

Industry | Innovation | Technology | Opportunity | Community | Diversity

MOMENTUM

Uniquely Macomb County, Michigan
Volume 4, Issue 2

Industrious firsthand look

Students take in Manufacturing
Day with eyes toward future

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Moon shot:
Warren's Futuramic
helps out NASA
mission

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Field of dreams:
Disabled players
score new home field
advantage

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Pictured is the SLS Engine Section being transported for final assembly and integration to the Liquid Hydrogen and Liquid Hydrogen Fuel Tank Stack. Futuramic designed, built, installed and supported much of the tooling shown in this picture including the tooling to build the flight hardware shown.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FUTURAMIC

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CONTRIBUTOR

Jane Peterson has been a journalist for more than 20 years, working at newspapers such as The Oakland Press, The Holly Herald and The Berrien County Record. Today, she is an active freelance writer who contributes to write articles and other materials for newspapers, online publications and private clients.

On the cover: Macomb County celebrates national Manufacturing Day (MFG Day) in a big way. Since 2014, more than 10,000 students have had a chance to visit a local plant to see the industry in action and learn about the wide range of careers it offers. PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Paddling ahead

Clinton River, Lake St. Clair thriving thanks to Blue Economy Initiative

By Mark A. Hackel

When I took office as Macomb County's first-ever County Executive in 2011, one of my first actions was to launch the Blue Economy Initiative. I felt strongly that our access to the Clinton River, Lake St. Clair and its many tributaries was a tremendous asset that deserved greater attention. Administered by our Planning & Economic Development Department, the Blue Economy Initiative has helped to establish the HEART Freshwater Center, attracted internationally televised fishing championships and assisted the many, many Macomb County businesses that are supported by boating, fishing and exploring nature.



In August, it was my pleasure to invite 50 local supporters to join me on a paddle down the mighty Clinton River. Once considered one of Michigan's most unusable rivers, it has rebounded

CONNECT



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: Find out more information at gleri.us

thanks to the efforts of many organizations and grants, specifically the federally funded Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We spotted birds, turtles and other wildlife along our 8-mile kayak excursion, a sign that the river is thriving.

I am proud to say that there are nine universally accessible access points to the river in six different communities. In the coming years, there will be more thanks to a new grant opportunity made possible through the support of Macomb County Bicentennial sponsors, including FCA US LLC.

As we prepare to welcome all that winter has to offer, I hope you will plan to join me next summer at the second annual River Runs Wild. Visit MakeMacombYourHome.org for details as they develop. **M**

Above: Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel joined 50 other paddlers on the Clinton River this past August in the first-ever River Runs Wild canoe and kayak event, celebrating the river's "rebirth."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MATT PIERSKINSKI



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Cyber security

Macomb Community College honored for its strong program

By Jane Peterson

Macomb County is a pioneer in cybersecurity with digital infrastructure and collaborative relationships that continue to drive initiatives forward. Macomb Community College is an important part of the county's success, preparing young people for leadership roles in the cyber defense industry.

The college was recently designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense 2-Year Education. The designation by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security acknowledges Macomb Community College's rigorous cybersecurity program.

"Because Macomb's program is aligned with the criteria of the National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, our graduates are prepared with a robust understanding of cyber defense technology and practices, positioning them for a career in this growing and important field," said Dave Corba, dean, Business and Information Technology, Macomb Community College.

Macomb Community College is one of four Michigan community colleges to earn the designation among 100 institutions nationwide.

The program focuses on reducing vulnerability in the national information infrastructure by promoting higher education and research in cyber defense and developing professionals with cyber defense expertise. It is open to regionally accredited two-year community colleges, technical schools, state or federally endorsed cybersecurity training centers or U.S. government cybersecurity training centers. Institutions like Macomb that have been awarded the designation have met a set of rigorous criteria that ensures curriculum adheres to accepted and evolving practices in cybersecurity.

"We know that cybersecurity is a growing area," said Elise Johnson, associate dean, Business and Information Technology. "Graduates will have this designation on their transcript so when they are ready to go into the workforce and are interviewing for jobs, they will have this national certification. It can offer them a competitive edge."

The designation also provides additional opportunities for Macomb, making it eligible to apply for federal grants to grow and strengthen its cybersecurity program.

In addition, Johnson said universities have expressed interest in working with Macomb to align their cybersecurity four-year bachelor's program with Macomb's two-year associate degree.

Historically, community colleges reflect the needs of the local job market. Macomb professionals routinely meet with county officials and area employers to monitor current job training needs. According to the county, overall more than 550 companies make up Macomb County's network of IT and cybersecurity businesses.



Macomb Community College was recently designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense 2-Year Education. The designation by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security acknowledges Macomb Community College's rigorous cybersecurity program. PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In total, they employ more than 10,000 workers. From 2010 to 2017, total job growth jumped by 104%.

Often these high-paying cybersecurity positions have a direct impact on the county's economy, creating on average at least two more jobs for each cybersecurity job.

The growth is also reflected in Macomb's enrollment numbers. According to Johnson, in fall 2018, 241 students were a part of the cybersecurity program. That's up from 192 students in 2016.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of information security analysts is projected to grow 32% from 2018 to 2028, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

"People who are naturally drawn to computers are attracted to these careers," said Johnson. "There are many opportunities in this field and you can make a good living."

County officials have been working proactively to boost these gains by providing the resources companies need to invest in cybersecurity tools. The Velocity Hub of the Michigan Cyber Range takes an innovative, multi-pronged approach to tackling cybersecurity issues by offering more than 20 certificate training courses, product testing on early-stage projects and virtual rental space for companies interested in strengthening their cybersecurity. In addition, Macomb County is home to the Michigan Automotive & Defense Cyber Assurance Team (MADCAT), a cybersecurity ecosystem that supports and advances technology innovation. **M**

CONNECT

Macomb Community College is one of the nation's leading community colleges, providing learning experiences to nearly 38,000 students annually. Macomb nationally ranks in the top 2% in the number of associate degrees awarded by community colleges and is one of the largest grantors of associate degrees in Michigan.



Programs of study at the Cybersecurity Center include Information Technology: Network Security Professional; and Homeland Security. An Information Technology: Cybersecurity Academy is available

for high school juniors.

The college's comprehensive educational programming also includes pre-collegiate experiences, university transfer and career preparation programs, bachelor degree completion and graduate degree programs, workforce training, professional education and certification and continuing education and enrichment opportunities. For more information, visit Macomb.edu.

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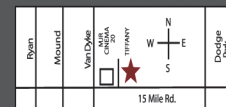
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Survivability

Sterling Heights' Mettle Ops works to keep active soldiers alive

By Jane Peterson

A former medical evacuation pilot, Katie Bigelow knows what it takes to survive while on active military duty. So, when she decided to start her own business in 2013, she focused her efforts on helping soldiers.

Now, just six years after founding Mettle Ops in Sterling Heights, her company was awarded a \$20 million contract by the U.S. Army Combat Capability Development Center Ground Vehicle Systems Center (CCDC GVSC), formerly known as TARDEC. The contract, DoD (Department of Defense) Ordnance Technology Consortium Other Transaction Agreement Contract, is a three-year deal that will continue through 2021.

The contract targets survivability efforts by supplying military personnel with equipment designed to better protect them in wartime conditions. The contract will provide both virtual and physical prototypes of advanced survivability and protection technologies for tracked and wheeled ground vehicles, specifically Abrams Main Battle Tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, and Next Generation Combat Vehicle.

Mettle Ops is responsible for the research and development part of the agreement, focusing on program management, design, modeling and simulations, analysis and documentation aspects.

It is a project close to Bigelow's heart. In the Iraqi ground war in 2003, at times she saw nothing but canvas protecting soldiers. She wanted to be a part of the solution to better safeguard military members while they are fighting for our country.

"I want them to have the chance of not only coming home, but coming home with all their limbs, too," said the president of Mettle Ops.

Bigelow and her husband, Mark, settled in Macomb County after being stationed here in 2006. At the time, they were excited to come to Michigan and expected to spend about a year or two in the Great Lakes state.

That plan changed with the birth of their son in 2007. He was medically fragile and they weren't willing to make another move. So, the Bigelows settled into their new home, developed a strong bond with their church family and continued to grow their young family.

Katie Bigelow founded the company in July 2013. In November that same year, their son passed away and as she grieved and worked to recover from the loss, she decided to make her business' name a tribute to him. She recalled how when he was in the hospital, a nurse asked her for one word to describe him. The word that came to mind was "mettle" because it perfectly



Above: Mettle Ops was recognized as a Corp! Salute to Diversity Award winner in October.

Left: During her time serving overseas (pictured in Bosnia) in 2003, Katie Bigelow saw just canvas protecting soldiers. Her founding of Mettle Ops along with her husband — and veteran — Mark Bigelow (below) underscored their effort to provide equipment designed for wartime safety.





Clearly committed to soldier safety, the Bigelows' military background contributes to the success of Mettle Ops in many ways. They understand military needs and are driven to figure out solutions using skills that were honed during their years of service.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF METTLE OPS

characterized the courage and bravery he exhibited throughout all the surgeries and procedures he endured.

Bigelow received her first military contract from the Air Force in 2015. She worked on that agreement herself. Eight months later Mark, a retired Army veteran, quit his job and joined Mettle Ops. Today, the company employs 10 full-time staff members and additional part-time employees.

Mettle Ops has established itself in Army Acquisitions and Federal Government Contracting. The company works closely with its customers to achieve their goals by providing program management and engineering services.

Clearly committed to soldier safety, the Bigelows' military background contributes to the success of Mettle Ops in many ways. They understand military needs and are driven to figure out solutions using skills that were honed during their years of service.

"That's our secret weapon," said Bigelow.

Their location in Sterling Heights is advantageous as well, with TACOM located just down the road in Warren and access to nearby vendors, including a formidable manufacturing base that more and more is applying their automotive skills and bringing a new perspective to military projects.

"They have a lot of valuable information and experience that we can leverage," she said.

Mettle Ops uses local vendors whenever possible and Bigelow is proud of the office culture they have created that has a family-like feel. The office has an open layout with everyone creatively collaborating and contributing to projects.

"We are soldiers at heart," said Bigelow. "We are committed to achieving more survivability for our military." **M**

CONNECT



Mettle Ops is headquartered at 32231 Mile Road in Sterling Heights. The company specializes in extensive research, development, manufacturing and fabrication, reverse engineering, ground vehicle design, test and evaluation experience and system integration capabilities. Mettle Ops' team includes war veterans with 35 years combined experience in Army service. For more information, call (586) 306-8962 or visit MettleOps.com.



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EDUCATION

Warren Consolidated Schools

Partnering with business professionals, post-secondary educators and community leaders, Warren Consolidated Schools prepares its students for future success. Graduates leave high school with a solid foundation that they can build upon as they pursue their unique goals, be that college, military, work or family.

“Warren Consolidated Schools offers all students the opportunity to gain hands-on skills through 21 cutting edge Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, offered at our three traditional high schools and at our state of the art Career Prep Center,” said Superintendent Dr. Robert Livernois.

The Career Prep Center (CPC) exposes students to a wide variety of high-demand, high-paying careers. Through hands-on activities and real work experiences, students strengthen their academic knowledge, develop technical skills and explore growing career fields.

“CTE provides real world work experience and exposure to help students achieve success, regardless of which post-secondary path they choose. We believe all children learn differently. While some students thrive in a traditional academic setting, others find success at CPC by discovering alternate routes and certifications. We aim to identify and cultivate the individual talents and interests of our students, providing them direct access to a variety of post-secondary options,” he said.

Among the career pathways offered at the CPC are: Building trades, collision repair, computer aided design (CAD), computer information systems, culinary arts, cybersecurity, dental science, emergency medical technician, health science, marketing, metal technology, robotics and mechatronics and visual imaging and printing technology.

These career pathways, said Livernois, are aligned to the Michigan Hot 50 Publication, which highlights top trending high demand, high wage careers that offer a mix of long term job growth, projected annual job openings and median wages. The publication also lists these in-demand careers and STEM occupations by education and training requirements so students can clearly see what will be required of them.

Supplementing this information is an advisory committee

comprised of business leaders, students, parents and post-secondary education partners.

“Our instructors rely on our industry leaders to keep us informed of current trends, equipment and certifications,” said the superintendent. “The committee meets twice per year to brainstorm ways to improve our programs to best meet the needs of the community and current industry demands.”

With this input, Livernois added, Warren educators have a constant pipeline to current community needs and industry trends.

“This partnership allows us to provide our students with the most current knowledge, skills and hands-on training necessary to directly fill the skills gap in our community,” he said.

While classroom knowledge is powerful, so is work-based learning. As students participate in ambulance ride alongs, construct homes and cater community events, they get a realistic view of their chosen career and are in a better position to know if this is an area they wish to continue to pursue or whether they want to switch gears into another employment sector.

More than 700 students participate in CPC classes. They are juniors and seniors from four high schools: Community High, Sterling Heights, Warren Cousino and Warren Mott.

According to Livernois, a work-based learning coordinator pairs second year students with local businesses, providing part time employment, job shadowing opportunities and internships.

“This program allows students practical experiences with highly qualified professionals within their field,” he said.

This commitment to preparing students for future success can be found throughout Warren schools. All Warren Consolidated Schools are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the State of Michigan and 13 of its schools have been awarded the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award. Two are national blue ribbon schools. A blue ribbon school is recognized for achieving a high level of all-around excellence through a quality curriculum, extensive educational opportunities and a solid pathway to success in college or the workplace.



Feel the love

Neighbors help neighbors keep the heat through Walk for Warmth

By Jane Peterson

Imagine the stress of trying to figure out how to keep the heat on during Michigan's typical sub-zero temperatures in January and February. For some Macomb County families, this is a reality as they struggle to prioritize which bills to pay on a monthly basis.

Hoping to relieve some of the worry for their neighbors going through a temporary cash crunch or elderly residents living on a fixed income, each winter, the Macomb County community comes together to participate in Walk for Warmth, part of a statewide effort to raise funds for individuals and families in need.

"Events like this show that our community cares," said Julie Hintz, program manager for Macomb Community Action. "People, businesses and organizations want to help people who are struggling."

All proceeds stay in Macomb County. In 2018, more than \$31,000 was raised that went to assist 66 families and 155 individuals with immediate heat-related emergencies, including paying utility bills and replacing broken furnaces.

In the case of renters, higher than anticipated heating bills may catch people off guard if landlords don't take steps to improve energy-efficiency. Hintz said, for example, it may not be possible for renters to change insulation to keep heat in more.



Top photos: Walk for Warmth is a wonderful family event, providing a way for even the youngest family member to be involved with helping others. MEDIANEWS GROUP PHOTOS

Above: Each year the Macomb County community comes together to participate in Warm for Warmth, part of a statewide effort to raise funds for individuals and families in need. In 2018, more than \$31,000 was raised that went to assist 66 families and 155 individuals with immediate heat-related emergencies, including paying utility bills and replacing broken furnaces. PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COMMUNITY ACTION

Renters also don't have the ability to replace windows or update home heating equipment in an effort to lower their utility bills.

While other utility funds are available to assist low-income residents, they may have strict income guidelines or other restrictions that cause people to fall through the cracks. Walk for Warmth funds are another option agencies can use to help as many Macomb County residents as possible stay warm during times of inclement weather, she said.

Others may have skipped paying their heating bill for a month due to temporary circumstances, like an unexpected medical bill or car repair. Once they started falling behind, the situation may have snowballed out of control with added fees and late charges.

For the most part, these situations are temporary and people just need a little help to get back on track, said Hintz.

"Walk for Warmth is an easy way people can support the community. It's great seeing everyone come together to work toward a common goal of giving back to others," she said.

The Macomb County event typically draws a couple hundred people. The mood is upbeat as some people collect pledges to hand in and others make personal donations. Many participants walk as individuals, others are part of corporate or organization teams. Music gets people energized and keeps them motivated as they complete the 5K walk.

Hintz said in addition to raising money for a good cause, Walk for Warmth is a wonderful family event, a way for even the young-

est family member to be involved with helping others.

Some participants are those who received fund assistance in years past who come out to support the cause.

Plus, it's hard to get out and stay active in the winter when the weather is less than ideal. Participation is a good way to get your steps in for the day and enjoy spending time with friends and neighbors, she added.

"People really understand the need and what we are trying to accomplish," said Hintz. "You never know one day if you or someone you know may need help." **M**

CONNECT

GET READY FOR 2020!

The 30th annual Walk for Warmth will be held on Feb. 29, 2020 in the Macomb Mall in Roseville. Onsite registration begins at 8 a.m. and the 5K Indoor Mall Walk begins at 9 a.m. Participants are asked to raise at least \$25. Register, donate or get more information online at mca.macombgov.org/mca-W4W.



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Above: Walking in the winter can be very peaceful, like you're the only one on Earth. It's a great way to connect with nature and boost your well-being.

Opposite page, left: Sledding is a wonderful way to embrace winter snow in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

Opposite page, right: When there's fresh snow on the ground, consider an outing to Stony Creek Metropark for some cross-country skiing.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

Chill out

Venture out and discover Macomb County fun this winter

By Jane Peterson

Huron-Clinton Metroparks Director Amy McMillan has a message for everyone this winter: Don't let the frigid air keep you indoors.

"Yes, it's cold out, but bundle up and you'll be ready to explore all the beauty of Macomb County," she said. "Winter is a great time for bird watching and there are lots of different animals that can be spotted."

While it may be tempting to hibernate inside when the weather gets cold, there are real benefits to getting on your coat, gloves, hat, scarves and boots and heading outdoors to explore. Macomb County has numerous nature areas that can be traversed in total silence with only the sounds of feet crunching in the snow.

"In the winter, the level of peacefulness makes it special to be outdoors," she said.

Plus, the snow offers additional opportunities to explore the paths including hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

"It is important to be outside in the wintertime for physical health and mental health, said McMillan.

Macomb County residents have three metroparks in their backyard: Lake St. Clair Metropark, Stony Creek Metropark and Wolcott Mill Metropark. Combined, they offer nearly 8,000 acres of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Stony Creek Metropark, as well as Kensington, also maintain a non-motorized path for runners and joggers.

"These are fantastic places to continue to run all winter long," said McMillan.

For family fun, check out some Macomb County Festivals, such as Winterfest in downtown New Baltimore slated for Jan. 24-26, according to the Winterfest 2020 Facebook page. Proceeds from this annual event go to support the charitable works of the New Baltimore Lions Club.

Studies show that staying active outdoors can do a world of good for the mind and body — especially in the shorter winter months when the sun might only peak out for short periods of time. Forget about the cold and when fresh snow covers the ground, make sure to take full advantage by going sledding or fat tire biking on a groomed trail — there is so much to do and see in the winter.

The metroparks highlight Macomb County's most amazing natural wonders, including Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River Watershed. Lake St. Clair Metropark is a 770-acre park that in the winter becomes the perfect spot for ice fishing, ice hockey and ice skating.

If you need some additional inspiration, Macomb County has



a GIS map online where residents and visitors can check out places to go ice skating, play hockey, snowboarding, ice fishing and more. Check it out at bit.ly/MacombWinterFun.

If there's one thing that all Michiganders know, it's that winter is unpredictable. A snowstorm one day and 45 degree temperatures the next can leave you wondering what the conditions are like in the parks. Stay connected by following your local parks and recreation department or the Huron-Clinton Metroparks on social media for the latest updates. Many parks and recreation departments, as well as the Metroparks, also send out event emails to those who are subscribed to keep them informed about upcoming happenings at the parks.

If you prefer to stay inside, Macomb County has you covered, too. Plan a visit to a nature center, trampoline or indoor adventure park, bowling alley or indoor ice rink.

"There's something going on almost every single day in our nature centers," said McMillan.

For more information about winter events and more in Macomb County, visit MakeMacombYourHome.org. **M**



CONNECT

EVENTS IN THE METROPARKS

It is always great to learn or try something new. The Huron-Clinton Metroparks offers many programs in the winter. Here are some upcoming events:

- **Holiday Ornaments from Nature** is at 10 a.m. Dec. 14 at Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center. Make unique holiday ornaments from objects found in nature. Enjoy hot cocoa and music for this laid-back crafter-noon. This program is for ages 6 and older. Cost is \$6. Pre-register by calling (586) 463-4332



- **Meet the Nature Center Animals** is at 10 a.m. Dec. 27 at Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center. Get an up-close and hands-on experience with the nature center animals. Expand your knowledge of the turtles, snakes and frogs of Michigan. This program is for all ages. Cost is \$4/child. Pre-register by calling (586) 463-4332

- **Heritage Holidays** is a popular seasonal event held from 6–9 p.m. Dec. 13, 14, 20 and 21. Stroll through the farm at Wolcott Mill Metropark Historic Center and enjoy the holiday decorations and sparkling lights. Visit with Santa, make crafts, meet-and-greet with farm animals, listen to holiday music and take a wagon ride in the festive setting. Photo vignettes in the Dairy Barn create the perfect place for memories. Remember to dress for the weather. Cost is \$5. For more information, call (586) 752-5932 or email Wolcott.mill@metroparks.com.



Above: Lake St. Clair Metropark is beautiful in the winter.

Right: Studies show that staying active outdoors can do a world of good for the mind and body so try cross-country skiing in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

PHOTOS COURTESY
OF HURON-CLINTON
METROPARKS





Richmond

Big city amenities with small town charm

Nearly 6,000 residents call the City of Richmond home, and the community is continuing to grow.

The city is linked by the I-94 Expressway, M-19, and the Gratiot Avenue corridor, offering easy access to the Detroit/Flint/Port Huron metropolitan areas. Richmond is also conveniently located near some of the finest recreational amenities in the state, providing nearby access to inland lakes, Lake St. Clair and the Great Lakes.

Richmond is a community where families truly flourish, with a wide-variety of housing options in various price ranges for everyone — from old beautiful historic homes on tree-lined streets to newer developments offering the latest in single family living. In fact, the city just finalized plans on the new Richmond West subdivision in the south-west portion of the city that will add 54 new homes to the community.

For the outdoor enthusiasts, Richmond offers a wide variety of recreational activities through its many municipal parks as well as a comprehensive sidewalk system throughout the city. The Macomb Orchard Trail, a 23.5-mile linear park, begins in Richmond and connects to a network of trails. The trail is an integral part of the Great Lake to Lake Route 1 trail, which will span from Port Huron to South Haven.

Some might say the best thing about the City of Richmond is its community events. The annual Richmond Good Old Days Festival is the highlight of summer for many, drawing well over 80,000 people to the city annually the weekend after Labor Day. The festival features several different events throughout each of the four days, including the state's largest marching musical parade, motorsports events, musical entertainment and more. There is also a winter festival held the first Saturday of February. For more information, visit richmondgoodold-daysfestival.org.

Richmond's small town feel doesn't stop there. Its retail business districts offer turn of the century charm and unique modern Main Street architecture. The pedestrian friendly downtown is the perfect location for shopping and services. Special events are held year round to promote local businesses. Additionally, the city is working with private property owners on the development of prime industrial property.

For more information on the City of Richmond, visit the city's website at cityofrichmond.net or call (586) 727-7571. **M**



FAST FACTS

Founded: 1879
Population (2010 census): 5,735
Square miles: 2.92



Warm welcome

‘Golden Corridor’ highlights Macomb’s economic prosperity

By Jane Peterson

If you’re searching for a textbook definition of an economic hub, look no further than M-59 in Macomb County. The stretch between M-53 and I-94 is a wall-to-wall mix of diverse retail businesses, everything from big-box stores and national restaurants to mom-and-pop shops and locally-owned eateries.

“This area has historically been a pretty heavy retail district with a massive amount of development since the mid-’70s,” said Luke Bonner, senior economic development advisor for the City of Sterling Heights.

The “Golden Corridor,” as it is often called, spans six communities: Clinton Township, Macomb Township, Mount Clemens, Shelby Township, Sterling Heights and Utica. It is a bi-section of Macomb County, with M-59 connecting to both I-75 and I-94.

The region represents more than \$1 billion in commercial assets and consumer spending here, according to the City of Sterling Heights, topping nearly \$2.6 billion annually as people patronize the region’s restaurants, home improvement stores and entertainment options.

For businesses, the Golden Corridor, also referred to as the Hall Road Corridor, is attractive because of demographics, said Thomas Guastello, owner and president of Center Management, a Birmingham-based real estate development company that owns and has developed a number of sites along this 7-mile stretch of highway.

When Cabela’s was considering its current Chesterfield location near the intersection of Hall Road and I-94, for example, Center Management worked with Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel and Deputy County Executive John Paul Rea. They compiled statistics that demonstrated how the outdoor re-



tailer would be located near the majority of hunting, fishing and boating license holders in Michigan.

Businesses also like that M-59 is a heavily travelled road in Macomb County, with nearly 100,000 vehicles passing through each day, bringing thousands of customers literally to their doorstep.

“Hall Road is the most sought-after corridor in Michigan. It’s known across the country,” said Guastello.

Center Management owns Shelby Town Center in Shelby Township and recently constructed the new Dick’s Sporting Goods store in Sterling Heights. In addition to the Cabela’s, Center Management is currently developing two of the corridor’s most recent projects, a BJ’s Wholesale Club and Home Goods

LOOK FOR THE GOLDEN RING

It’s easy to identify the area widely known as The Golden Corridor in Sterling Heights – just look for the giant golden ring.

The sculpture, called “Halo,” was erected in January to pay homage to the economic impact generated by the Golden Corridor, which runs along M-59 in Clinton Township, Macomb Township, Mount Clemens, Shelby Township, Sterling Heights and Utica.

It is located along Hall Road just east of Schoenherr Road and the 35-foot-tall golden ring, which lights up at night, never fails to draw attention. Its installation was part of a landscape project along the corridor.





store in Chesterfield Town Center at Hall Road and I-94.

BJ's Wholesale Club is a warehouse-type retailer offering a variety of products, including grocery items, furniture, televisions, computers, baby items, paper goods and more. The Hall Road store will also have a gas station, said Guastello. The 100,000-square-foot building represents a more than \$20 million investment in the community and more than 200 jobs, he added. It is expected to open in early April 2020.

Home Goods will be a 22,000-square-foot store featuring a wide assortment of affordable houseware and home décor items. What consumers like about this type of shopping is the treasure-hunt aspect, said Guastello. These unique products are hard to find at other retailers and since the inventory rotates regularly, if shoppers see something they like, they may want to consider picking it up then.

The \$6 million development is scheduled to open in early next summer.

In an era when online shopping is transforming the brick-and-mortar retail landscape, the Golden Corridor bucks all trends. The region continues to attract interest and investment and vacancies are turned over quickly. Recently Urban Air Outdoor Adventure opened in Sterling Heights in the former Babies R Us space. This was a \$4 million investment in the community, said Bonner.

Guastello explained that today's consumers know what they want. They complete research online before entering the store. They no longer want to spend half a day navigating an indoor mall from one end to the other.

Unlike online shopping, retail stores also provide consumers and their families with a shopping experience.

CONTINUE READING 'GOLDEN CORRIDOR' • PAGE 20

Top center: It's easy to identify the area widely known as The Golden Corridor in Sterling Heights — just look for the giant golden ring.
PHOTO BY MEGAN DEEL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

Top right, above: M-59 is a heavily travelled road in Macomb County, with nearly 100,000 vehicles passing through each day, bringing thousands of customers literally to their doorstep.
PHOTO BY MEGAN DEEL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

Top right, below: In an era when online shopping is transforming the brick-and-mortar retail landscape, the Golden Corridor bucks all trends. PHOTO BY MEGAN DEEL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

Left: Standing on the site of what will soon be a BJ's Wholesale Club in Chesterfield Township is Tom Guastello, owner and president of Center Management, which is the real estate development company behind the project. PHOTO BY GINA JOSEPH — MEDIANEWS GROUP

Below: The "Golden Corridor," as it is often called, spans six communities: Clinton Township, Macomb Township, Mount Clemens, Shelby Township, Sterling Heights and Utica.
PHOTO BY MEGAN DEEL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP



Hall Road was expanded and opened up in the early 1970s. This photo is from the M-59 freeway dedication in 1972. PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS GUASTELLO

'GOLDEN CORRIDOR' CONTINUED FROM • PAGE 19

Cabela's Chesterfield store, the company's fourth in the state, is a destination location with 90,000 square feet of outdoor equipment and products that has been designed to engage consumers in the shopping process. It has a Michigan theme with 182 live mounts and an indoor archery test area.

Because of the region's success, Bonner said many of the mid-level retail businesses along the corridor like Kohl's, Pier 1 and DSW shoes, continually rank among the top sales leaders in their companies.

Some stores, including Home Depot and Target, receive so much business that they have a second location on the same

stretch of Hall Road. Walmart has three stores, said Guastello.

The economic impact of the Hall Road Corridor is palatable. The retail stores, restaurants and entertainment venues help stabilize tax bases and provide jobs and a shopping experience that contributes to the quality of life in their communities.

Other recent projects opening along the corridor include Art & Jake's Sports Bar, Panda Express, Dick's Sporting Goods and Chick-fil-A.

In addition to retail businesses, the Corridor is also home to two malls, a minor league baseball park, colleges, hospitals and performing arts venues. **M**

Other recent projects opening along the corridor include Art & Jake's Sports Bar, Panda Express, Dick's Sporting Goods and Chick-fil-A.

PHOTO BY MEGAN DEEL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP



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info@macomb-stclairworks.org 📧

Movement

Potential Artspace housing to impact art, economy in Mount Clemens

By Jane Peterson

Art enriches a community. It provides new perspectives, engages the mind creatively and never fails to make one think differently about the world around them.

In essence, it adds to the quality of life for residents and makes their community a more pleasant place to be. Macomb County has a rich background in community arts from dance, fiber arts and painting to music, pottery and theatre. It is home to prestigious art venues, like the Anton Art Center, Emerald Theatre, Freedom Hill, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts and Starkweather Arts Center to name a few.

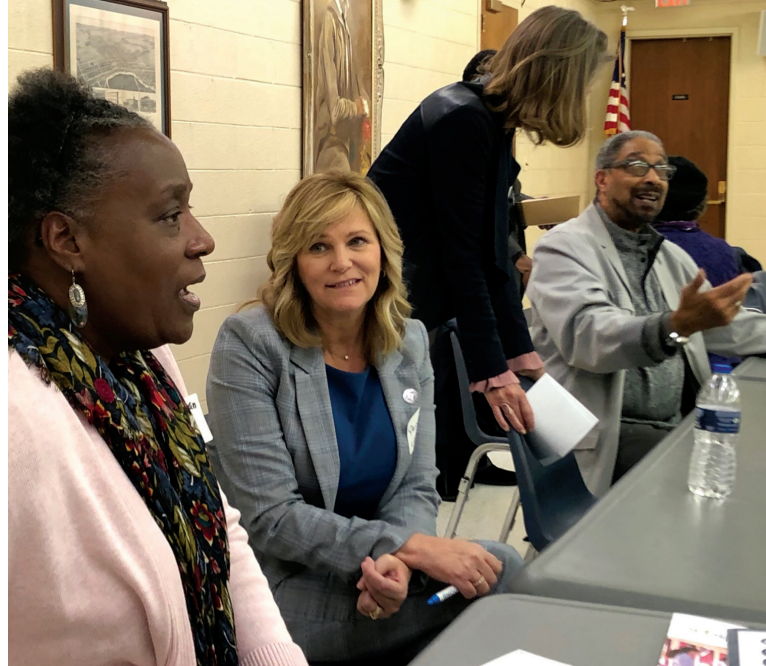
Now a movement is underway to offer support to the artists who sacrifice so much to pursue their creative endeavors and share their love for the arts with others.

Artspace is a Minneapolis-based live/work space developer that works with communities across the country to build mixed-use housing developments for artists. What once was an idea that was put on the backburner is now becoming more of a reality thanks to a feasibility study that determined Mount Clemens has enough interest and potential to be a viable option for such a development.

The results of the study were no surprise to Anton Art Center Executive Director Phil Gilchrist, who said a major component of the study was community support.

“Art is appreciated in Macomb County,” he said. Our county and local leaders understand that art builds a strong sense of community and is a source of pride.”

He pointed to the OneMacomb initiative that in 2018 launched an interactive digital map of public artwork within the county’s 27 communities. The online resource contains information on numerous sculptures, murals, architecture and paintings in an effort to



help residents and visitors to locate pieces in local neighborhoods and encourage them to explore their community.

“I was very pleased to see the depth of creative people in and around Mount Clemens,” said Wendy Holmes, SVP of Consulting & Strategic Partnership at Artspace.

With Artspace moving forward, next up is a market survey, said Holmes. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is providing grant funding for the study, which would survey local artists and businesses that serve the art community. Once this is completed early next year, said Gilchrist, Artspace officials will determine the size of the development and types of amenities it will include.

“The apartments will be designed with artists in mind,” he said. “Many artists require a good amount of natural lighting, wider doorways and have other needs, one of them being reasonable rent. The Artspace live/work development will allow artists to be able to afford to live while still working creatively.”

While Macomb County does have an ample amount of art centers and galleries, what artists need locally is art infrastructure, including local businesses beyond big-box stores where they can buy art supplies and rent studio space, said Gilchrist. Once Artspace is opened, he is hopeful that businesses will open up to build up the art community further.

In addition to adding to the quality of life in communities, art also impacts local economies. He said Americans for the Arts’ Arts & Economic Prosperity calculator showed that Anton Art Center in Mount Clemens adds \$1 million each year to the economy thanks to visitors who while they are in town for art events also patronize local restaurants, gas stations, shops and hotels.

CONNECT

artspace

Artspace is a nonprofit arts organization specializing in creating, owning, and operating affordable spaces for artists and creative businesses. These spaces include live/work apartments for artists and their families, working artist studios, arts centers, commercial space for arts-friendly businesses and other projects.

For more information, visit Artspace.org.



Above: Focus groups met to discuss the idea of bringing Artspace to Mount Clemens. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANTON ART CENTER



Left: As part of the feasibility study for Artspace, public meetings were held to discuss the potential for a development in Mount Clemens. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTSPACE

There are currently approximately 50 Artspaces in the United States, including one in Dearborn. The organization typically uses tax subsidies and credits to retrofit unused properties, renovate existing buildings or build new construction. No determination has yet been made on where an Artspace in Mount Clemens would be located, but it likely will put an existing space back on the tax rolls.

Only time will tell what is in store for a potential future Artspace in Mount Clemens.

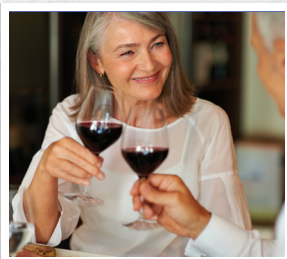
Once the market survey is completed, the organization will review the results and likely begin a market study. If that continues to show positive results, the project would move into the pre-development and development phases that would include discussion on financing, design and construction.

"The timeline that they provide is typically three to five years from start to finish," said Gilchrist. "A completed development might be two years out or it might be four years out."

Those interested in taking the market survey can provide their responses online through January. Holmes is hoping to receive 600-800 surveys to help shape the Mount Clemens development.

"This is an exciting development that will positively impact Mount Clemens and Macomb County," said Gilchrist. "I look forward to seeing what the future holds. The fact that there is already an Artspace in Dearborn really speaks to the vibrancy of the arts in southeastern Michigan in general." **M**

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Way up there

Macomb's only Urban Air Adventure Park opens in Sterling Heights

By Jane Peterson

Since opening in October, Macomb County's only Urban Air Adventure Park location has drawn both the young and young at heart to the region for adrenaline-pumping fun.

Business partners Wes Ayar and Andy Batal opened the 54,500-square-foot entertainment complex at 12050 Hall Road (formerly Babies R Us) because they wanted to provide a unique experience to their Macomb County neighbors. They grew up in the area, have been friends for 17 years and were familiar with the highly visible site.

"I love this area," said Ayar. "To bring this to the community is a big deal for us."

Urban Air features Flip Zone Bumper Cars, Battle Beam and virtual reality games in addition to a ropes course, climbing walls, Slam Dunk Zone and more. The Pro Zone Performance Trampolines offer "serious air," he added.

The goal, said Ayar, is to provide families with an experience that they can enjoy together. A parent pass is available for \$5.99 that gets mom and dad into the same attractions as their child. Parents who don't want to play are admitted for free. Day passes for children range from \$13.99 to \$29.99 and monthly memberships cost \$6.99-\$39.99.

In this day and age, families can purchase just about anything from clothing, electronics and toys to food, housewares and furniture online. However, in order to get the thrill that comes from whirling around in the Spin Zone Bumper Cars, soaring through the air on the Sky Rider Coaster and facing off against your friends on the Warrior Course, you have to be there in person.

"You can't get experiences like this delivered to your door," said Ayar.

And although this unique playground for families and teens just opened up, there are future plans already in the works for laser tag, go-karts and bowling.

Urban Air Adventure Park is a franchisee operation with locations across the country. The Sterling Heights park also accommodates birthday parties, church events and corporate gatherings.

Its more than 100 employees operate all the attractions. Among them is a tubes playground for children under 52 inches tall. Younger children can climb, crawl and slide to their heart's content as they explore on their own or parents can get in on the fun.

"Instead of waiting for your child on the playground, you can participate," he said.



Urban Air Adventure Park Sterling Heights co-owner Wes Ayar attempts the Leap of Faith attraction. PHOTO COURTESY OF URBAN AIR ADVENTURE PARK

Parents looking to interact with their teens may want to check out the Ultimate Dodgeball "court." All ages are welcome as traditional dodgeball action is combined with the high-flying fun of trampolines.

Options at the Urban Air Café include pop, sports drinks, pizza, burgers, chicken wings and more.

He said working with city and county officials, the planning and construction process moved quickly. The business represents a more than \$3 million investment in the community.

"Sterling Heights is a good location for us because this is a busy stretch of road that will attract lots of families," said Ayar. "Plus, we want to bring smiles to people's faces and create happiness in the community where we live."

Before opening Urban Air, Ayar was a franchisee for T-Mobile. Batal also continues to work at Warrior Freight, a transportation/logistics business he owns. Opening the adventure park has been a dream come true for the pair.

Ayar said they have been very busy since the business opened, drawing people from across Macomb County and the metro Detroit region. The plan, he said, is to open additional locations in southeastern Michigan in the future. **M**

CONNECT



Urban Air Adventure Park is located at 12050 Hall Road in Sterling Heights. Hours are 4-11 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday; and 4-9 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call (586) 822-2122 or visit UrbanAirTrampolinePark.com/locations/michigan/sterling-heights.

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Challenger Baseball is a division of Little League. Designed for players with physical and cognitive disabilities, the league has thrived for 26 years in Macomb County. Challenger players love being out on the field and seeing their friends.

PHOTOS COURTESY
OF CLINTON VALLEY
LITTLE LEAGUE
CHALLENGER
BASEBALL



Batter up

New baseball diamond provides home for disabled players

By Jane Peterson

Individuals with disabilities of all ages will have a place to feel like a kid again thanks to plans to build a second Challenger baseball field at Neil Reid Park in Clinton Township.

Challenger program organizer Marilyn Wittstock knows the interest is there, now the focus is on fundraising to get the field built. She is currently working on fundraising efforts and grant applications to make it happen and the fund is growing “little by little,” she said.

Challenger Baseball is a division of Little League. The local program is a division of the Clinton Valley Baseball League. Designed for players with physical and cognitive disabilities, the league has thrived for 26 years in Macomb County.

In 2014, Little League lifted the age requirement for Challenger players. As a result, the field Clinton Valley uses for the league, with 50 foot bases, is no longer sufficient, both because of the additional interest and number of players as well as for the safety of the players. Adult players need 60 foot bases, said Wittstock.

“We foresee it growing even more with our older players,” she said. “We want to build a second field like our first field, but bigger.”

Wittstock said engineering plans have already been developed and currently the organization is fundraising to raise the estimated \$170,000 needed to construct the field, which includes features like a rubberized base path to make it easier for players with wheelchairs to navigate. The organization also wants to add a changing space to the existing bathrooms to make it easier for families to assist players.

Clinton Valley’s Challenger Division serves approximately 180 players. They play ball six days a week. The Little League division is for players ages 4-15 and they play games on Tuesday, Thursday and alternating Saturdays with five teams. The Senior Division, designed for players ages 16 and up, plays on Monday, Wednesday and alternating Saturdays with six teams. ARC of Macomb County also has two teams that play on Thursdays and Fridays.

Players come from all around Macomb County as well as communities like Harper Woods and Rochester Hills.

Players hit off a tee or are pitched to by a coach. Designated buddies help players with batting and fielding and every player participates in the innings. No one sits on the bench. There are no strikes or outs and no score is kept during games.

CONTINUE READING BASEBALL • PAGE 30



In addition to learning the fundamentals of baseball, players have the opportunity to connect with others who have similar interests. Clinton Valley’s Challenger Division serves approximately 180 players. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLINTON VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE CHALLENGER BASEBALL

CONNECT

Challenger Baseball is a division of Little League. The local program is a division of the Clinton Valley Baseball League. Designed for players with physical and cognitive disabilities, the league has thrived for 26 years in Macomb County.

Registration for the 2020 season begins in January. A parent meet and greet is held in May, when uniforms and schedules are provided. Games are played two to three times a week at 6:15 p.m. weekdays and Saturday mornings from June through August. For more information, visit cvllchallenger.com or email organizer Marilyn Wittstock at mwitt26@msn.com.



BASEBALL CONTINUED FROM • PAGE 29

In addition to learning the fundamentals of baseball, players have the opportunity to connect with others who have similar interests, building a sense of belonging, said Wittstock. Baseball also provides benefits that include physical exercise, motor skill enhancement and camaraderie in a team environment, she added.

“The players become more outgoing and confident. They love seeing their friends,” said Wittstock. “It’s wonderful seeing how they grow and improve their skills.”

Programs like Challenger Baseball benefit Macomb County residents in many ways, but perhaps most importantly, it helps contribute to creating a kind, compassionate community where everyone is cared for and feels included, she said.


In addition to the planned expansion with the second Challenger baseball field, the organization also recently expanded its operations by offering a fall baseball program for the first time on Saturdays only.

While local baseball play is the focus, players have opportunities to attend special events as well, including a Toledo Mud Hens camp for players with disabilities and Jamborees in Virginia Beach and Ohio. **M**



Designated buddies help players with batting and fielding and every player participates in the innings. PHOTO COURTESY OF CLINTON VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE CHALLENGER BASEBALL




Clinton Valley
Baseball
League
Challenger
Baseball is
fundraising
to raise the
estimated
\$170,000
needed to
construct a
new ballfield
for its senior
division. PHOTO
COURTESY OF
CLINTON VALLEY
LITTLE LEAGUE
CHALLENGER
BASEBALL







CHALLENGER BASEBALL

2018 BASEBALL FIELD PROJECT

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Clinton Valley Little League

The Michigan City of Center Line

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Center Line is a community with a long history of commitment to families, community and businesses. That commitment continues today as we preserve our history, and prepare for the future. Recent estimates indicate that Center Line's population has grown more than 10% during the past four years. In that same time, residential property values have increased more than 30% (#1 in Macomb County in 2018 at 16%); industrial property values are up 22%; and commercial property values are up 13%. Strong property maintenance enforcement is the primary reason for that growth in our 1.7 square mile small town. Our team of community leaders, residents, volunteers and business leaders have worked diligently to improve Center Line's identity as a cool city, with so much to offer to current and potential residents and business of all sizes, all while maintaining our Small Town Lifestyle.

Center Line has invested in and implemented new economic development strategies, by improving our Zoning Codes and Strategic Plan, which offers more zoning flexibility for prospective business investors. These changes include, conditional rezoning city-wide; mixed use development concepts for the downtown redevelopment and Van Dyke corridor districts; hiring an Economic Development Director; and adopting Medical Marijuana laws. Center Line has also reduced the number of single family rental properties by over 20%, and boosted residential property values by renovating tax reverted properties, turning them into fully updated owner occupied homes. Even as market values continue to grow in Center Line, housing is still very affordable for home buyers, and business investors. Today the median home value is only \$90,000.00. Center Line is affordable and a great investment for businesses and families! Our residents and businesses also enjoy Macomb County's best city services, which include a highly trained Public Safety Department averaging more than two public safety officers per square mile; sidewalks and streets are maintained at the highest levels, which includes snow removal from sidewalks in the downtown and residential neighborhoods, as well as an effective street and underground infrastructure maintenance and improvement program.

Center Line has built strong partnerships with Macomb County, the City of Warren and other regional partners, such as SEMCOG, and the Warren Area Chamber of Commerce, to create a more vibrant community for it's residents and businesses. Now in it's 5th year, the Center Line Independence Festival has partnered with the Warren Community Foundation and the Warren Chamber to celebrate our area's auto manufacturing history by way of Cruisin' 53. June 5th-7th, 2020, Center Line will celebrate its history with one of Macomb County's first Summer events. There will be live music, food, children's activities, rides, classic cars, and our always well-attended annual fireworks display. Our regional and county partnerships have resulted in a newly developed Parks and Recreation Master Plan; a strong green initiatives effort, which includes planting of over 1,000 new trees and green infrastructure parking lot; a bicycle friendly connection to the Iron-Belle Bike Trail; and plans to expand pedestrian and bike friendly concepts throughout the community. Plans are also in the works to expand the Parks and Recreation services and programs, which will include a splash pad at Memorial Park.

Finally, new businesses are moving in, providing residents and visitors some of the best small-town offerings in Macomb County. Cattleman's, one of Metro-Detroit's biggest beef suppliers, has taken over a 60,000 square foot shuttered grocery store to offer some of the areas best beef, deli, poultry, groceries and produce. **Center Line is now open for business** with expedited permit processes, which has resulted in more than \$45 million dollars in new investment in 2019!

***Come see what Center Line has to offer!
Macomb County's "Small Town Lifestyle in The Heart of Metro-Detroit"***

Safe space

The Shed connects teens, promotes mental health, suicide awareness

By Jane Peterson

Macomb County is filled with close-knit communities that take pride in looking out for one another. Whether a person is grieving the death of a loved one, coming to terms with a devastating health diagnosis or coping with drug and/or alcohol addiction, there are support groups and community resources that can help.

Teens struggling with mental illness or thinking about suicide can find the care and nurturing atmosphere they need among their peers at The Shed, a space dedicated to helping high school students connect with each other in a fun, casual environment after school.

The Shed is an outreach project of KnowResolve, a nonprofit organization that promotes mental health awareness and teen suicide prevention through advocacy and educational presentations at Macomb County schools and organizations.

In recent years, suicide rates have been increasing, said Dennis Liegghio, founder and executive director of KnowResolve. There are a number of reasons for the recent spike, including a rise in cyberbullying among teens and anxiety caused by the competition on social media, he said.

And although the problem has gotten worse, people seem to be desensitized to it, he added.

Building a support network is a crucial step in forming bonds and being able to reach out to other people when you need help. The Shed grew from the idea that teens needed a safe place where they could hang out and have face-to-face contact with their peers after school.

"We're helping them build coping skills through music and art and connecting them with each other and trusted, caring adults," said Liegghio.

The Shed opened in September after a grassroots funding campaign that raised \$50,000 allowed the organization to sign a five-year lease on its building at 13295 W. Star Drive in Shelby Township with the first three years paid for.

Shelby Township was chosen because of its proximity to five high schools. The Shed is located near 23 Mile Road and Schoenherr.

Liegghio is the only full-time staff member. There is also a part-time employee, a number of volunteers that help out on a regular basis and a host of frequent donors who provide snacks and additional funding for equipment, games and supplies.

Activities are driven by the youth who hang out at The Shed, but there is a focus on the arts and expressing yourself creatively. There is a stage for poetry readings and fashion shows



and a space for mural painting, for example. There are opportunities to perform music, sing and paint. Journaling helps teens learn how to identify their feelings so they can be addressed in healthy ways.

"Young people need someone they can talk to and people to pay attention to them," he said. "They need creative outlets so they can find a way to express themselves to deal with their emotions."

A youth advisory council consisting of six local high school students helps lead the structured afterschool programming, which also includes yoga, meditation, art therapy, songwriting and more.

The Shed is open to all high school students free of charge. Students must complete a membership form that is signed by their parents. Often students will come in with a friend to check

CONNECT



Dennis Liegghio, founder and executive director of KnowResolve, is a survivor of suicide. His dad took his own life when Liegghio was in high school. Music was his way of getting through it and when he was asked to share a song he wrote about his dad, he found it therapeutic and was inspired to take action. KnowResolve was founded in 2007.

Since that time, Liegghio has made numerous presentations at school assemblies about teen suicide prevention. He works to educate young people about the facts, risk factors and warning signs for suicide while spreading the word that thoughts of suicide should never be kept a secret. He works to connect those who are struggling with the available resources they need. KnowResolve does not provide counseling directly.

For more information about KnowResolve and/or The Shed, visit KnowResolve.org. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call (800) 273-8255.



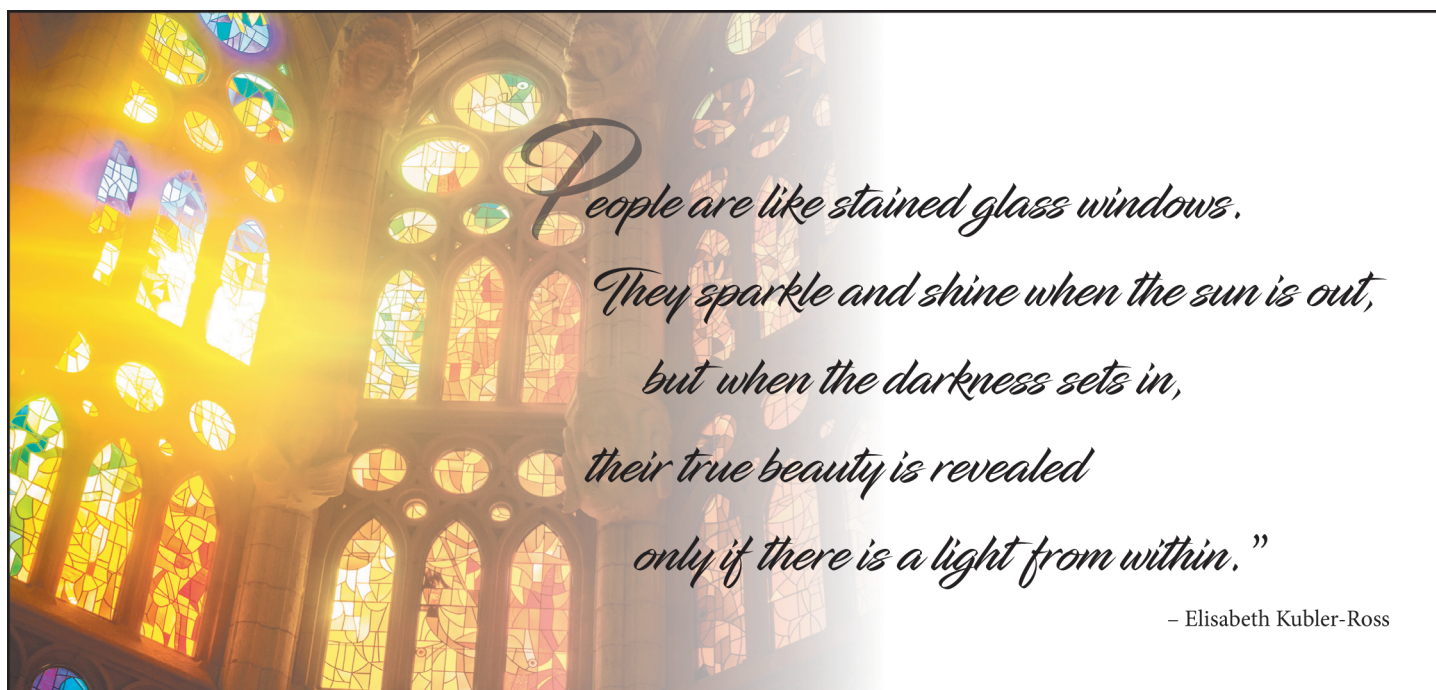
The Shed out before returning the membership form, he said.

High school freshman and sophomore years tend to be a real tipping point for students, said Liegghio, as they work their way through puberty, hormones, the pressure to succeed and the uncertainty of where they fit in. This is the time when some turn to unhealthy coping mechanisms like experimenting with alcohol, sex and drugs to dull the pain.

"You feel like an adult, but you're not," he said. "There's help available. What we're doing here is pretty unique." **M**

Left: Activities at The Shed are driven by the youth who hang out there, but there is a focus on the arts and expressing yourself creatively. There is a stage for poetry readings and fashion shows and a space for mural painting, for example. There are opportunities to perform music, sing and paint. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SHED

Right: A youth advisory council consisting of local high school students helps lead the structured afterschool programming, which also includes yoga, meditation, art therapy, sonwriting and more, at The Shed.



– Elisabeth Kubler-Ross



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Beat goes on

Macomb Symphony Orchestra celebrates 45 years of great music

By Jane Peterson

For 45 years, the Macomb Symphony Orchestra has been hitting all the right notes.

Each season, outstanding musicians bring fantastic music to life — and Music Director/Conductor Thomas Cook has been there for them all.

“I love doing what I do,” he said. “Music really speaks to the soul. It should make the hair on the back of your neck stand up when you listen.”

The Macomb County community has strong support for the Macomb Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and other cultural organizations throughout the region — and for good reason. According to John Hopkins Medicine, listening to music can boost creativity, help with memory recall and stimulate the brain to keep the mind sharp.

Plus, it’s just fun to buy tickets, head out to a concert and wait in anticipation as the lights dim and performers walk out onto the stage.

“People should be pleased to see this hidden gem in Macomb County,” said Todd Schmitz, a MSO cellist who is also a member of its board of directors. “It’s nice to provide an opportunity to hear great work of music, sometimes centuries old, performed live.”

The Macomb Symphony Orchestra consists of 72 members who perform a variety of instruments, including violin, piccolo, oboe, English horn, clarinet, viola, bass clarinet, bassoon, contra bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, violoncello, tuba, harp, double bass, timpani, percussion, flute and piano.

According to Cook, all members are paid, auditioned players. Most have been perfecting their music skills for years and love the process of mastering all types of musical literature.

Don Lewandowski has played double bass in the orchestra for 10 years and his wife, Pat, has been a cellist for 40 years. They both enjoy sharing good music with audiences at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, which they describe as a beautiful venue.

The orchestra plays a wide variety of genres. A fall concert, for example, was themed “Scotland the Brave!” and featured music from Scottish composers. The popular holiday concert on Dec. 8 will be titled “Holiday Flicks,” with clips from favorite holiday movies shown and then the songs played by the orchestra.

On March 15, the Macomb Symphony Orchestra will perform “The Majesty of Baroque” at 3 p.m. at Trinity Church and “Broadway All the Way” will be the theme for the 8 p.m. April 17 concert that wraps up the 45th concert season.



CONNECT



THE MACOMB SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Macomb County is home to a number of fabulous musical groups and world-class venues perfect for date night or an outing with the family:

- Detroit Concert Choir, 19950 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Shores
- Grosse Pointe Chamber Music, Grosse Pointe Shores
- Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra, Grosse Pointe Shores
- Motor City Symphony Orchestra, 4504 East Nine Mile Road, Warren
- Rhythm Society Orchestra, Grosse Pointe Shores
- The Macomers, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township

SOURCE: MACOMBGOV.ORG



Music Director/Conductor
Thomas Cook said he has
loved every minute of the
45 years he has spent with
the 72-member Macomb
Symphony Orchestra.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



During all concerts, said Schmitz, Cook provides cultural perspective, educating the audience about the composer and putting their work into historical context of what was happening at the time.

The Macomb Symphony Orchestra is supported through fundraisers, ticket sales and contributions from individual and corporate donors. Lewandowski said ticket prices are very reasonable. In fact, they range from \$24 for adults to free for children age 12 and under.

While attending a symphony performance sounds fancy, Cook assures people that performances are not designed for the elite. Everyone is welcome to attend; no dressing up required.

A youth concert in March brings students to the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts during the school day. Students are introduced to each instrument separately and then the orchestra performs a short piece, said Lewandowski.

For more information, visit MacombSymphony.org. **M**



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Firsthand look

Manufacturing Day presents students with future career options

By Jane Peterson

College may be the path to success for some, but it's not the only way to secure a good job. As ready 2,000 students representing Macomb County's 28 school districts recently learned, a career in modern manufacturing is a good investment for today's high school graduates.

Advanced manufacturing in Macomb County is a thriving industry, providing more than 12,000 jobs in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. These skilled jobs utilize highly sophisticated technology to complete work for the nation's most pre-eminent defense, automotive and aerospace companies.

"Manufacturing Day is considered a very important part of our annual schedule," said David Cantagallo, human resources manager for the Romeo Engine Plant/Michigan Proving Grounds. "We see it as an opportunity to expose and prepare the next generation for the world of manufacturing. It is a great way to eliminate any negative stereotype the manufacturing world has."

The Romeo Engine Plant/Michigan Proving Grounds was among the 60 host sites that opened its doors to high school students this October as part of the annual Manufacturing Day activities. Coordinated by the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development and the Macomb Intermediate School District, it continues to be one of the largest coordinated Manufacturing Day events in the nation. It featured tours of manufacturing facilities and provided students with opportunities to speak with those working in the field.

"It familiarizes students with these careers and lets them know what options are out there," said Maria Zardis, Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development.

Graduating from high school and directly entering the workforce used to be a fairly common way of life for young people in the 1960s and '70s. For a number of reasons, that practice began to shift in later decades and more students attended college before starting careers.

Combined with misconceptions that the manufacturing industry offers dirty, low-paying, repetitive jobs, this resulted in a shortage of workers for manufacturers, who struggled to find young people to fill job openings.

In response, Manufacturing Day, a national awareness campaign, was launched in 2012. It was created to educate families by encouraging high school students to tour manufacturing sites and talk to employees about their goals.

Paslin has participated in Manufacturing Day for five years. Human Resources Coordinator Jodi Kade said one of the many reasons the welding automation systems company enjoys being involved in Manufacturing Day is the opportunity to give back to the commu-



nity by educating local high school students on career opportunities that exist in the local area, that are not only highly technical, but are also lucrative.

"It's exciting to see students discover new careers and career pathways, such as apprenticeships in everything from machining to engineering, that they never knew existed," she said. "Paslin is invested in growing future talent to help bridge the deficit our industry faces in skilled labor and Manufacturing Day allows us to continue fueling that talent pipeline."

Macomb County first participated in Manufacturing Day in 2013 after County Executive Mark Hackel toured manufacturing facilities and participated in a roundtable discussion with area manufacturers. The message from that roundtable was clear: We need to expose the next generation of our workforce to these careers if we are to maintain a talent pipeline to the manufacturers that help to drive our economy.



Opposite page, left: Coordinated by the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development and the Macomb Intermediate School District, Manufacturing Day continues to be one of the largest coordinated Manufacturing Day events in the nation.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Above: Manufacturing Day features tours of manufacturing facilities and provides students with opportunities to speak with those working in the field. PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


Below: Students enjoyed learning about local career opportunities when they participated in Manufacturing Day activities at Paslin, a welding automation systems company located in Warren. Manufacturing Day, a national awareness campaign, was launched in 2012. It was created to educate families by encouraging high school students to tour manufacturing sites and talk to employers about their goals. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PASLIN



That sparked an idea between Macomb County officials and Macomb Intermediate School District representatives to put students on buses to travel to factories so they could view operations for themselves. Their efforts were an immediate success in 2014.

“Evaluations reveal that students are very much interested in these types of careers after they get a chance to see the industry in action,” said Zardis.

Following the tour, parents and students are invited to participate in a follow-up event hosted by Macomb Community College. The Careers in Manufacturing & Technology Expo provides an opportunity for students and their families to learn more about manufacturing careers, participate in hands-on activities and view interactive displays.

“We know our efforts are making a difference,” said Zardis. “Our host sites confirm that they are beginning to employ people who once participated in Manufacturing Day.” 



MORE THAN THREE GUYS IN A FIRE TRUCK

It is remarkable how three firemen/paramedics agreed to venture into a business in the healthcare industry and, 10 years later, are still friends running a very successful company.

The three owners of 1st Call Home Healthcare and Preferred Care at Home, Bob Mlynarek, Mike Barnhard and Jason Groth, met in the late 90's at the Harrison Township Fire Department, and became good friends. They worked so well together at the fire department that they decided to go into business on their off-duty days. The three entrepreneurs recognized the situations facing many of the seniors in their community. An aging population wants to stay safely in their own homes, and many of them needed help to make that happen. So in 2010, Preferred Care at Home was born. The three partners launched a non-medical home care service that would allow the elderly to have safe and comfortable lives in their own homes, rather than being obliged to move into assisted



living facilities.

In 2015, they saw the need for added medical services, and began

providing full-service skilled nursing, therapy, and catastrophic auto-injury care by starting 1st Call Home Healthcare.

The trio now has nearly 200 employees and has serviced over 1,000 patients all over Southeast Michigan.

Catastrophic auto injury care is a specialty of 1st Call. As first responders with more than 20 years of assisting patients at the onset of a car crash, the men began to wonder what happens to those patients after they have been stabilized, loaded into ambulances and taken to hospitals. What happens when patients leave their care? The patient might be in the hospital for weeks or months, and then transferred to a rehab center, where it may be many more months before the patient is actually able to go home. The patient's lives may now have changed dramatically, perhaps forever.

1st Call became aware of the possibility that their services could help these patients with long term care and rehabilitation.

as they progress and rehabilitate from an injury, or regress from aging or Dementia. When in-home medical services are combined and provided by the same team, very little can fall through the cracks.

1st Call employs several Registered Nurses as directors of care allowing early detection of problems and notification to the patient's doctor, often avoiding an unnecessary trip to the emergency room. Many of 1st Call's staff have personal experience with home healthcare, so they possess genuine care

// We are like a family - not just the staff, but also the clients we serve. //



Jason Groth, co-owner and Chief Operating Officer. "We are like a family—not just the staff, but also the clients we care for." The three owners are family men with

- Skilled nursing and therapy for hospital and nursing facility discharge patients
- Workers Compensation or Auto injury—helping the patient back on the road to recovery

Referrals by current and previous clients are their primary source of new business, with requests and recommendations from area hospitals as a close second.

The agency accepts many insurances including Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Bob, Jason and Mike conduct their business with the conviction that quality patient care, attention to detail, and recruiting staff who really care for their patients, will continue to be the hallmark of their agency. Their business will continue to grow as an increasing number of seniors need home care, and the needs of the dependent community grow more complex.

children, but all three partners are committed to this entire endeavor. They are extremely proud of their company's progress, and the ability to help a great number of patients and their families during difficult times. Success will only continue to grow for 1st Call Home Healthcare and Preferred Care at Home as the business continues responding to increased needs for private home care.

The agency has three distinct areas of care available:

- Non-medical senior care for basic activities of daily living.



1st Call's skilled and non-skilled home care staff provide round the clock attendant care, skilled nursing, and in-home rehabilitation with licensed physical, occupational, and speech therapists. Because they are a full-service agency, they are better equipped to care for patients

and concern for their clients. Staff members are respected and appreciated. "We hire compassionate and smart people, and then place them in a role that fits their skills," explained



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BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION
OF MICHIGAN



Information:

1st Call Home Healthcare
22367 Starks Dr.
Clinton Township, MI 48036
(800) 908-3890
www.3firefighters.com
referrals@3firefighters.com

Blast off

Warren's Futuramic honored for its additions to NASA's moon mission

By Jane Peterson

Futuramic Tool & Engineering may be located in Warren, but some of the parts it produces are getting ready to be blasted out of this world.

The Macomb County company has been part of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) project called Artemis and has been contracted to build and supply aerospace components for the agency's deep space rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS). The work is being done in anticipation of NASA's upcoming planned mission to the moon in 2020 and eventually, Mars.

Futuramic is one of 15 Michigan companies helping to build the moon rocket, which stands 322 feet tall and weighs 5.7 million pounds. It includes four RS-25 engines and two solid rocket boosters.

It's been a busy time for Futuramic, a full service engineering, fabrication, build and installation company. In 2006, it originally contracted with NASA to build rocket boosters for a Mars mission, but the scope — and timeline — for the mission changed, prompting Futuramic to come up with a new design in a short period of time, said Vice President John Couch.

He said when the core stage of the SLS was changed from a vertical to horizontal design, Futuramic was asked to fast-track the design of a new 60,000 pound tool that would help NASA speed up production of some of the largest rocket structures ever manufactured. The tool holds the 130-foot-long liquid hydrogen tank in a stable position so it could be joined with the core stage. The company completed the project in the spring.

For their efforts, Futuramic was honored with the Space Flight Awareness Supplier of the Year Award. Futuramic designer Matt Ososky was also recognized with the Silver Snoopy Award, presented to those who significantly contributed to the human space flight program to ensure flight safety and mission success. It is always presented by an astronaut. Fewer than 1% of the aerospace program workforce receive it annually.

A delegation of NASA, Boeing, state and city officials and astronaut Josh Cassada visited Futuramic in May to tour its Warren facility and present the awards.

It is an honor to be a part of the project, said Couch. Futuramic is a privately-owned company founded by Bill Warner in 1955. The family's third generation is now involved in day-to-day operations, which was originally focused on the automotive industry. Beginning in 2000, the company began diversifying into other areas, like aerospace, aircraft and defense projects. Today, said Couch, about 90% of its business is defense and aerospace while



10% is automotive.

Futuramic continues to grow its esteemed reputation, customer base and facilities. The Warren campus includes 220,000 square feet of manufacturing and assembly space and 12,000 square feet of engineering space.

Couch said the company's talented workforce includes more than 200 associates who work at its Macomb County location and another 100 or so employees who work at its Detroit facility.

The company depends on a trained and educated workforce. It participates in the annual Manufacturing Day activities to introduce high school students to manufacturing careers and partners with Macomb Community College in a state certified apprenticeship program. **M**

CONNECT

As a key supplier, Futuramic is helping NASA and Boeing, the prime contractor for the Space Launch System (SLS), to complete assembly of the rocket's core stage for EM-1 at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Most recently, Futuramic designed and completed initial assembly on both simulators for the liquid oxygen tank and liquid hydrogen tank structural test articles. The two test articles have identical structures to flight tanks that are part of the rocket's massive core stage. On a mission, the tanks hold 733,000 gallons of propellant to help power the rocket's four RS-25 engines that will send SLS and Orion to the Moon.





Opposite page: Futuramic is helping NASA and Boeing, the SLS prime contractor, to complete assembly of the rocket's core stage for EM-1 at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Most recently, Futuramic designed and completed initial assembly on both simulators for the liquid oxygen tank and liquid hydrogen tank structural test articles. Pictured are simulators mounted on a liquid hydrogen tank during structural testing at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FUTURAMIC

Top: Simulators mounted on a liquid oxygen tank in preparation for shipment from the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans to the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Above: NASA's Ken Dunn and Boeing's Craig Williams presented Futuramic with its Space Flight Awareness Supplier of the Year Award. It was accepted by Futuramic's President Mark Jurcak, Vice President John Couch and Global Sales Manager Rob Flinn on behalf of the company and all its employees.

Volunteer of the Year

Michigan Farm Bureau names Macomb's Amanda Kutchey

By Gina Joseph

The Michigan Farm Bureau has been around for decades due in large part to individuals such as Amanda Kutchey, who has been named MFB's 2019 Presidential Volunteer of the Year.

"Amanda epitomizes the volunteers who have built and sustained the state's largest general farm organization over the last 100 years," said Carl Bednarski, president of the MFB, in a news release. "She has exhibited a commitment to Michigan agriculture through her volunteer efforts and is instrumental to the success of the Macomb County Farm Bureau, as well as playing a significant volunteer role at the state level."

In order to be considered for the award members must first be nominated at the county level.

In nominating Kutchey, the Macomb County Farm Bureau said she "always finds time to volunteer and make a difference every day as a Farm Bureau member."

Thanks to her leadership and engagement in the community through phone calls, visits, texts and emails, Macomb County Farm Bureau has seen a continued increase in membership involvement. She's also assisted in creating a number of new membership events and programs including farm safety and emergency preparedness training, and

Project Rural Education Days, a program designed to promote agricultural awareness to the non-farm community.

Kutchey grew up on the family farm started by her great-grandfather and attended Farm Bureau meetings and work programs along with her parents. But it was not until she was old enough to get involved on her own that she understood why her parents chose to get involved with the Farm Bureau.

"Through my volunteer efforts, (Farm Bureau) helps me reach my urban neighbors by helping them understand where their food comes from. It also helps us create policy to help legislators understand how their policies impact every one of our farms across the state," said the Macomb Township resident, who recently served as co-chair of MFB's 13-member Statewide Study Committee tasked with conducting a holistic

QUOTABLE

"Others may not grow or raise the same products as you, but they understand the trials and frustrations that can happen in any given season."

— Amanda Kutchey



Macomb Township resident Amanda Kutchey has been named Michigan Farm Bureau's 2019 Presidential Volunteer of the Year. PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

review of the organization's structure, programs and services.

Those networking opportunities with volunteer members across the state have been the most rewarding, added Kutchey, who works as a crop insurance specialist with Greenstone Farm Credit Services, and on her family's farm.

"Others may not grow or raise the same products as you, but they understand the trials and frustrations that can happen in any given season," Kutchey said. "It allows for sharing ideas, successes, and failures with each other while continuing to move forward to preserve the agricultural footprint in our state."

Kutchey received her Volunteer of the Year award at the 100th Michigan Farm Bureau Presidents Lunch held Dec. 3, at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

"I'm truly honored to be selected to receive this award - Michigan Farm Bureau is full of so many deserving volunteers who put their time and energy into this organization," Kutchey said. **M**

Macomb Hall of Fame inductees

Committed to their communities

By Jane Peterson

The Momentum Makers column in this issue features the six distinguished community leaders and businesses who recently were inducted into the Macomb Hall of Fame. These are the folks who are dedicated to their communities and make Macomb County a better place to be.

The six inductees are: Pete Sr. and Pete Jr. Beauregard, Colony Marine; Tom Brisse, McLaren Macomb; Dr. Anthony Colucci, Henry Ford Health Systems; Helen Hicks, Habitat for Humanity; Bill and Matthew Jarvis, Jarvis Property Restoration; and Anne Nicolazzo, Anne Nicolazzo Photography.

They are a varied group that has each made impactful changes in their own unique ways. Continue reading to discover more about these influential community leaders.

Pete Sr. and Pete Jr. Beauregard

If you enjoy boating, chances are you know Pete Beauregard Sr. Throughout his business and personal life, he has played an integral role in building the Michigan boating industry into what it is today.

His passion for boating began early in childhood as he watched and listened to his dad, who owned a marina. His strong interest in the industry led him to purchase Colony Marine in 1958, which he built into one of the largest boat dealerships in Michigan. For more than 50 years, he followed his passion as Colony's owner and operator, eventually selling the company to his son, Pete Jr., and daughter, Lori, in 2010.

Today, Beauregard continues to promote the boating lifestyle as owner of the Algonac Harbour Club (AHC), which he purchased in 1984. AHC is one of the largest deep-water marinas in the area.

In addition to being a business owner, Beauregard served as a member of the Michigan Boating Industries Association Board of Directors from 1975-90 and was appointed by Governor John Engler to the Michigan State Waterways Commission where he served from 1993-2004.

He has received a number of honors and awards, including being elected to Michigan Boating Industries Association Hall of Fame in 1995, receiving the Lifetime Achievement C.N. Ray Award from Sea Ray Boats in 2006, being named a Lifetime Honorary Board Member of the Michigan Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ing Society and being named 2011 Algonac Citizen of the Year along with his wife, Carol.

His other accomplishments include converting an old bank in Algonac into the Algonac-Clay Historical Museum, home to several antiques from the original Chris-Craft factory. Beauregard is a member of the Quail Valley Yacht Club in Vero Beach, Fla.; The Old Club on Harsens Island; and the Detroit Athletic Club.

Like his father, Pete Beauregard Jr. has dedicated his career to the boating industry. For more than 40

years, he has worked at Colony Marine, promoted recreational boating and repaired and upgraded aging Michigan marinas.

He served on the Michigan Boating Industries Association Board of Directors from 1988-2006 and was re-appointed in 2018 as the Southeast Regional Director; was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder for a three-year term on the Michigan Waterways Commission; and served as a board member on the Lake St. Clair Tourism Initiative from 2013-18. He also serves as the Harbor Committee Chairman of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Board of Directors.

Beauregard is a past recipient of the Michigan Boating Industries Association Lighthouse Award for his commitment to the organization and its educational foundation, his dedication to the recreational boating industry and for his efforts in building the Metro Boat Show.

Information provided by the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce

Tom Brisse



Tom Brisse is a Macomb County native who has spent 32 years serving the healthcare needs of the community. Five years ago he became President and CEO of McLaren Macomb. The 288-bed acute care hospital located in Mount Clemens is a verified Level II Trauma Center and provides a full range of services such as complete inpatient/outpatient care, emergency, cancer, cardiovascular, surgical and laboratory services in addition to many others. The hospital is also a major teaching facility, said Brisse.

During his time with McLaren Macomb, Brisse has overseen the fundraising efforts and groundbreaking of the Wayne and Joan Webber Emergency and Trauma Center, the first major expansion of the McLaren Macomb campus in more than 10 years. Additionally, he led efforts to grow the hospital's medical staff, expand surgical technology and develop additional services for patients.

After graduating from Henry Ford II High School in Utica, Brisse earned his bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Health Service Administration from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Q Why is Macomb County a good place to work and live?

A I was born and raised in Macomb County and attended Utica Schools. All of my favorite restaurants and stores are here and there is entertainment, parks and Lake St. Clair. Macomb County is a well-developed county with access to everything you could want. It's been a privilege taking care of the health needs of my hometown community.

Q How is Macomb County contributing to your organization's success?

A Macomb County is growing and that allows the hospital to grow and create more opportunities for increased staff and infrastructure. We employ nearly 2,000 people at McLaren Macomb. The county leadership is very progressive and they have built a great platform for success. We enjoy a wonderful relationship with them.

Q What Macomb County organizations are you involved in both personally and professionally?

A I am a board member for Baker College, Advancing Macomb, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine Statewide Campus System and MedStar Ambulance Company.

Q How would you describe being selected for induction into the Macomb Hall of Fame?

A I am humbled and flattered by the acknowledgement, but my success is because of the employees that work at McLaren Macomb.

Dr. Anthony Colucci



As medical director of the emergency department at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, Anthony Colucci has many roles. He is involved in daily operations as well as the education and development of ER residents at the hospital. He also serves as the team physician for the Detroit Red Wings.

Colucci, who is board certified in emergency medicine, earned his medical degree from Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center in 1989. He completed his residencies at Beaumont Hospital

- Farmington Hills in Anesthesiology in 1995; Bi County Community Hospital, Emergency Medicine in 1993; and Detroit Osteopathic Hospital, now closed, in 1990.

Q What role does your business play in the Macomb County community?

A Our 361-bed hospital provides comprehensive, advanced medical care. We are recognized as a Level II trauma center and treat an average of 70,000 patients in our Emergency Department each year. From heart attacks, strokes, car accidents and other traumas, we're here for patients when they need it most.

Q Why is Macomb County a good place to work and live?

A It's a very friendly, philanthropic community. The diversity of cultures is enlightening and educating, as well as fulfilling.

Q How is Macomb County contributing to your organization's success?

A The generosity of our community. Thanks to more than \$700,000 in philanthropic investment, three new trauma bays opened in our Emergency Department at the end of 2018, which allow medical personnel to better perform their jobs when every second counts. More of these resuscitation bays are needed to accommodate the increased volume of trauma patients that we serve.

Q What Macomb County organizations are you involved in both personally and professionally?

A I am on the Advisory Board, Families Against Narcotics; an Operation Rx supporter; medical director for the Paramedic Program at Macomb Community College; active member of the Macomb County Medical Control Authority; member of Henry Ford Macomb's Ambassador Club; and chair of Henry Ford Macomb Medallion Gala.

Q How would you describe being selected for induction into the Macomb Hall of Fame?

A I am humbled and honored to be in such good company.

Helen Hicks



As president and CEO of Macomb County Habitat for Humanity since 2012, Helen Hicks has played an integral role in addressing the issue of low-income housing. The agency just closed on its 154th home.

Hicks said with the help of a superb team, she had been able to oversee all operations and transform each department.

She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Marygrove College in Detroit. She

has a master's degree in Educational Administration with a specialization in Human Resource Management. She has lived in Macomb County on and off throughout her life, moving with

her family back here in 2012. At the time, they were looking for a better school system for their handicapped son.

"We were told the MISD would be a great school system for him, and it has been! We can never leave!" she said.

Q Why is Macomb County a good place to work and live?

A I love this county because there are so many places to shop and play. It is rich in history and close to the water. Schools are generally amazing and the leadership in public and private sectors is sincere. There are many places to worship and a few of my favorite restaurants are in this county as well.

Q How is Macomb County contributing to your organization's success?

A We would not exist without the support of our county government and the hundreds of men and women who volunteer and donate their resources to our mission. From religious groups to individuals, - everyone cares about helping veterans, single moms and seniors. The people who shop in and donate to our Warren and Shelby stores are very generous and supportive of our mission. The whole county has just been amazing!

Q How would you describe being selected for induction into the Macomb Hall of Fame?

A Overwhelming. Breathtaking. Surreal. I just kept thinking that the award was really a reflection of all volunteers and staff who work side-by-side to give hard-working families a chance for homeownership. While I was selected to receive the award and am honored to serve in my role effectively contributing my gifts, it truly belongs to all who are actively advocating for affordable housing and equal opportunities for diverse, hard-working low-income men and women, who might otherwise spend their lives giving landlords most of their hard-earned dollars. Through our programs, they can save up to \$600 a month in a manageable mortgage and can then provide their families with opportunities for a much better and fulfilled life.

CONNECT



MACOMB COUNTY CHAMBER HALL OF FAME

Check out previous inductees and future events at macombcounty.org

chamber.com/about/macomb-foundation/hall-of-fame

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Bill and Matthew Jarvis



PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Throughout the decades, Bill Jarvis, founder and president of Jarvis Property Restoration, has been there for business leaders and homeowners who needed help picking up the pieces after a devastating loss — and it all started with one simple move.

After being in the painting business for several years, Bill Jarvis established Jarvis Painting in 1979. At the time, he serviced commercial and residential properties as well as handled fire and water repairs as a subcontractor. By 1981, Jarvis was ready to expand even further, and merged his painting company with a family owned carpet cleaning business. In 1983 he added another division performing rough carpentry and framing for houses, apartment complexes, condominiums and shopping centers.

It was 1985 when Jarvis expanded his general contracting services into the insurance restoration business, focusing on fire and flood repair for commercial, industrial and residential properties. Jarvis Construction Services was added as another division of Jarvis Painting and Jarvis Carpet Cleaning in 1990.

During the early 2000s, as a result of increasing its services for hurricane response or day-to-day emergency services and repair work throughout the coastal United States, Jarvis opened an office in Louisiana which was relocated in 2004 to the east coast of Florida. It has continued its success over the years, responding to storm damage and helping to rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina, Charlie, Francis, Jean, Ike, Harvey, Maria, Irma, Florence and Michael.

Simultaneously, the corporate office and overall operations

continued to grow in Michigan, resulting in other branch offices being opened throughout the state.

Matthew Jarvis is vice president of Jarvis Property Restoration and has been a leader in emergency response and restoration for more than 16 years.

He received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Northwood University and soon after joined the family business, continuing the tradition of providing relief to home and business owners after disaster strikes. He works closely with clients, making sure they are aware of the restoration process. He also provides comforting assurance that the job will be back in pre-loss condition quickly and professionally.

Matthew Jarvis is an integral part of the Jarvis Property Restoration team, often travelling out of state to prepare and create a plan of action for a potential weather event. He is actively involved with employees at each of the 12 locations across the Midwest. His motivation is completing every job in the most timely and efficient way.

Today, Jarvis occupies over 300,000 square feet of office and warehouse space, employs over 150 people and has more than 125 trucks and semi-trailers stocked with equipment for immediate response. The company has thrived, completing over \$1.1 billion in projects, and continues to grow with strategically placed offices throughout the East Coast and Midwestern U.S. in order to optimize response time.

Information provided by the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce

Anne Nicolazzo



Anne Nicolazzo knows how to maximize every moment of her day. During business hours, she serves as vice president of Human Resources and Community Outreach for Lanzen Fabricating, Inc., a defense contractor with three locations in Romeo, Mancelona and Harbor Springs. After hours, Nicolazzo volunteers her time as a social media ambassador for the “Make Macomb Your Home” initiative and as a social media administrator for County Executive Mark Hackel, We Are OneMacomb, Sheriff Anthony Wickersham, Macomb County Sheriff Mounted Division and several Macomb County businesses.

In addition, Nicolazzo is a well-respected photographer, participating as a freelance photographer for Macomb Now Magazine, contributing photography to other local publications and serving as owner/operator of Anne Nicolazzo Photography.

Q Why is Macomb County a good place to work and live?

A It's my home. It's the people here that make it what it is. There are so many assets here.

Q How is your organization contributing to Macomb County's success?

A In my role at Lanzen Fabricating, Inc., I coordinate and host Manufacturing Day, an annual countywide initiative where students are given an opportunity to tour the Lanzen facility and experience modern manufacturing. I also work with Romeo High School recruiting young talent for Lanzen's skilled trade apprenticeship program. Through my photography, I contribute to local publications to showcase the regional assets in Macomb County and promote community events.

Q What Macomb County organizations are you involved in both personally and professionally?

A I serve as an Academy Champion for Romeo High School's 9th Grade Academy Advisory Board and dedicate my time to numerous nonprofits; including serving on the Board of Directors for Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan and as a Leadership Macomb Alumni.

Q How would you describe being selected for induction into the Macomb Hall of Fame?

A For years I have attended the event as a photographer for the chamber of commerce. This year, I received a formal invitation. I was flabbergasted and didn't believe it. It is such an honor. **M**

MAJESTIC MACOMB COUNTY



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