

United Auto Workers LOCAL EYE OPENER 598 EYE OPENER



VOLUME 43 ISSUE 10

www.uawlocal598.or

OCTOBER 2024

WE...

- Are the Middle Class
- Pay the Taxes
- Fight in the Wars





MAKE A PLAN AND AND VOTE!

The Choice We Make On Election Day

"Our country stands at a crossroads, and the choice we make on Election Day will have profound consequences..."

STEPHANIE RILEY

from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

s we approach the presidential election just two weeks from now, I want to emphasize the critical importance of this moment. Our country stands at a crossroads, and the choice we make on Election Day will have profound consequences for working families, the future of American manufacturing, and the strength of our labor movement.

Throughout our history, the United Auto Workers have fought tirelessly to ensure that workers have a voice in our democracy and a seat at the table when decisions affecting our lives are made. This election is no different.

Our next president will shape policies that directly impact our jobs, our wages, our healthcare, and our right to organize. Now, more than ever, we must come together to elect leaders who will stand with us, not against us.

The Future of Our Work is on the Ballot

The automotive industry is facing significant challenges, from the transition to electric vehicles and automation to the threats of outsourcing and weakening labor laws. These changes are happening rapidly, and the decisions made in Washington will affect how they unfold. We need leaders who understand the value of good-paying, union jobs and who will fight to protect them.

We cannot afford policies that prioritize corporate profits over workers' livelihoods. We need a president who will:

- Support the right to organize: Our ability to fight for fair wages, safe working conditions, and good benefits depends on strong labor laws that protect our right to organize and bargain collectively. We need a leader who will push for pro-union legislation.
- Invest in American manufacturing: The transition to electric vehicles and new technologies must not come at the cost of American jobs. We need substantial investments in domestic manufacturing to ensure that the jobs of the future are created here at home, with union workers at the helm.
- Defend workers' healthcare and retirement security: We cannot allow politicians to erode the benefits we've fought so hard to secure. We need leaders who will strengthen Social Security, protect pensions, and expand access to affordable healthcare.
- Take a stand against outsourcing: Too many good union jobs have been lost to offshoring and unfair trade practices. We need a president who will put American workers first and hold corporations accountable when they prioritize cheap labor overseas.

Working People Are the Backbone of this Nation

The outcome of this election will determine whether our government will work for the people who build and sustain this country or continue to favor the wealthy and powerful. For too long, corporations and special interests have dominated the political landscape, influencing policies that undermine workers' rights and tilt the playing field against us.

But history has shown that when workers unite, we can bring about real change. We have the power to drive this country forward, just as we have done time and again throughout our union's proud history. Our votes, our voices, and our solidarity can ensure that the interests of working people are front and center.

Mobilizing Our Union Family

In the final days and weeks, I urge each of you to get involved and make your voices heard. Whether it's talking to coworkers, participating in phone banks, or encouraging family and friends to vote, every effort counts. This election is too important for any of us to sit on the sidelines.

We must not only cast our ballots, but also ensure that everyone we know understands what is at stake. Working people must show up in record numbers to demand a government that respects and supports us. Our collective power is immense, but it is only effective if we use it.

This Fight is Personal

For me, this election is not just about politics; it's about the lives of our members and their families. I have spoken with countless UAW members who have shared stories of factory closures, struggles with healthcare, and fears about the future of their jobs. These are not just statistics or policy talking points. These are our brothers and sisters who deserve a fair shot at the American Dream.

I am committed to standing with you in this fight, not just as your Local 598 president, but as a fellow worker who believes in the dignity and value of labor. We cannot allow our voices to be drowned out by those who would prefer a workforce that is weaker and more divided. We need leaders who understand that when unions are strong, America is strong.

Let's Make Our Voices Heard

In less than two short weeks, we have the chance to shape the future of our country in a profound way. Let's make sure that our voices are heard loud and clear. Let's show up for this election, not just for ourselves, but for the generations that will follow. The stakes couldn't be higher, and the need for unity couldn't be more urgent.

Together, we can elect leaders who will fight for the working families and bring about the change we need. Let's continue the fight for a fair economy, for the future of the American manufacturing, and for the strength of the labor movement.



Member Protests Helped Drive Change

"... this is a person who makes aigantic decisions that could affect our fate, so it is always good when she leaves with a positive experience." ERIC WELTER

SHOP CHAIRMAN

First, I would like to congratulate D'Andre Jackson for winning the Recording Secretary election. D'Andre will be missed on the Shop Committee, but I believe he will add tremendous value at the Union Hall.

In August, we struggled with a corporate overtime reduction mandate that sent the plant into chaos. We had a majority of TLs on the line and in some cases management doing their work. We wrote a lot of Par. 215 grievances, demanding they cease doing bargaining unit work and comply with the National Agreement. The grievances worked and most days we have normal TL availability.

The membership supported this fight by impacting DRR and throughput. With both of us working together, they didn't stand a chance and are now complying. There may still be some instances, so we need a committee call when they violate our agreement. The company looks at each grievance for a committee call stating we are violating Par. 28 and soliciting grievances, so please follow the process. Protest to your GL and ask for committee if they fail to comply. Our entire organization is based on a member voicing a protest.

GM CEO Mary Barra recently visited the plant. This was a routine plant visit. Our people really put our best foot forward and did a great job. Thank you to the people who participated in the plant stops and the diagonal slice. Whether we agree with her or not, this is a person who makes gigantic decisions that could affect our fate, so it is always good when she leaves with a positive experience.

The company rolled out a pretty heavy Saturday schedule. Hurricane Helene destroyed parts of the southeast and impacted one of our suppliers that makes engine fans. This resulted in a loss of 2,900 units to the flood. The increased schedule is a plan to make up the lost units. Although difficult, this is a good thing. There are many locations that lost production in the past months that were told by marketing that they did not need to make up the vehicles. They made this plan complying with both the National Agreement Plan A language and our Local Agreement language restricting the Saturdays connected to a Friday or Monday holiday. I believe the company could have used an overtime exemption called Emergency Status because the losses were due to a flood, but they chose to stay within normal status.

A few Locals, including Fort Wayne Assembly, have laid off their temporary workers, creating a lot of anxiety within our workforce. Every quarter, VP Mike Booth has to approve the use of temporary workers at each plant. He has committed that he will only approve temporary workers if the chairman of that location approves and signs the requisition.

This layoff is a result of the Chairman not approving the

quarterly temp req. They have their own issues and situations, one being he was told they would never put on FTT or convert temporaries to permanent. Flint Assembly is not in the same position. I already have 42 FTT and am hopeful I can get some more. Therefore, I have no intention of laying off our temporary workers. I support our brothers and sisters in their fight and I hope they get what they need.

The last topic is bathroom cleanliness. Aramark has cut a number of workers and is planning more cuts. This has compromised cleanliness in the plant. The UAW Safety Reps and I have begun pressing Aramark to improve their performance. This is not a worker issue, but rather an Aramark management issue. You can assist by using the QR code and complaining about bathroom conditions.



President	Stephanie Riley
Vice President	John Jackson III
Recording Secretary	D'Andre Jackson
Financial Secretary	Chad Fabbro
Guide	Twanna Q. Coleman
Trustee	Melissa Bowen
Trustee	Corissa Carter
Trustee	David V. Garcia
Sergeant-At-Arms	Randy Frost
Retiree Chanter Chair	lanet Woodson

SHOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Eric Welter

SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE Leroy Shinabarger, Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje

DISTRICT COMMITTEE / AITERNATES

DISTRICT CON	ı۷	III IEE / ALIEKNAIES
Ben Dunlop	/	Alex Perry
Sean Meachem	/	Chad Boyce
Shane Herriman	/	Bo Browning
D'Andre Jackson	/	Stan Cherwinski
Brian Shick	/	Jo Anna Batson-Escamilla
Dana Waider	/	Joe Berriman
Bryan Ventrone	/	Stan Dulaney
Jon Galant	/	Wendy Ignash
DeWayne Tippit	/	Mike Bukovchik
Aaron McAlister	/	Jim Hazell
Jeremy Switzer	/	Antonio Dee Pritchett
Kevin Smiley	/	Marcus Hunt
Bob Scott	/	Maurice Purches
William McIntosh	/	Jaccob Kohn
Mike Kocsis	/	Shane Balcer

SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT)	William Wichitosh / Jaccob Komi
Shane Herriman, D'Andre Jackson, Sean Meachem	Mike Kocsis / Shane Balcer
ARAMARK BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRIC JaShanti Walker, Sr. and Orlandis McNeal	
GM SUBSYSTEMS MANUFACTURING, LLC UNIT Bargaining Committee Chair Takeisha Hillard	
BEACON O&M BARGAINING COMMITTEE District Committeeperson Mark Leineke	Alternate Mike Harrell
M.P.S. BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT CO Tasha Wynne Adan Donias John Wineland	Alternate Kristine Momany
ADAPT REPRESENTATIVE	Denise Denam, Rick Hager
CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE	Rosalyn Morse
LOCAL 598 BENEFIT REPRESENTATIVES	Cindy McLean, Chris Dungerow, Adam Prieur, Archie McGrath, Hans Smith
HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES	. Mike Dankert, Mark Turner, Doug Culhane
WORK & FAMILY REPRESENTATIVESJayne	Atwell, Cheryl Dawson, George Washington
EYE OPENER EDITOR	Debi Kirchner

POLICY OF THE EYE OPENER

TO OUR READERS: The EYE OPENER is the voice of our Local and International Union. This is our vehicle for bringing to you, on a regular basis, the views and actions of the leaders you elected, so you can evaluate them. Through the paper, we explain Union policies and show how your dues are spent. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from UAW members and stories about members. While we welcome your contributions, we ask that they be constructive. At no time will the editorial staff tolerate any defamatory remarks regarding any person or persons. We reserve the right to reply to those who seem to reflect a misunderstanding of

the Union and its policies and to edit any article for clarity and length.

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These are the "Good Ole Days"

"I would like to remind everyone to take the time to look around at the many things that we have to be thankful for."

D'ANDRE JACKSON

RECORDING SECRETARY

Sisters and Brothers of Local 598.

Thank you for the warm welcome you gave me at the membership meeting as I was sworn in as our new Recording Secretary. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve you and this great Local.

Election time is upon us, and nothing is more American

than being able to let your voice be heard without fear and repercussion by exercising your right to vote. If you haven't voted already, please make sure you do.

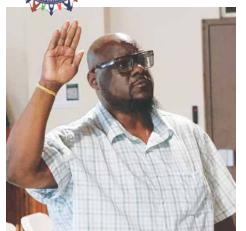
Halloween is a fun time of the year for our children, and many will be out in our neighborhoods trick or treating. Keep your eyes and ears open. If you see anything suspicious, say something. We are our brother's keepers.

I also would like to remind everyone to take the time to look around at the many things that we have to be thankful for. A very good friend of mine told me that one day we will look back and say those were the "Good Ole Days." Well, that means we are living the good ole days right now, as we speak. Cherish these good ole days!

Thank you to the active and retired Sisters and Brothers of Local 598 for all your support in the Special Election.

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

RECORDING SECRETARY



D'Andre was sworn into office at the October 20th membership meeting...

ELECTION HELD OCTOBER 15 & 16, 2024

<u>Candidate</u>	# Votes
<u>zanuluale</u>	# V

D'Andre Jackson "Dre Day" 1,167 **Donna Carpenter** 223 Bryan Bell 116 Jeff Pollick 33 Janelle Wyatt 19

Election Committee, Local 598, UAW





...and then went right to work!

October 16, 2024

Per UAW-GM VP Mike Booth: Final Ratification Results for all MPS units:

Attention: Local 598, UAW Members of the MPS UNIT

RATIFICATION VOTE RESULTS

UAW-MPS NATIONAL TENTATIVE AGREEMENT 2024

YES **79** % NO **21** %

Certified by Local 598, UAW Election Committee Members:



Date: October 9, 2024 • Tally Location: Local 598 Union Hall

TO: All UAW General Motors MPS Local Union Presidents, Chairpersons, Vice Presidents, Financial Secretaries and Recording Secretaries

RE: Ratification Vote Results - 2024

Greetings:

Below are the final results of ratification for MPS:

SANITATION: YES 193 (96%) NO 8 (4%)

Thank you for your support!

As always, In solidarity,

Wielen 1 Brown

Mike Booth Vice President and Director **UAW General Motors Department**

Bargaining Successes

"GM just announced its earnings from the previous quarter and its \$4 billion in profits... for 2024 to \$12.2 billion in profit, and we still have one more quarter to go!"

CHAD FABRO

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Fall is finally here, and we are looking forward to everything that comes with it. Halloween parties are in full swing, and the holiday celebrations are just around the corner. I hope you and your family enjoy the beautiful Michigan fall. It's also football season, so whether you're a Sparty or a Wolverine fan, one team I hope we can all cheer on together is the Detroit Lions!

As we enter the 4th quarter of the year, GM has just announced its earnings from the previous quarter and its \$4 billion in profits. Just in case you're wondering, that takes the grand total for 2024 to \$12.2 billion in profit, and we still have one more quarter to go!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2019 National Bargaining Team for removing the profit-sharing cap during those negotiations. Also, thanks to the 2023 team for being able to retain that language for our current agreement.

This is an election year, and we all have an obligation to vote and make our voices heard. It's important to check out the work our V-CAP has been putting in. They have vetted many candidates seeking UAW endorsement and have spent a lot of time and research to understand why we should endorse them.

I ask that you have an open mind and do your own research as well. If you have any questions or concerns, you can always ask V-CAP Chairperson Lori Welch, or Regional Chair and 598 Brother Art Reyes. I personally would like to thank them for the hours they put in and the passion they show in looking out for our labor needs as we move forward.







nternational union, united automobile, aerospace & agricultural implement workers of America – UAW

SHAWN FAIN, PRESIDENT • MARGARET MOCK, SECRETARY-TREASURER VICE-PRESIDENTS: CHUCK BROWNING . MIKE BOOTH . RICH BOYER

September 30, 2024

Greetings:

RE: International Union Strike and Defense Fund Report July

The following is a summary of Strike Fund Income and Expenditures for the month of July 2024.

\$755,372,414.19 NET WORTH JUNE 30, 2024

INCOME FOR JULY 2024

6,180,616.40 **Dues Per Capita Taxes**

DISBURSEMENTS FOR JUNE 2024

3,126,975.49

NET WORTH, JULY 31, 2024

\$758,426,055.10

During the month of July, there was one strike.

Fraternally,

Margaret Mock

Secretary-Treasurer, International Union, UAW

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Local 598 members showed their support at two recent...



HOT RELIES

UAW President Shawn Fain addresses the HARRIS-WALZ RALLY



The KAMALA HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT RALLY

was held October 4th at the Dort Financial Center in Flint.

The ELISSA SLOTKIN FOR SENATE RALLY

was held September 28th at the Local 659 Union Hall.



LABOR

Vice President Kamala Harris overwhelmed by the crowd.

MI Governor Gretchen Whitmer





Local 651 President Eric Price







UAW President Shawn Fain and MI Rep. Elissa Slotkin greet Local 659 members at the Union Hall.



NBA legend Magic Johnson at the rally.

Rally photos courtesy of Debi Kirchner (Local 598) and Chuck Inman (Local 659).







MAKING STRIDES WALK

THANK YOU if you bought a treat at the bake sale or bought a shirt. **THANK YOU** for Bowling and donating to the team.

THANK YOU to all of you and your families who walked with us.

Thanks to all of you, WE RAISED OVER $^{\$}7,537.77$ this year!







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Raising Knowledge, Awareness, and Donations

by Melissa Bowen, Chair Women's Committee

t's been a whirlwind month for our UAW Local 598 Women's Committee. On September 28th, we had the privilege of seeing Elissa Slotkin speak at UAW Local 659. The UAW Women's Department held this day of action that included hearing from Jasper Martus, Kristen McDonald Rivet, Sheriff Chris Swanson, and UAW President Shawn Fain. Afterwards, attendees broke up into groups for phone banking, door knocking, and postcard writing, to encourage people to get out and vote!

On Sunday, September 29th, the Women's Committee hosted a postcard writing party at Burger Bar and Tap. In total, we completed 200 postcards that were mailed to swing state voters to encourage voter participation.

When Vice President Kamala Harris visited Flint on October 4th at Dort Financial Center, many of our members had the chance to attend her rally because of our temporary part constraints. It was an exciting day filled with great speeches, dancing in the crowds, and an appearance by basketball legend Magic Johnson.

The beginning of October has had us spending a lot of time focused on *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. Our committee hosted our Bowling for Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser on Saturday, October 5th, at B's Bowling Center. We had raffles, door prizes, and trophies for the team with the highest score. Thank



Having fun at the Women's Committee Bowling event while helping the fight for a cure.

you to everyone who joined in on the fun! That night, we raised \$1,345 for *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*.

The walk for *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* was held on October 12th in Downtown Flint. We had a beautiful, sunny morning, and a fantastic turn out.

Our UAW Local 598/Flint Assembly team is currently in first place, raising \$7,537.77. We're still waiting on the totals for our shirt sales, so even more will still be donated! Thank you to everyone who has purchased a shirt, donated, took part in the walk, or attended the fundraising events.



I'm very proud that our Local can accomplish so much, give back to our community, and help so many.





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598 Veterans Committee

T-Shirt/Hoodie/Hat Orders expected to be picked up on or around the 6th of November (possible order extension, details to come)

9th Annual VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

November 8th • 5th Avenue 12:00 Lunch time



Veterans Committee member Cavaughn Jones introduced Veteran of the (4th) Quarter CASMIER BOROWICZ at the October Membership meeting to enthusiastic applause.



Friends of McFarlan Park presents their ANNUAL

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Honoring All Who Served

MONDAY



McFarlan Veterans Memorial Park 325 Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502

Celebrate with us afterward for lunch at: **St. Michael's Center in Flint** (corner of Saginaw and East 5th Ave.)





Make Sure To Vote

"This is a very important election, probably the most important in our lifetime."

JANET WOODSON

RETIREES CHAIR

On November 5, 2024, we have our Presidential Election. Pray for me. I'll be going door to door campaigning. This is a very important election, probably the most important in our lifetime. PLEASE VOTE!

Our election for Recording Secretary was being held as I write this article, and I'm told quite a few retirees came in to cast their votes. That's great to hear!

Financial Secretary Chad Fabbro swore-in your Officers at October's meeting. Your Retiree Board looks forward to serving you in the following years. Thanks for your continued support.



Retired Workers Chapter

Chapter Meetings held at 12:00 p.m. in the LOCAL 598 UNION HALL

THURSDAY November 14

THURSDAY

December 12

RETIREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

12:00 Noon • UAW Local 598 Auditorium

RETIREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

12:00 Noon • UAW Local 598 Auditorium

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Local 598 Financial Secretary Chad Fabbro was honored to swear in the newly elected Retired Workers Chapter E- Board.

We lost Vice Chair Carl Newcomer, Jr. this past September. Our prayers go out to Carl's family. Carl and his late wife, Arlene, were always there to help do whatever was needed. They will be missed.

We had our Fall Casino Trip going to St. Ignace, Ste. Sault Marie, and Hessel, Michigan. What a perfect time of year, with the changing of the leaves in full swing. I was looking forward to spending time with all of you, and I had hoped we could all bring home some money!

Save the dates of November 14th & December 12th to join us at our holiday dinners. Tickets are available for \$5.00 at the Union Hall. And it comes with great pleasure to once again host our dinners at Local 598. Please try to buy your tickets by November 1st, to give me a better idea of how much food to purchase. Don't forget to hold on to your dinner tickets, so you can use them to enter our gift raffles.





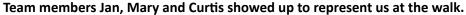
The bus for the Retirees Fall Trip was full as we headed north to St. Ignace and beyond. These Retiree Executive Board members report that the trip was a success and a good time was had by all.



The Retiree Chapter donated \$500.00 to the Local 598 Women's Making Strides Committee BREAST CANCER WALK TEAM.









to all of our recent retirees.

We hope to see you at our **RETIRED WORKERS CHAPTER MEETING** held on the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m.



Charles Humphrey (7-1-24) and spouse Joyce



Duane Clementz



Vicki Alaniz (8-1-24)



Michael Moulton



Todd Wilcox



Timothy Goodwin



Shannon Walters

- Keith Allen
- Kristi Benjamin
- Scott Crawford
- Bryan Eastman
- Dean Fowler
- Dale Robertson

If you are retiring soon, stop by the Benefits Office or Union Hall to get your picture taken for the EYE OPENER.

Notice for Seniors

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FIGHT NOW or FIGHT LATER

by Debi Kirchner, Editor and Local 598 Retiree

Few of us will study the 900+ page manifesto to remake how our government operates that is *Project 2025*. Some people believe, even if they are elected, they really won't be able to get all these things implemented.

The following are elements of plans they hope to make happen that concern all working families. Are you willing to risk that even one of these can be implemented? We can use our votes to fight for the right candidates now, or fight for our survival later. What do you choose?

Project 2025's effect on working families...

- Undermine government by cutting federal, public-sector jobs and retirement benefits, while allowing the president to replace civil servants with political appointees loyal to the president.
- Gut union rights by banning public-sector unions and decimating collective bargaining rights for private-sector workers.
- ◆ Cut wages, overtime, and benefits by taking away overtime pay protections for millions of workers and weakening the protections for millions more; allowing states and cities to waive federal labor laws like the minimum wage; making it more difficult for unemployed workers to access unemployment insurance benefits; repealing the Davis-Bacon Act and ending mandatory Project Labor Agreement (PLA) requirements in federal contracts, which would undermine wages and benefits for workers on federal projects.

- Endanger children by rolling back decades of child labor laws and eliminating Head Start.
- ◆ Eviscerate civil rights protections by making it easier for employers to discriminate, banning the collection of data showing the prevalence of discrimination, and eliminating practices



meant to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the federal government and higher education.

- ◆ Take away the economic and reproductive freedoms of women by further reducing access to reproductive care, imposing a national ban on abortion pills, and dismantling federal initiatives aimed at creating gender equity and workplace protections for women.
- Make health care coverage harder for workers and their families to access by repealing key provisions of the Affordable Care Act and taxing the employer-provided health care benefits of millions of workers.
- Deport millions of immigrants and end many types of legal immigration.

Source: Information on Project 2025 from the Economic Policy Institute (EPI)





CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads must be submitted monthly and will be run on a first-come, first-serve basis. Limited to ads/services submitted in a Local 598 member's name only.

miscellaneous

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James "Dropdown" Gillespie

Carl Newcomer

The Officers, Committeepersons, Representatives and Members of UAW Local 598 extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the above listed deceased retired members of our Union family.

2024 UAW Campground





Sites available for \$41.00 per day

(Non-UAW Members: \$49.00 per day)

Open late April through late fall

Call for your reservation starting November 4th

UAW Members have first chances before December 9th.



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UAW MEMBERS

AND THEIR

IMMEDIATE FAMILY

6063 FENTON ROAD, FLINT, MI 48507 JENNIFER SHARP SCULLY, MANAGER

810-694-4900

sharpfuneralhomes.com

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

FENTON CHAPEL 810-629-9321

810-735-7833

MILLER ROAD CHAPEL 810-635-4411





AW PROPERTY – ILLEGAL TO DUPLICAT USPS Publication # 110-770

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