

# Here's help if you didn't pay taxes

Saturday, the Pontiac office of the Internal Revenue Service will be open to help nonfilers in Oakland County to come to grips with their tax problems.

"It's never too late — and it's the right thing to do," says IRS district director John Hummel.

It is a proven experiment.

"We tried it in Livonia and

were extremely successful," Hummel said. "That's why we've decided to expand the project and make the same offer to a specific group of Oakland County residents."

It's called "Operation Fresh Start" — an extra step to provide assistance to nonfilers — individuals who have not filed prior year

federal income tax returns.

"IRS employees will offer one-stop tax help," Hummel added. "We will prepare returns and consider setting up payment plans if needed. Taxpayers who arrive with all the information necessary to complete their returns, and pertinent financial records, will leave knowing how much they owe and how they are going to pay, or how much to expect in refunds."

The IRS office will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Pontiac Place Building, 140 S. Saginaw Road, Room 101.

"On Nov. 14, in Livonia, 210 individuals came voluntarily back into the tax system and filed, with our assistance, over 200 prior year, delinquent returns," Hummel said. Surprisingly, over 70 of those were refund returns — that is, the taxpayers had money coming back.

"Our experience in Livonia confirmed what we have long suspected — that many nonfilers



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"Our goal is to ease the way for them to re-enter the tax system. We believe Operation Fresh Start will do just that," said Hummel.

Operation Fresh Start is just one part of an overall program to reduce the number of nonfilers. "During the next year, we will use a combination of education, assistance and outreach to help nonfilers voluntarily come back into the system," Hummel said.

## Overcoats sought for needy

The seventh annual "Coats for the Cold" program is now under way for those who wish to donate coats to poor people.

"This year's program is bigger and better than ever, with many new drop-off sites having been added," said state Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham. "It's time to bring out all those warm coats no longer used and in good condition to show that we care about those who are less fortunate."

The program runs through Dec. 18, when coats will be picked up and distributed through local service agencies.

Area drop-off sites are in:

- Birmingham at Brother Rice High School (7101 Lahser), Dan-

man Hardware (6650 Telegraph), Bouchard's district office (250 S. Martin), Jax Car Wash (300 S. Hunter).

- Rochester at Damman Hardware (345 Livorno) and Jax Car Wash (2728 S. Rochester Road).

- Southfield at Damman Hardware (30600 Southfield Road) and Jax Car Wash (28845 Telegraph).

- Troy at Damman Hardware (5093 Rochester Road) and Jax Car Wash (2835 W. Maple).

- West Bloomfield at Jax Car Wash (6620 Orchard Lake Road).

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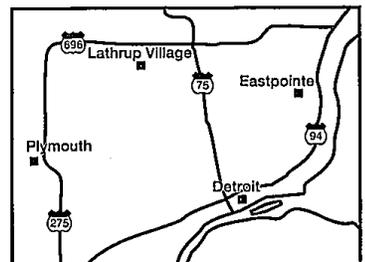
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