only 25 cents a game with free rental shoes after a \$6 flat cover charge from 9 p.m.-midnight.

Check-in with MAX on Foursquare.com

MAX is now on [Foursquare](#). It's a new social media website that's a cross between a friend locator, city guide, and game that rewards you for doing interesting things. "Check-in" with Foursquare whenever you ride MAX to a local place. When you check-in, Foursquare lets your friends know where they can find you and awards you points and badges based on your adventurousness.

Tell us which bus route you took, where you are, and what's cool about where you are. (i.e. Route 6, Holland 7, Avatar rocks with 3D glasses). Use your iPhone, Blackberry, Android and Palm Pre. If you don't have one of these phones, you can always check-in via SMS by sending a text to 50500. Check-in from parks, art galleries, museums, and restaurants

Michigan Works/Clover now served by Route 8


Route 1-N. Mall Area no longer serves the Clover/Michigan Works! bus stop. This bus stop has been reassigned to Route 8-Zeeland. The stop time is 00:47. Call MAX Customer Service at 355-1010 with questions about this bus stop change.

Transit good for budget, body and the environment

If Americans used public transit for just 10% of trips, the US could reduce its dependency on foreign oil by 40%. If just 1 in 5 American used public transit daily, carbon monoxide pollution would decrease by more than all the emissions from the entire chemical manufacturing industry and all metal processing plants in the U.S. It's good for your budget as well as your body. Riding MAX daily can save you thousands of dollars every year! Riding MAX daily for a year costs just \$360 compared with \$5,000-\$8,000 annually for owning, operating and maintaining a personal vehicle. A recent study showed that transit users were more fit and in shape than non-bus riders because they walked regularly to bus stops.



Be our Friend (and Valentine)

 Become our friend on Facebook and invite your friends! Our goal is to get at least 100 new friends every month for the next 12 months. We'll share the latest news and updates, and ask what you think about proposed policies,

programs and bus routes. Help make our transit system better by joining us on Facebook.

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