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## The Detroit News

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 | detroitnews.com

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## AN OPEN QUESTION



Photos by David Guralnick / The Detroit News

After a decade overseeing housing demolitions, the city's land bank authority said it is now trying to ensure the resulting "vacant parcels are returned to productive use in ways that support Detroit's evolving housing needs."

After razings, Detroit faces  
filling 122,000 vacant lotsBY LOUIS AGUILAR  
The Detroit News

Detroit, once a city of more than 78,500 empty, blighted houses, is now home to more than 120,000 vacant lots, and finding new uses for those lots will be one of the city's next big steps in its ongoing recovery, experts and residents said.

More than a decade after Detroit launched an unprecedented plan to tear down ruined, abandoned homes, 122,929 vacant lots exist across the city, many where homes once stood, according to the Detroit Land Bank Authority. On some streets, there are now more empty lots than homes. The lots amount to 18 square miles of open space, according to one policy analyst.

While residents in many areas said they're glad to see the blighted homes gone, the question now is what to do with what remains. In some areas, Detroiters have helped create a flourishing urban farm and garden scene from empty lots. Others have successfully lobbied to build parks and other public spaces. One park opened last fall on the city's east side on former vacant land that was used as a dumping site.

Some would like to see new housing built where the old homes once stood, but that would require financing.

"The city is now at an inflection point," said Tammy Daniels, CEO of the Detroit Land Bank Authority, the city's largest property owner with more than 59,000 vacant lots in its inventory. "We have the chance to once



George Preston and neighbors in the Mohican-Regent area lobbied the city to buy eight vacant lots that eventually formed the foundation for a park.

again turn a great challenge into a greater asset."

For its part, the land bank has amended some of its policies to encourage Detroiters to buy and develop the lots. One program offers residents who live within 500 feet of designated land bank-owned vacant lots the chance to buy them for \$250 as long as the use for the lot is "endorsed" by a specific group, such as a block club.

Eastside resident Ken Dixon lives on one of the many

Please see Vacant, Page 2A

Mexico killing  
of cartel boss  
stirs backlash25 soldiers killed after raid, official says;  
shelter in place, embassy tells AmericansBY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT AND LEO SANDS  
Washington Post

Guadalajara, Mexico — Mexican forces located the drug kingpin known as "El Mencho," whom they killed in a major operation over the weekend, in part by tracking one of his girlfriends to a secluded cabin, Mexican officials said Monday.

Officials canceled school in some states and warned communities to stay inside as reports spread of violent cartel reprisals, and authorities deployed thousands of troops to the western Mexican state of Jalisco. But Mexico's president said Monday the country was under control and returning to normalcy.

Security forces closed in on Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, 59, at a cabin in Tapalpa, in Jalisco. He fled as his bodyguards opened fire. Eight cartel members were killed in the gun battle, Gen. Ricardo Trevilla Trejo, Mexico's secretary of

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Ulises Ruiz / AFP via Getty Images

A motorcyclist passes a burned bus Monday in the state of Jalisco. Mexico has deployed thousands of troops to quell clashes after the killing of the country's most-wanted drug lord.

'Still going hard on EVs':  
Subaru offers parallel  
gas/electric SUV lines

Laguna Beach, California

Automakers have collectively announced \$50 billion in electric vehicles write-offs this year in North America from \$26.5 billion by Stellantis NV to \$1.7 billion from Honda Motor Co. Ford Motor Co. is dropping its once highly-anticipated F-150 Lightning EV entirely. The losses come in the wake of weak consumer demand and the rollback of government EV sales mandates.

But Subaru Corp. is forging ahead with two new electric SUVs for its 2026 lineup — the subcompact Uncharted and midsize Trailseeker — that join the compact Solterra EV.

Four years in planning, the Japanese brand's EVs were intended to address curiosity among its core green customers (37% expressed interest in an EV) as well as looming California mandates that required 35% EV sales by this model year. With California's regulatory authority derailed by Congress last year, automakers like Subaru have been given breathing room to determine market demand.

HENRY  
PAYNE

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State lawmaker, DNR official crash  
in snowmobile association rideBY BETH LEBLANC  
The Detroit News

A state lawmaker and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' state trails coordinator crashed during an annual snowmobile ride in late January in northern Michigan hosted by the state's snowmobile and ORV association.

The state lawmaker who crashed, Rep. Jennifer Wortz, R-Quincy, broke her ankle during the Jan. 30 ride. Another state lawmaker, Rep.

Matt Maddock, R-Milford, injured his back when he crossed an elevated pile of snow near a driveway.

DNR State Trails Coordinator Timothy Novak was uninjured after he crashed into a tree on a section of the snowmobile trail northeast of Harbor Springs, about 40 minutes after Wortz's incident.

While Novak's costs to participate in the ride were covered by the DNR, the lawmakers who participated in the annual event said they

were unsure who covered the cost of their snowmobile rentals. Wortz and Maddock were among several lawmakers who attended the event.

A woman who answered the phone at the office of the Michigan Snowmobile and ORV Association (MISORVA) would not answer several questions posed by a Detroit News reporter, asked that the DNR not be named in this article and then

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## Contact us

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Gov hopeful launches  
\$10M ad blitz

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