

Industry | Innovation | Technology | Opportunity | Community | Diversity

MOMENTUM

Uniquely Macomb County, Michigan
Volume 5, Issue 2

A touch of inspiration

Art mural brings lots of vibrant color, plenty of joy to Eastpointe

Page 18

Macomb Strong:

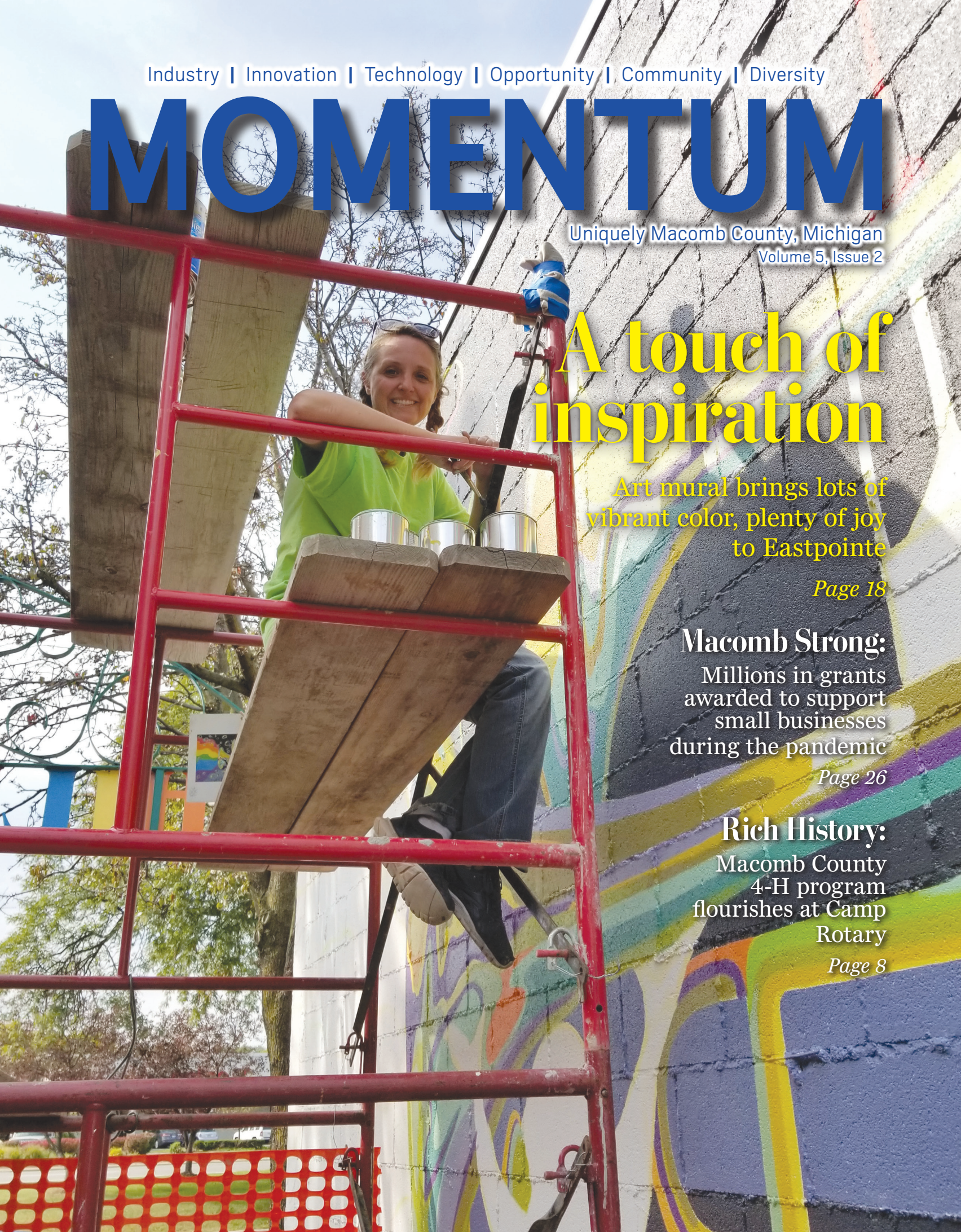
Millions in grants awarded to support small businesses during the pandemic

Page 26

Rich History:

Macomb County 4-H program flourishes at Camp Rotary

Page 8



"Earning my bachelor's degree at this stage of my life showed my kids it's okay to accept life's detours. It's never too late to achieve your goals."

– **Tricia Ashman**
BIS '19

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED IN MACOMB COUNTY FOR WORKING ADULTS

OU offers degree programs in some of the highest-paying and fastest-growing careers, such as social work, information technology, education, human resources management, marketing and more. And, our flexible course formats — accelerated, hybrid and online — will help you finish quicker and graduate sooner.

Our convenient locations at the Macomb University Center in Clinton Township and OU Anton/Frankel Center in Mount Clemens mean you can earn your OU degree in Macomb County.

Your OU degree will open greater opportunities for career growth and advancement with your current employer or a new company, expand your skills for increased knowledge at your job, help you earn a higher salary and boost your self-satisfaction.

MOTIVATED

Learn more.
oakland.edu/macomb/#events

muc22524/10.20

(855) 222-6909 | oumacomb@oakland.edu

oakland.edu/macomb

 [@oumacomb1](https://www.facebook.com/oumacomb1)

OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY™



Explore winter outdoors to see all kinds of great nature and wildlife in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

COURTESY OF HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

INSIDE

- 2 STRONGER TOGETHER:** Introduction from Mark A. Hackel
- 4 MACOMB ONLINE:** Grant program helps businesses thrive, not just survive
- 6 DOWN BY THE RIVER:** Land purchase to increase access to nature in Chesterfield Township
- 8 GIDDYUP:** 4-H programs enjoy rich history in Macomb County and at Camp Rotary
- 12 SHOW GOES ON:** Manufacturing Day goes virtual in 2020, extends to week-long format
- 16 CUTTING EDGE:** Macomb County continues to lead the way with Industry 4.0 technology
- 18 PAINT BY HEART:** Art mural brings lots of vibrant color, plenty of joy to Eastpointe
- 18 #MASKUPMACOMB:** Art contest inspires community to stay safe
- 22 BUILDING STABILITY:** Construction of 52 new affordable homes underway in Eastpointe
- 26 LIFELINES:** Creativity, funding help small businesses face COVID-19

- 30 PRIME LOCATION:** New Amazon delivery station brings hundreds of jobs to Sterling Heights
- 32 RAINBOW CONNECTION:** Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids opens new wellness center, expands its services
- 34 COOL BEAUTY:** Venture out this winter to discover a new outdoor activity in Macomb County
- 38 IN DEMAND:** Macomb's manufacturing sector full of opportunities, despite pandemic
- 42 ALL SYSTEMS GO:** Manufacturers find ways to adapt during pandemic, help communities
- 45 MOMENTUM MAKERS**
Sheila Coté, director of the Macomb County Office of Senior Services
Don Hutchison, dean of Engineering & Advanced Technology at Macomb Community College
Amy McMillan, director, Huron-Clinton Metroparks

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 artist Wendy Popko smiles from the scaffolding as she worked on the Eastpointe mural this spring and summer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

MOMENTUM

**Uniquely
Macomb County, Michigan
Volume 5, Issue 2**

Momentum is a publication of the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development

**Macomb County Executive
Mark A. Hackel**

Phone: (586) 469-7001
Email: Executive@MacombGov.org
Twitter: @markhackel

**Macomb County Department of
Planning & Economic Development
Vicki Rowinski, director**

Phone: (586) 469-5285
Email: info@macombbusiness.com

Macomb County Administrative Building

1 South Main St.
Mount Clemens, Mich. 48043
Phone: (586) 469-5285
Fax: (586) 469-6487

Websites:

MacombBusiness.com;
MakeMacombYourHome.org

Email:

planning@macombgov.org

Follow us:



For more information, comments or to obtain additional copies of this publication, please contact info@macombbusiness.com

Publishing Partner

MediaNews Group / Michigan Group
6250 Metropolitan Parkway, Dock D
Sterling Heights, Mich. 48312

**President
Greg Mazanec**

mipublisher@medianewsgroup.com

**General Manager, Advertising
Dave Swantek**

mipublisher@medianewsgroup.com

**Vice President / Content
Don Wyatt**

dwyatt@medianewsgroup.com

**Advertising Manager
Jason Uhlenhake**

Advertising Executives

Carol Clancy, Keri Kruemmer,
Monica LiCavoli, Carol Mason,
Nicole Pazzi, David White,
Mary Ellen Zander

Contributor

Jane Peterson

Design, Editing and Production

Joe Pas and Jenny Sherman

Momentum is published for the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development by MediaNews Group. Copyright 2020. All rights reserved. No portion can be copied or published without expressed written permission of the publisher. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Macomb County or MediaNews Group. Products or services mentioned in this publication may be trademarks of their respective companies or organizations.



MediaNews Group

Stronger together

Through innovation and acts of kindness, community, businesses unite across Macomb County during pandemic

By Mark A. Hackel

This past year has challenged us in so many ways. An unprecedented pandemic has led to unimaginable adversities across our community. However, in the face of these unthinkable circumstances, there have been countless acts of kindness and compassion that have illustrated the true character of Macomb County. This willingness to be a part of the solution gives me a tremendous sense of pride in this place we call home.

We will be forever grateful for all the individuals and organizations who stepped up to help those in need. From our health care systems to our service organizations, there are countless examples of how we adapted to help our community thrive. In the private sector, our “Arsenal of Democracy” was reinvented as the “Arsenal of Innovation,” as hundreds of companies across the region produced personal protective equip-



ment including hand sanitizer, masks, surgical gowns and ventilators. This proves – yet again – that this is the place where creativity and determination can make anything happen.

Finally, our friends and family are also to be thanked. Whether it was neighbors taking time to check-in on one another or staging safe ways to celebrate life’s special moments, we should be proud of the ways we stayed together.

As we will continue to be faced with situations that will test us it’s important to remember, it is challenges like this that unite us and make us stronger. Please continue to visit macombgov.org for all of the latest updates around the county, and keep yourself and your family safe.

*Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive*



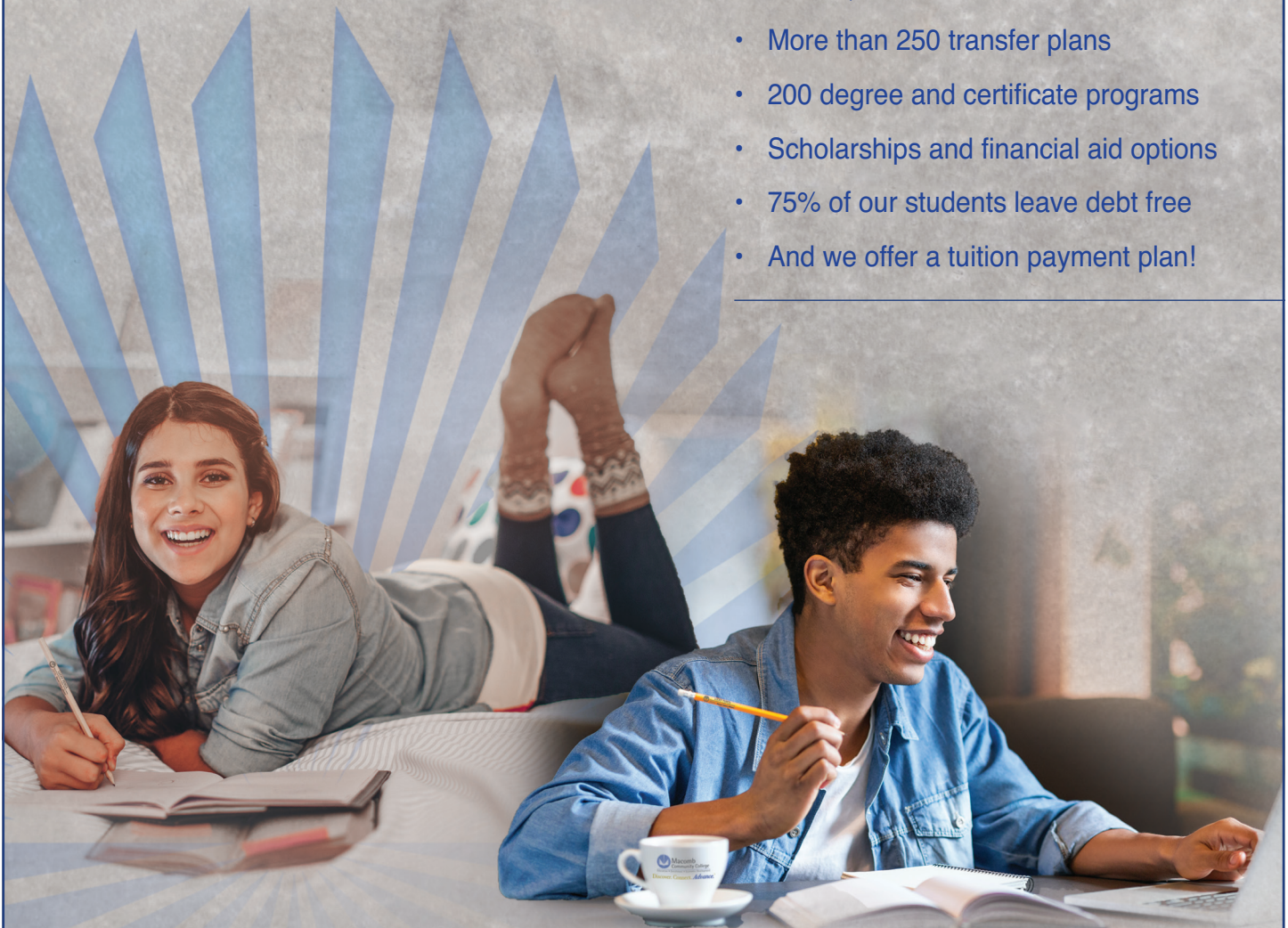
Volunteers prepare and hand out personal protective equipment, just one example of the willingness Macomb County residents and businesses have to be part of a solution to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY



Accelerating Students

- Save \$20,000 over two years
- Over 2,000 online classes
- More than 250 transfer plans
- 200 degree and certificate programs
- Scholarships and financial aid options
- 75% of our students leave debt free
- And we offer a tuition payment plan!



There's still time to apply and register for winter semester!
Classes start Jan. 11.

Learn more at macomb.edu
Questions? Call 586.445.7999
and select Admissions

 **Macomb**
Community College
Education • Enrichment • Economic Development
Discover. Connect. *Advance.*

Macomb online

Grant program helps businesses thrive instead of just survive

By Jane Peterson

Ron and Tracey Manoviec know how to operate a successful business. For 13 years, they have operated the Toy Box, an independent, family-owned toy store. Up until October, the business was located in the Lakeside Mall but they recently moved to a new location in Utica's Shelby Crossings strip mall. Longtime customers adore their vast selection of handpicked toys and games, personalized service and friendly smiles.

However, when the COVID-19 crisis hit, the Toy Box needed to quickly change the way they conducted business. When non-essential retailers were forced to shutter their doors in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the spring, the Manoviecs had to adapt business operations.

They offered a personal shopping service and provided curbside pickup in an effort to help mitigate the impact social distancing restrictions. Customers requested customized Easter baskets and other items, but the sales weren't enough to thrive. Even when the store reopened its doors, the lack of foot traffic was challenging to deal with.

The Manoviecs weren't alone – and Macomb County officials took notice.

Recognizing that many small businesses focus their efforts on customers in store to provide personalized service, the Macomb County CARES for Small Business Program made up to \$5 million available to help local small businesses through the Online Business Connect Program.

"We are committed to our business community and want them to succeed," said County Executive Mark A. Hackel in a news release.

The Online Business Connect Program was designed to allow companies that serve the public to boost their online presence. Through targeted strategies such as creating a robust website with online ordering capabilities, beefing up their search engine optimization (SEO) numbers and increasing their online presence with social media tools, the goal was to attract more attention and generate additional sales in a virtual environment.

"Our department is working around the clock to ensure our local businesses receive the support they need," said Vicky Rowinski, director, Macomb County Planning and Economic Development.

Eligible companies received a voucher for up to \$10,000 and could work with one of 40 qualified local vendors to develop online services.



Ron and Tracey Manoviec worked with Amanda Herr, owner of Digital Desk in Clinton Township, to boost the online presence of the Toy Box.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOY BOX

The Manoviecs worked with Amanda Herr, owner of Digital Desk in Clinton Township. Together, they sat down and discussed what the business needed in terms of an online presence. The Toy Box had a website, but since it was more than 10 years old, they weren't generating enough revenue from it through online sales. The new website features a fully automated system with an updated inventory.

"We created a whole new point of service system to provide

CONNECT

BUSINESSES CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

As a requirement of the Online Business Connect Program grant funds, businesses receiving monies had to partner with one of 40

approved local website development vendors who would help them achieve their online goals. For vendor Amanda Herr, owner of Digital Desk in Clinton Township, helping businesses build their websites was a way to connect with other local business owners and receive exposure for her own company, too.

"All of us have to come together to help each other," she said.





them with another revenue stream,” said Herr. “This website will be a game-changer for them.”

Prior to the Online Business Connect Program, Herr was helping with their social media, showing the Manoviecs how to leverage this resource to its full advantage. Almost overnight, the Toy Box grew from about 150 Facebook followers to more than 800.

When the Toy Box moved from Sterling Heights to Utica in October, Herr helped them promote the grand opening event through social media. They had an amazing turnout, even surpassing past Black Friday sales.

Ron was pleased with the website results thanks to the Online Business Connect Program. Not only did Herr handle the web design, she showed them how to do it, so they have the confidence to update the site to keep it fresh and current moving forward.

“It’s been a really great experience for us,” he said.

Herr is pleased to see small businesses receiving the support they deserve. She said Macomb County officials are personally involved and want to see small retailers move forward.

“They are driving the economy,” she said. “It’s nice to see the whole county grow and thrive.” **M**



SIMASKO LAW



You have so much *living* to do yet,
so why waste your time worrying?

Let us help by making sure your legacies are protected.

CALL TODAY!
(586) 468-6793
Free Consultation

- Medicaid Planning
- VA Benefits
- Elder Law

HOW MUCH CAN I AFFORD TO LOSE?

This is the most important question you can ask yourself. As Attorneys, it is our duty to seek out the best strategies available to ensure that you and your loved ones are protected. But what is the use, if you leave all of your assets exposed to both legal and financial risks?

If you have not reviewed your wealth preservation strategy recently, maybe it's time.

Call Simasko Law at
586-468-6793
to schedule your free wealth preservation review.

- Estate Planning
- Probate
- Wills & Trusts



JIM SIMASKO



PAT SIMASKO

Contact **586-468-6793** today, to schedule your free, one-hour consultation.

Elder Law Attorneys

www.simaskolaw.com

319 North Gratiot Ave
Mount Clemens, MI 48043



SIMASKO LAW



To mark the acquisition, a site preview and ceremonial shoveling event was held in July.

PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
MACOMB COUNTY

Down by the river

Land purchase to increase access to nature in Chesterfield Township

By Jane Peterson



Parents & Educators



Free Educational
Virtual Programming

Page to Stage is a theater program presenting Pre-K through 12th grade curriculum-linked performances. These outstanding virtual productions, created and prerecorded by award-winning national and international artists, bring the classroom to life, inspiring and entertaining young people.

Visit our website for a complete list of virtual programming:

MacombCenter.com

Thank you for your generous support!



MacombCenter
for the Performing Arts

Macomb Community College—Center Campus

A nature-rich, undeveloped property is set to become a central part of the Macomb County Blue Economy Initiative's Salt River Intracoastal Marina District thanks to a community partnership between Six Rivers Land Conservancy, Chesterfield Township and First State Bank.

Six Rivers Land Conservancy purchased the 33 acres for \$275,000 on behalf of Chesterfield Township and it will serve as a facilitator, holding the property for the township while officials wait to hear on the status of their grant application from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The acquisition and development grants to local, regional and state recreation agencies were set to be announced in December. The grant would help the township with 75% of the purchase price to buy the property from Six Rivers.

"Six Rivers is thrilled to partner with Chesterfield Township and Macomb County to acquire and preserve this property," said Chris Bunch, executive director of Six Rivers Land Conservancy. "Preserving this property will help protect the ecological integrity and wildlife habitat in the region and will increase access to nature."

Chesterfield Township Supervisor Dan Acciavatti is equally excited about the future park, saying that residents want safe places to recreate and that parks and natural spaces create a healthier community both for residents and the environment.

"Acquiring and developing this property is a key step in protecting the Salt River from further contamination and preserving natural resources, while providing residents and visitors access to open space and future park programming," he said. "Our little slice of heaven is our waterways."

Salt River Corridor

3.17.2020



This acquisition and future development of the property by Chesterfield Township as the Salt River Nature Center will provide residents with additional open space, recreational opportunities and access to the Salt River and the Lake St. Clair Coastal Water Trail.



Located within the Salt River Marsh complex, the additional property is an important piece of a restoration effort that seeks to set aside key properties to help improve the water quality of Lake St. Clair and boost fish reproduction, as the numbers of Northern pike and perch have decreased over the past 10-15 years, said Gerard Santoro, program director for parks and natural resources, Macomb County Planning and Economic Development.

Santoro said the area is inundated with *Phragmites australis*, invasive plants that choke off natural plant growth and alter existing water flows. He hopes restoration of the site can be completed by late 2021.

“With increased awareness of the importance and accessibility of recreational assets and the retention of residents, this is the type of acquisition that is vital to Macomb County’s future,” said Santoro. “It’s a win for all Macomb County residents.”



The acquisition was made with a revolving loan from First State Bank in St. Clair Shores, the first of its kind undertaken by the nonprofit organization. Bunch said it is a unique model that he hopes to access in the future for other properties.

Gene Lovell, president and CEO of First State Bank said that as a community bank headquartered in Macomb County, they are so pleased to have the opportunity to participate in moving this project forward.

“We’re a community bank. If we’re going to thrive, we depend on our community to thrive as well,” he said. **M**

CONNECT

ABOUT THE PROPERTY

Currently, the property is undeveloped in a natural state and contains a rich variety of wildlife with wetland and upland wooded areas. This acquisition and future development of the property by Chesterfield Township as the Salt River Nature Center will provide residents with additional open space, recreational opportunities and access to the Salt River and the Lake St. Clair Coastal Water Trail. Nature paths, boardwalks, a blueway paddle trail, wildlife viewing areas and wildlife educational resources are anticipated in the future.





Above: 4-H member Erica Craig, 19, of Washington Township, with her show horse Joey, during the 2019 Armada Fair. Youth who participate in Macomb County's 4-H clubs experience a variety of fun and educational activities ranging from riding and showing horses to archery workshops, gardening classes and crafts.

PHOTO BY GINA JOSEPH — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

Left: In the horse program, children learn how to take care of animals and participate in fun activities like costume competitions.

Far left: The Macomb County 4-H Horse Program has been a great resource in youth development. Pictured on top is a lead line class.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM



Giddyup

4-H programs enjoy rich history in Macomb and at Camp Rotary

By Jane Peterson

Wolcott Mill Metropark may best be known for its historical attributes, but tucked away in the park, with an entrance off 29 Mile Road just east of Wolcott Road is Camp Rotary, an overnight group camp popular with scouts and organized youth groups.

It is here where the Macomb County 4-H Horse Program holds its show season. According to Mike DeFour, adult president of the program, when Camp Rotary was purchased in 1990 by the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, the 4-H program was given a 25-year license to use the grounds and buildings.

Elizabeth Duran, program coordinator for Macomb County Michigan State University Extension, said 4-H utilizes the Camp Rotary facility frequently. She said the facilities are very well

CONNECT

LEARN MORE ABOUT 4-H

From the 4-H motto, "To make the best better" and the 4-H Pledge of Head, Heart, Hands, Health to all the dedicated volunteers, 4-H provides a great start for the youth in Michigan and Macomb County. To learn more about the Macomb County 4-H program, contact the Michigan State University Extension office at (586) 469-6440 or visit canr.msu.edu/macomb/4-h.



Peace on Earth, good will towards all

The Wujek and Calcaterra families wish you a peaceful new year filled with happiness and surrounded by loved ones. Thank you to the wonderful families in this community who have chosen us to serve them. We are humbled by your trust, and will continue to care for all families with the same compassion we would want for our own.



WUJEK-CALCATERRA
& SONS, INC.



STERLING HEIGHTS

SHELBY TOWNSHIP

www.WujekCalcaterra.com

Photos: At Macomb County's six horse shows a year, 4-H members compete with each other to earn points for year-end awards and for a chance to represent Macomb County at Michigan State University State Horse Show.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROGRAM

maintained and that 4-H volunteers help with the horse area.

"With our volunteer work and community service through the Metroparks, we are able to continue our program the past 25 years and hope for many more to come," said DeFour.

In addition to the horse staging area, 4-H members visit Camp Rotary year round, using the Activity Center for club meetings and volunteer sessions. While many think the organization is just for children interested in farm life and raising animals, the organization is about so much more, with plenty for "city kids" to enjoy as well. A diverse slate of topics and interest areas are designed to appeal to children, whether their interest is food, environmental matters, outdoor activities, cooking, art, entrepreneurship, science, career exploration, building, health, sewing, leadership, technology or crafting.

More than 200,000 children and teens participate in 4-H statewide, making it the largest youth development organization in Michigan. In Macomb County, the 4-H program has a rich history, with activities designed to educate and entertain, all while allowing young people to explore interests that may lead to future careers or volunteer opportunities. Through their participation, youth learn life skills like teamwork, setting goals, conflict resolution and leadership.

In 2019, Macomb County's program consisted of 24 traditional community clubs and two branches of military clubs. In addition, MSUE 4-H staff facilitate school clubs at Glen Peters School in Macomb Township and Seminole Academy in Mount Clemens as well as other in-school programs. Area youth are also served through other institutes like Sea Grant that offers an eco-science education aboard a boat called Discovery Cruise. A Healthy Living Institute provides nutrition, cooking and physical exercise education. Altogether Macomb MSUE served 8,981 youth in the 2019 program year.

In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis limited the clubs to virtual meetings and numbers were drastically impacted, said Duran.

"We give our youth members age 5 to 19 years old a safe, competitive sportsmanship offering," said DeFour. "We promote hands-on learning with leaders of each club offering guidance in activities for their members on their project animal. These activities also include how to run organized meetings and offer other areas of 4-H such as livestock, companion animals, arts and crafts just to name a few."

DeFour and his wife, Kathy have been involved in 4-H since 1999 when they enrolled their daughter. He serves as the adult



QUOTABLE

“Children are competing with themselves, that's why you'll see so many blue ribbons at the fair. There isn't just one winner. It's exciting to see the growth in the kids and their life skills.”

— Elizabeth Duran, MSU Extension program coordinator





Tyler Trotto, 11, of Macomb Township — one of several young 4-H members who competed at the Armada Fair last year — poses for the cameras following his equine event. More than 200,000 children and teens participate in 4-H statewide, making it the largest youth development organization in Michigan.

PHOTO BY GINA JOSEPH — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

president of the program along with youth president Willow Hollingsworth. The committee is made up of both adult and youth officers, providing many of the youth members with a good start toward becoming successful citizens.

The dog and horse programs are among the most popular in Macomb County. In the dog program, children learn how to take care of animals, show dogs and participate in fun activities like costume contests.

“4-H is like a big family,” said Duran.

The various clubs come together at special events like the Armada Fair. This is a culmination of year-long learning as youth prepare projects and bring them in for judging in a wide variety of categories. Judging is always a special time, said Duran, as young people interview with judges, who apply scoring criteria and provide positive feedback before awarding ribbons.

“Children are competing with themselves, that’s why you’ll see so many blue ribbons at the fair. There isn’t just one winner,” she said. “It’s exciting to see the growth in the kids and their life skills.”

DeFour agreed, adding that the fair and shows provide lots of fun, team building, lasting friendships and memories. In conjunction with Seth Martin, MSU Extension program coordinator and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Macomb County normally hosts six horse shows a year, made up of light horses (mostly quarter horses), mini horses and draft horses. Each is judged by registered 4-H judge. Members compete with each other to earn points for year-end awards and for a chance to represent Macomb County at Michigan State University State Horse Show.

At the end of the show season, there is an awards banquet where the dedication, hard work and sportsmanship of members are recognized.

4-H club members also participate in other special events, like Exploration Days, a program that exposes children ages 11-19 to an authentic college experience on the campus of Michigan State University. Typically held in June, the event annually attracts thousands of youth from Macomb County and across

the state. Participants stay in residence halls, said Duran, and take part in hands-on classes and field trips.

Duran said one of the major goals for 4-H is to raise interest and participation in college. For this reason, 4-H also offers a variety of scholarship opportunities. This summer, two Macomb County teens were awarded the Michigan 4-H State Award in the program’s Junior Division, the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H members.

Aubrey Richards, 14, of Shelby Township and Morgan Jowett, 14, of Sterling Heights were recognized by MSU Extension during a virtual ceremony on June 24. Both girls are active members of City Slickers 4-H Club and also attend county and statewide events such as Exploration Days.

Aubrey was selected for her work in Food, Nutrition, Health & Fitness project areas. She has been a 4-H member for six years and has shown leadership by serving as her club’s treasurer. She has a great interest in global programs and has hosted youth from South Korea, Japan and Norway. In her application, she commented, “I realized when I was applying for my high school how many amazing opportunities and experiences I have had because of 4-H. It has given me an advantage, as I had more accomplishments, awards, and opportunities over my peers.”

Morgan was recognized for her accomplishments in the Performing Arts project area. In addition to her membership in the City Slickers 4-H Club, she serves as secretary for the Macomb County Youth Council. Morgan has been a 4-H member for three years and in her application, she stated: “In doing 4-H, I have become more confident in myself, and I have been able to reach out more and talk to others. This has helped me gain the confidence to take on new challenges, such as community service projects and volunteer work. This 4-H project area helped me meet new people at school and participate in more extracurricular activities.” **M**



Aubrey Richards



Morgan Jowett



Show goes on

Manufacturing Day goes virtual in 2020, extends to week-long format

By Jane Peterson

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.

Each year, Macomb County high school students receive information and insight into manufacturing career paths thanks to a robust Manufacturing Day program. Held the first Friday in October, students are exposed to various manufacturing careers and have the opportunity to talk with industry professionals and tour leading manufacturing sites. Following tours, parents and students are invited to participate in the Careers in Manufacturing & Technology Expo hosted by Macomb Community College. The expo provides an opportunity for students and their families to learn more about manufacturing careers, participate in hands-on activities and view interactive displays.

For students, Manufacturing Day activities are a way to familiarize themselves with careers they may want to pursue. For employers, the event is an opportunity to introduce the next generation to the world of manufacturing and dispel stereotypes about the industry.

Typically, more than 60 host sites open their doors to high school students as part of the annual Manufacturing Day activities. Coordinated by the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development and the Macomb Intermediate School District, the Macomb County event is one of the largest coordinated Manufacturing Day events in the nation.

This year, however, was anything but ordinary. Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, changes had to be made to scale back the format and change all the events from in-person to virtual.

"Manufacturing Day wasn't something that we just couldn't do," said Janelle Arbuckle-Michael, senior outreach specialist-talent pipeline liaison for the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development. "We realized back in May that we would have to do something different this year. Our biggest goal was to continue to reach students."

In many ways, the adjustments were challenging as organizers spent hours planning how to replicate the experience online. In other ways, the changes produced unexpected benefits, like being able to keep videos up online for a year after the event ended, potentially exposing even more students to manufacturing careers. Many students asked questions after the presentation and

Below: Manufacturing Day typically features tours of manufacturing facilities and provides students with opportunities to speak with those working in the field.

Opposite: Advanced manufacturing in Macomb County is a thriving industry, providing more than 12,000 jobs in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

PHOTOS BY DAVID DALTON — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP

and inquired about the next steps they needed to take with their education, internships and apprenticeships, she said.

“It turned out to be a great week,” said Arbuckle-Michael. “It was a good product and people really responded to it.”

Plus, instead of just one day and touring one facility, students could join in a week-long celebration from Sept. 28-Oct. 2. During that time, six companies held Zoom meetings for participants and virtually showcased their facilities. Macomb Community College, Ferris State University and Michigan Works - Young Professionals also had virtual exhibit booths during the duration of the week.

During the live Zoom calls, company officials provided an

overview of the company and the type of work they do, highlighted employees who spoke about the scope of their work, their education and their career decision. Families and classrooms were then treated to a 3D virtual tour experience.

The six Macomb County companies participating in this year’s virtual event were RCO Engineering in Roseville; Avon Machining in Shelby Township; Fori Automation in Shelby Township; Paslin in Warren; Michigan Production Machining in Macomb; and Triumph Gear Systems in Macomb.

While not the same as being there in person, Arbuckle-Michael said the response was phenomenal, with 1,500 participants throughout the week attending the live Zoom calls. That’s



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.

PHOTO BY DAVID DALTON — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP



just slightly down from typical attendance of 2,000-2,300 participants.

“We love the idea of sticking with Manufacturing Week,” she said, adding that perhaps next year they will look at a four-day virtual format wrapping up with a live, in-person tour on the final day.

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 share the excitement of modern day manufacturing and to educate families by encouraging high school students to tour manufacturing sites and talk to employees about their goals.

Macomb County first participated in Manufacturing Day in 2013 after County Executive Mark A. Hackel toured manufacturing facilities and participated in a roundtable discussion with area manufacturers. The message from that roundtable was

clear: Leaders needed to expose the next generation of workers to these careers if companies were to maintain a talent pipeline and help to drive the local economy.

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 and since 2014, more than 12,000 students have participated in Macomb County’s Manufacturing Day. **M**

CONNECT

TO LEARN MORE

Manufacturing is a huge industry in Macomb County with many opportunities available to students. To learn more about next year’s event and to view webinars and speaker bios from Manufacturing Week 2020, visit MacombMfgDay.com.



Choose **EPIC** Rehabilitation After Surgery or Hospitalization



"This is by far the best facility I've ever been in!"



WellBridge of Romeo makes post-acute rehabilitation and nursing care easier with our smart design, innovative concepts, authentic hospitality, and commitment to our guests.



"The staff provides loving care always."

"The care couldn't get any better!"



EPIC

Excellence • Passion • Innovation • Care

375 South Main Street, Romeo, MI 48065 • Phone: 586.589.3800



Fresh
WBs Bistro

WELLBRIDGE OF ROMEO

YOUR BRIDGE TO RECOVERY AND WELLNESS

www.thewellbridgegroup.com

Cutting edge

Macomb County continues to lead the way with Industry 4.0 tech

By Jane Peterson

Ever since the steam engine was invented and the industrial revolution commenced, Michigan – and Macomb County in particular – have been on the cutting edge of manufacturing innovation, changing the way products are produced by leveraging current best practices and resources.

The region is best known for when Henry Ford used the power of electricity to introduce the assembly line, an innovation that continues to be applied in many different situations to this day. Once again all eyes were on the Great Lakes State when computers and robot technologies captivated the world with their possibilities. Today, the state finds itself front and center once more with the evolution of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, more commonly referred to as Industry 4.0.

Industry 4.0 is different from the first three revolutions, said Automation Alley Executive Director and CEO Thomas Kelly, because it's about more than obtaining technology to improve manufacturing efficiency; it's about using that technology to transform the way businesses operate entirely.

"Technology is changing dramatically and COVID-19 really forced manufacturers to look at the way they do business," he said.

Data and digitalization capabilities are transforming the way goods and products are developed and made, creating a disruption in business models. What Industry 4.0 does is capitalize on technology by connecting computers and allowing them to "talk" to one another, working together to reach a common goal. Once communication is established, this can be done largely without any human involvement.

The result is enhanced productivity, better processes and ultimately, expanded growth.

First, however, manufacturers have to be willing to shake things up by changing the way they operate and taking a fresh look at the roles employees play in the manufacturing process. They also have to make a financial commitment to update their equipment and technologies.

This isn't always easy for companies focused on daily competencies and juggling COVID-19 related safety protocols. Automation Alley has stepped in to help fill the gap, by launching a number of educational programs and initiatives designed to make Macomb and Oakland counties the epi-center for this dramatic transformation. This region, said Kelly, is uniquely situated to handle this challenge because of its proliferation of skilled talent, extensive knowledge of supply chain management and desire to shape a better vision for the future.



CONNECT

WHAT IS INDUSTRY 4.0?

There are many ways to apply Industry 4.0 processes throughout Macomb County manufacturing facilities, but Automation Alley leaders have identified eight emerging sectors:

- The Industrial Internet of Things
- Big Data
- Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence
- Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials
- Modeling, Simulation, Visualization and Immersion
- Cloud Computing
- Cybersecurity





Although there is no national plan targeting Industry 4.0 integration, that hasn't stopped Automation Alley from taking a leadership role. In partnership with the World Economic Forum, the organization is reviewing ways to change education models, increase employee accessibility to emerging technologies and collaborate with industry leaders to craft a cohesive strategy moving forward.

Project DIAMOnD is an Automation Alley initiative that seeks to accelerate this process and encourage Macomb County manufacturers to join the effort. Project DIAMOnD - which stands for Distributed, Independent, Agile, Manufacturing On-Demand - will connect 350 Macomb and Oakland county companies via the nation's largest 3D printer network on a blockchain technology platform. Companies will be ready to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) if needed while simultaneously embracing the digital capabilities necessary to be Industry 4.0 ready. The initiative is funded through the \$10 million grant Automation Alley received from Oakland County and \$2 million grant from Macomb County in June to

What Industry 4.0 does is capitalize on technology by connecting computers and allowing them to "talk" to one another, working together to reach a common goal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTOMATION ALLEY

help each county's manufacturing base purchase and implement Industry 4.0 technologies. Those accepted into the program will receive:

- A 3D printer at no-cost
- Guidance to help them navigate to digital processes
- An Industry 4.0 Assessment that outlines digital opportunities that fit their needs
- Connections to vendors and research that can assist them on the Industry 4.0 journey
- Financial incentives to help them purchase and transition to digital technologies

"Currently, most assets that exist are built on a premise that you can do work in multiple stages, such as with an assembly line," said Kelly. "3D printing throws that out the window and with all components working together, creates a total disruption in the way you've been doing business."

The Project DIAMOnD application process ended in early December. Mark Bigelow, VP of Operations for Mettelle Ops,



a Sterling Heights firm that specializes in extensive research, development, manufacturing and fabrication, reverse engineering, ground vehicle design,

test and evaluation experience and system integration capabilities, said he was excited to apply for the program and the possibility of being part of an ecosystem to create a county-wide 3D print house.

Bigelow said the ecosystem could allow Mettelle Ops to expand the scope of its projects through the creation of larger, more structural pieces that use a variety of materials.

"It would open up a new avenue for us and would be a good opportunity for the community to come together," he said.

Many manufacturers are already utilizing 3D printing in a variety of ways, from crafting prototypes to actual production. Automation Alley is connecting Macomb County manufacturers, allowing smaller businesses access to technology and supply chain management they wouldn't typically be able to achieve on their own due to financial limitations, space restrictions or staffing considerations.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated digital transformation across the globe and Project DIAMOnD will have Michigan setting the pace by equipping Oakland and Macomb County manufacturers with digital technologies," said Kelly. "The goal is to initially develop PPE, then expand into the production of a variety of parts and products to strengthen our supply chain might and lessen our reliance on foreign products." **M**

Paint by heart

Art mural brings lots of vibrant color, plenty of joy to Eastpointe

By Jane Peterson

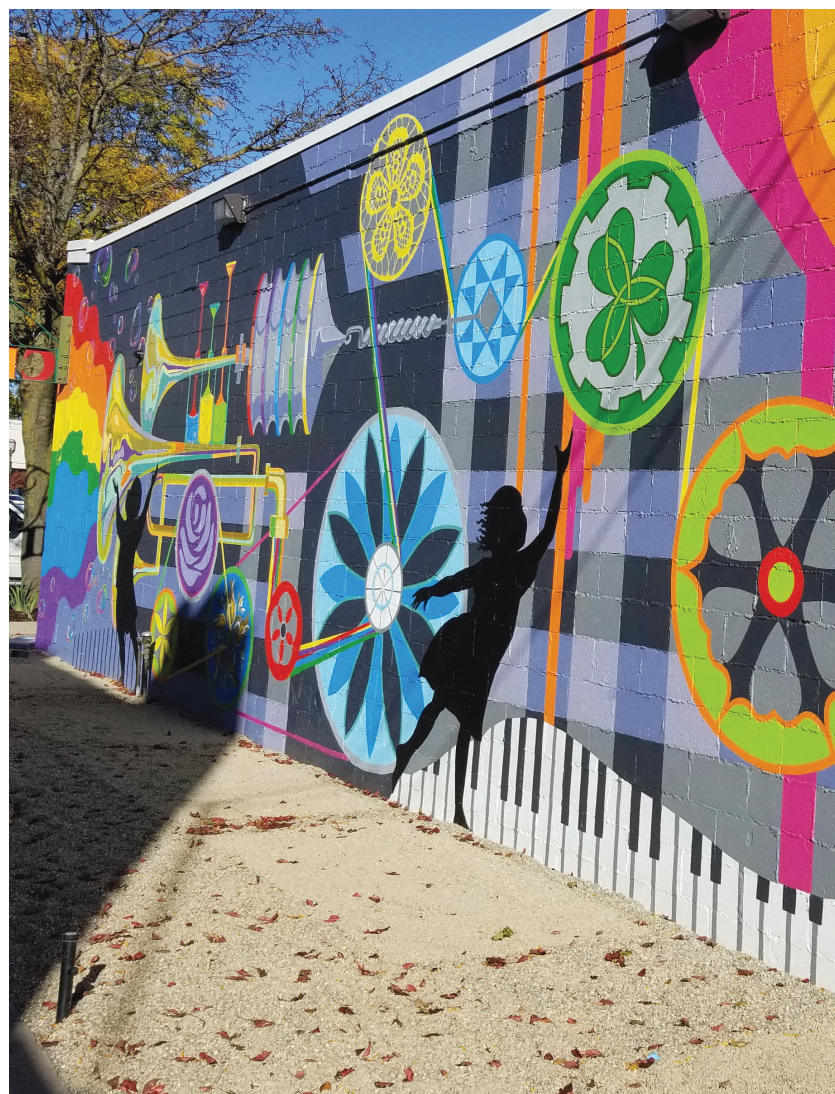
This past spring when most people were preparing to hunker down inside their homes, artist Wendy Popko was gearing up to take on a major art mural project in Eastpointe.

She had just been contacted by the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), which in cooperation with Eastpointe Arts and Cultural Diversity Commission and City of Eastpointe, was looking to complete its latest Partners in Public Art (PIPA) project. The PIPA program is a collaboration between the DIA and local municipalities to create public art that reflects a community's unique stories and interests, said Charles Garling, director, Studio Programs for the Detroit Institute of Arts.

According to Garling, part of the community collaboration is speaking with local leaders about the location and what type of art they would like to see based on what public art they already have in the community. They also develop a short survey that asks residents for their thoughts and ideas.

The common themes they discovered through this research were: Family, diversity, community and people. Respondents were interested in all styles of art, including modern, contemporary and colorful.

The DIA reached out to Popko, said Garling, because it was important to have a Macomb County artist work on the project and Popko was respected for her other work in the county.



CONNECT

ART CONTEST INSPIRES MACOMB TO STAY SAFE

Macomb County residents of all ages submitted unique, original designs for the #MaskUpMacomb poster design contest this fall, an initiative sponsored by the county in partnership with the Anton Art Center and Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals to encourage the community to wear masks and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

A panel of judges from each organization reviewed entries based on originality, distinctive design, and its ability to convey the message that wearing masks are an important way to protect public health. All entries were viewed and judged anonymously. "Residents of Macomb County see and understand the importance of wearing a mask—the art submissions made that

clear," said juror Natalie Dean-Wood of the Macomb County Health Department. "As a health professional, it was encouraging and hopeful to see the knowledge of the artists come out in their designs."

There were two age categories from which the top three winners were chosen and awarded prizes: those age 18 and older and those 17 and under. The top entry in the adult category is being printed as a poster and distributed in communities across Macomb County, and the top three adult winners will each receive a cash prize. The top three entries in the youth category are receiving one complimentary registration for an art class offered at the Anton Art Center in downtown Mount Clemens.



Sterling Heights artist Wendy Popko created a lively, vibrant display, one that focused on diversity and making dreams come true.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Since the mural was going to be located in a popular outdoor space known as the Children's Garden on a wall of the Eastpointe Community Credit Union on Gratiot Avenue south of 9 Mile, Popko created a lively, vibrant display. It focuses on diversity and serves as inspiration for asking ourselves what changes we can make, or what actions we can take, to make a better tomorrow, said Popko. Her sketch added elements that are unique to Eastpointe. The community is home to three recording studios, for example, so there is a good dose of music incorporated into the piece.

The mural focused on the community's diversity, using elements from various cultures, particularly in the patterns she chose for the gears. There is a Belgium lace poppy, a Germany blue cornflower quilt pattern, an Ireland shamrock in the Celtic knot family, the Czechoslovakian poppy, the South African pattern King Pratea and more.

"It wasn't just my art. It was a group project. I think that's what makes it even stronger," said Popko.

The Sterling Heights artist was super excited to be a part of the project. She grew up visiting the DIA and was extremely honored to contribute to a project that would be a part of the Eastpointe community for years to come. Garling said her creativity, excitement and positivity was a joy to watch as everything came together before painting commenced last spring.

YOUTH

- **First Place:** Isabella Dalecke, age 16, "We Are Stronger Together," Digital art, from St. Clair Shores (pictured)
- **Second Place:** Meadow VanArman, age 15, "Staying Safe," Digital art, from Sterling Heights
- **Third Place:** Thy Hoang, age 16, "WEAR A MASK," Digital art, from Sterling Heights



ADULT

- **First Place (Printed Poster & \$500):** Vanessa Montano, "Mask Up!" Digital art, from Macomb (pictured)
- **Second Place (\$250):** Melanie Craik, "#MaskUpMacomb," Digital art, from St. Clair Shores
- **Third Place (\$150):** Donna Hurt, "We Are Macomb," Digital art, from Sterling Heights

Below: Sterling Heights artist Wendy Popko was super excited to be a part of the project. She grew up visiting the DIA and was extremely honored to contribute to a project that would be a part of the Eastpointe community for years to come.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY POPKO

Her creative inspiration for the mural came from many different places: Children, the community, even the COVID-19 quarantine. She wanted the mural to convey a sense of hope during the pandemic and to let people know that while the world was currently going through a storm, the community would make it through together.

In the beginning, Popko worked on the mural six to seven hours a day, working sometimes in intense heat and around rain and thunderstorms. She said her husband and mother would monitor radar and weather reports, giving her ample time to wrap up painting so it could dry in time and letting her pack up her tools without getting drenched.

Popko is grateful for all the love and support from the Eastpointe community as she spent the summer months safely working on the project. With assistance from Eastpointe's Department of Public Works, the scaffolds lent to her were reinforced. People would stop and ask questions while others continued to check on her progress regularly. Popko enjoyed the conversations and having the opportunity to share the art rendering and the inspiration and story behind the piece.

"I've learned so much from this project and gained many friendships," she said. "I feel like I've left a piece of my heart in every community I've worked in."

So, how does Popko know when a mural is done?

"When I've given all I can to the piece, it's done," she said. "I ask for approvals and let everyone know that once I sign the piece, it is complete." **M**

CONNECT

A COMMUNITY ARTIST

The Rainbow Maker in Eastpointe is not artist Wendy Popko's first community project. She has created other murals, including one on the wall of a BP gas station in Sterling Heights called "Sterling Pride," which was inspired by one of the city's most iconic public art sculptures, the bears in front of the Sterling Heights Public Library. The mama bear with the globe represents diversity while the waves throughout the piece are a nod to the Clinton River.

She also created an interactive mural on a Clinton River stairway in Mount Clemens. Each stair features a common equation with the answer spelled out in white paint. Each number is a code with a puzzle to solve and a hidden message to reveal.

Popko's Utica mural is called "Homeward Bound" and it is a modern piece with historical references to represent the new direction the city was headed in, she said. Various elements reflect Utica's uniqueness, such as the cyclist travelling on the Iron Belle Trail and the pig weathervane that represents the wild boar that once roamed the area in its early days.

It was these projects and her other works that first compelled the Detroit Institute of Arts to contact her for the Eastpointe project, said Charles Garling, director, Studio Programs for the Detroit Institute of Arts.





DINKA DENTAL

Proudly Serving The Community Since 1989

John D. Dinka, D.D.S.
Catherine M. Osinski Dinka, D.D.S
 & Associates

A Healthy Mouth is A

**Healthy
Body**



**Don't Put Yourself At
Risk For Heart Attack Or
Stroke Because Of Gum Disease**

**Welcoming
New Patients
Of All
Ages.**



**Come Visit Our State Of The Art Dental Office
With All Of The Latest In Technology.**

WE ❤️ CHILDREN

Mon - Thurs 8:30 - 7:00

Fri & Sat 8:30 - 1:00

By Appointment Also

**FREE INITIAL
CONSULTATION**
 With This Ad

FREE DIGITAL X-RAYS
 70% LESS RADIATION EXPOSURE
 With This Ad

Michigan Dental Association Members

**ALWAYS ACCEPTING
NEW PATIENTS!**

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



35100 Tiffany, Suite 101 Sterling Heights
On The 15 Mile Rd Entrance To MJR Cinema 20

Comprehensive Dental Care For Your Family

- Same Day Emergencies
- Senior Discounts
- Dentures & Repairs
- Most Insurances Accepted
- Nitrous Oxide (Gas) Sedation
- Teeth Whitening/Bleaching
- Cosmetic Dentistry/Veneers
- Financing Available

• LED Lighting • Digital X-Rays
 Intra Oral Cameras
 Updated Computer
 Information Systems

• Our Patients Will Enjoy A
 Relaxing **GREEN** Environment
 For All Of Their Dental Needs

• Always using premium
MADE IN AMERICA
 Crowns, Bridges,
 Dentures & Partial



586-939-5800 www.dinkadental.com





Building stability

Construction of 52 new affordable homes underway in Eastpointe

By Jane Peterson

As units in Erin Park start to go up, the excitement is building for this affordable housing complex, a collaboration between the city of Eastpointe and the Community Housing Network.

The development will include 52 residential units and a 3,268-square-foot community center, built on the site of the former Deerfield Elementary School. The school sat vacant for 10 years before being demolished for this project. The units will be built in the form of 26 duplex-style homes, meaning that while they are separate residential homes, they will share a common wall between them as well as backyard space.

Kirsten Elliott, vice president of development for the Community Housing Network, said there simply is not enough affordable housing for people who make communities work, like drugstore workers, bus drivers and others. They work hard and fill an important need in the neighborhood, which has been increasingly apparent during the COVID-19 health crisis, but simply don't have high enough incomes to finance some of the

CONNECT

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

The focus of the Erin Park housing development will be on supporting the entire community, said Kirsten Elliott, vice president of development for the Community Housing Network. A community engagement coordinator will be employed onsite to engage residents and develop programming and activities around their needs and interests, she said.

"We want to create a sense of community," said Elliott. "These activities will be driven by the residents. Some examples are yoga, book clubs and movie nights."

In addition, the community partners, such as MyCare Health Centers, will work with the Community Housing Network to provide specific onsite services for residents to keep them healthy and happy.



Below and opposite page: Ground was broken for the Erin Park project in July, with several community leaders in attendance at the event, which was viewed virtually by spectators due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSING NETWORK

homes in the area.

“People need stable housing,” she said.

Before winter hit, the roads and underground infrastructure were already in place with some units starting construction. The project is expected to wrap up by fall 2021 with leasing opportunities beginning in March/April 2021.

The Community Housing Network is an organization that focuses on providing housing and housing resources for low- and moderate-income families. The goal is not just to find them housing, but a home that fits their needs and budget so they

can sustain their lifestyle for years to come. The units will be structured as rent-to-own, so occupants are making an investment in their future.

“This is a win-win,” said Elliott. “Not only is it a good way to utilize the site, it is a long-term solution to home ownership.”

The homes will have a similar look and feel to the surrounding neighborhood. Within the development, each building will vary, with different colors schemes for the siding and stone work. The neighborhood will be unique and not filled with “cookie-cutter” style houses that have the same appearance, she said.

The homes will be available for individuals and families who earn between 30 and 80% of Macomb County’s median income. One, two and three bedroom units will be available, although most are designed for families. There will be eight one-bedroom units, 18 two-bedroom homes and 26 three-bedroom units.

The community center is an important part of the development, said Elliott. Not only will it provide room for community events, private parties, activities and classes, but the outdoor green space – as well as two playscapes - will be areas where families can gather together for conversation and fun.

“We want to build a community where people know their neighbors,” she said. “It will be a very walkable neighborhood, too.”

Located nearby are grocery stores, places of worship, medical facilities, recreation areas and access to public transportation.

Eastpointe has a growing population, Elliott said, adding that city leaders, school professionals and Macomb County officials have all been supportive of the effort. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in July, with several community leaders, including Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel, in attendance. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, spectators were not allowed on site, although they were able to watch live stream on social media.

Erin Park is located on Deerfield Avenue near the intersection of Stephens Drive and Gratiot Avenue. It is the second project the City of Eastpointe and the Community Housing Network has worked on together. The first, Grafton Townhomes, located on Nine Mile Road, provided homes for 48 families. The project was completed in 2016.

Those interested in more information about the development can visit CommunityHousingNetwork.org for application details. **M**





This Winter ...

MASK UP, MACOMB

As We Fight This Virus Together

Remember When You Leave Your Home

- Wear A Mask • Socially Distance
- Stay Home If You Don't Feel Well • Get a Flu Shot

MACOMB COUNTY RESIDENTS

are responsible and hard working.

Thank you for doing your part during this challenging time.

Make
Macomb Schools
your home

Anchor Bay Schools, Armada Area Schools, Center Line Public Schools, Chippewa Valley Schools, Clintondale Community Schools, Eastpointe Community Schools, Fitzgerald Public Schools, Fraser Public Schools, Lake Shore Public Schools, Lakeview Public Schools, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, Mount Clemens Community Schools, New Haven Community Schools, Richmond Community Schools, Romeo Community Schools, Roseville Community Schools, South Lake Schools, Utica Community Schools, Van Dyke Public Schools, Warren Consolidated Schools, Warren Woods Public Schools

For more information about Macomb Schools, go to **www.misd.net**

Lifelines

Creativity, funding help small businesses face COVID-19

By Jane Peterson

In Macomb County, more than 18,000 businesses are the backbone of their communities. They help define the character of neighborhoods, support walkable, thriving business districts and create vibrant communities where people want to live, play, invest, worship and volunteer.

Many businesses operated on slim margins before the COVID-19 pandemic and even as businesses were able to slowly reopen their doors, capacity limits, increased safety regulations and reduced staffing levels all took a huge toll on business operations and profits.

Concerned about the loss of revenue during the health crisis, businesses had to get creative to make ends meet. Many were able to do so thanks to funding through the Macomb County CARES for Small Business Program, a \$70 million initiative announced by Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel in the spring that was made possible through the county's \$152 million allocation of federal CARES Act funding.

Macomb County Planning and Economic Development launched its first grant cycle for businesses with less than 50 employees in June, distributing more than \$2 million almost immediately. In the months that followed, numerous additional programs aimed at helping small businesses through the pandemic were launched with funds dispersed in a variety of ways, including Michigan Small Business Relief Program grants, Michigan Restart grants, Workforce Safety grants, Online Business Connect Program and Macomb County Small Business Sustainability grants. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits and other steps were also taken to assist businesses and organizations in safe operations and emergency preparedness needs.

As of mid-November, nearly \$19.5 million was distributed through 3,800 grants as part of the Macomb County Small Business Sustainability grant program. It is estimated that these funds helped retain 26,000 employees in the workforce. The vast majority of the funds went to businesses with less than 10 employees.

"We have been working hard to distribute grants and aid to businesses across Macomb County since COVID-19 hit," said Vicky Rowinski, director of Macomb County Planning and Economic Development (MCPED). "We've distributed millions of dollars in grants and we will continue our efforts for as long as necessary."

An Economic Recovery Task Force guided Macomb County officials through their efforts. By researching the needs of busi-

nesses by industry sector and hearing directly from business leaders, the task force was able to target specific business needs, which varied by retail, manufacturing, construction, health-care, education, finance, hospitality, transportation, real estate, agriculture and other sectors.

With this information, the MCPED coordinated economic assistance for local businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis with assistance from numerous business leaders and community organizations, including the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce and Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce. Grant programs were developed for these specific sectors, including nonprofit organizations, businesses with fewer than 50 employees and businesses with 50-500 employees.

Mark Miller, owner of Little Camille's By the Bay in New Baltimore, participated in the task force discussions. He said COVID-19 has been devastating for the business community in many different ways.

Little Camille's By the Bay initially closed in March to comply with Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders. It remained shuttered for nearly three months, opening back up on June 8 with carryout and limited dining room capacity both inside and out.

"It's been hard. We're probably down about 30-40% than in the past," he said.

However, Miller added that the Macomb County grants for operating expenses and PPE have definitely helped, especially as the business had to install partitions, purchase masks for staff and invest in extra sanitation supplies. Upon reopening,

CONNECT

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

Macomb County has created a Resources for Businesses page as part of its ongoing Coronavirus dashboard and information effort. Visit macombbusiness.com to learn more about upcoming grant opportunities, back-to-business kits and more. Business owners can sign up for email notifications about potential grant opportunities, too. Links are also available to federal government, state of Michigan, Macomb County and local partner resources.





Mark Miller, owner of Little Camille's By the Bay in New Baltimore, participated in the Economic Recovery Task Force discussions after his business suffered losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. He and his wife, Camille, have been working hard to open a second location in Casco Township at the site of Michigan Meadows Golf Course.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

he said staff works hard to provide a quality guest experience where people can forget about their hardships for a little while.

"You can see the fear and sadness in people's eyes," said Miller. "Our staff stays positive, shares a smile and creates a happy place for our guests."

With unique needs, these grants were not one-size-fits-all solutions. They help business owners find their own path to success, said Miller. Some grants focused on relieving immediate needs for payroll, operating expenses and PPE assistance. Others targeted future business needs designed to allow businesses to continue adapting to current market conditions, such as building safe infrastructure and updating online operations to remain competitive. MCPED guided business owners through the process, as many restaurants, hair salons, spas, accounting offices and other small businesses had never needed to reach out for assistance before.

Initially, the grants were designed to assist with the immediate urgent needs created by the sudden shutdown in the spring. However, throughout summer and fall, the focus has pivoted to helping businesses move forward by re-shaping their operations with sustainable efforts that will not only allow them to survive the current crisis, but continue to thrive in the future, said Rowinski.

These grant programs have been a lifeline for many busi-

nesses, helping them not only keep their doors open during these trying times but also reach out to new customers and create additional revenue streams, said Kelley Lovati, CEO of the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce.

"Business owners are so creative," she said.

Many restaurants, for example, introduced outdoor seating areas to safely serve customers. As the weather turned colder, some brought in outdoor heaters or purchased personal igloos to extend the season. Local parks and recreation departments focused on outdoor exploration, activities where families can safely social distance and kicked off virtual programming. Retail shops redeveloped their websites to handle online ordering. Small, family-owned businesses accommodated customers by accepting personal shopping requests through email and adding curbside pickup. Mid-level manufacturers adjusted their core competencies and retooled in order to produce personal protection equipment or diversify operations.

If there's one thing Miller has gleaned from the pandemic, it's that life has to move on. He and his wife, Camille, have been working hard this fall to open a second location in Casco Township at the site of Michigan Meadows Golf Course. Called Little Camille's by the Green, it will transform the former clubhouse into a full-service restaurant.

"You can't wait around," he said. "You have to plan, do your due diligence and move forward." **M**

CARING^{FOR} OTHERS DURING A CRISIS

Since 2009, 1st Call Home Healthcare and Preferred Care at Home have offered senior care, skilled nursing, and physical/occupational therapy to those recuperating from a serious illness, recovering from a catastrophic auto accident or needing assistance as they age. With a team of more than 150 staff in the field, the Clinton Township business takes its responsibility very seriously.

So, when Karen Nichols, a registered nurse who serves as clinical manager in the Medicare division for 1st Call Home Healthcare, starting hearing about a contagious virus spreading overseas, she didn't hesitate to protect clients.

February: Before the shutdown

Nichols activated the company's emergency preparedness guidelines in early February.

The challenge facing company leaders was how to take care of at-risk clients in their own homes while keeping both them and caregivers safe.

Caregivers, who often work independently and report directly to a client's home, were able to stay connected through digital messages from Nichols. For example, she forwarded Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's messages and executive orders so caregivers could stay

informed. The first notification was sent Feb. 5.

Then, owners Bob Mlynarek, Mike Barnhard and Jason Groth helped everyone gather additional personal protection equipment. Most staff already had masks and gloves, but more supplies would be needed in the coming months. That's because the company wanted to provide clients as well as caregivers with masks to enhance safety efforts. In particular short supply were N-95 masks, but staff members asked friends and family for assistance and one staffer's husband found a gold mine of the masks in his painting supplies.

March: The shutdown starts

1st Call Home Healthcare and Preferred Care at Home started screening clients very early and took universal safety precautions if clients presented any symptoms such as fever. Company leaders and caregivers also spent time educating families on updated protocol because understandably, some were concerned about caregivers entering their homes.

In addition, the company provided required online training for caregivers that specifically covered COVID-19 symptoms,

policies and procedures.

"I've been a nurse for more than 30 years and I had never seen anything like this," said Nichols. "Staff looks to us to protect them and it is our responsibility to get them what they need."

April: Full-blown crisis mode

Families were asked to avoid visits in order to limit outside contact with potential symptom carriers. Caregivers were provided instructions and supplies to conduct additional disinfecting inside the home. Caregivers were told not report to work if they were sick.

Throughout the Stay Safe, Stay Home order, 1st Call Home Healthcare and Preferred Care at Home caregivers were considered essential workers. They remained committed to their clients. Two clients, for example, tested positive for COVID-19. To limit contact with multiple caregivers as part of routine shift changes, two staff members volunteered to become



live-in caregivers during the quarantine period.

Preparing for a new normal

Caregivers continued to provide quality services for clients, even as their job became more challenging due to lack of auxiliary services like physical therapy, occupational therapy, other nursing services and family support care.

The owners also had to deal with a new reality that with elective surgeries prohibited, there would be no new clients seeking home care during their recovery period. Also, patients weren't being discharged from rehabilitation and long-term care facilities to recuperate at home.

"We knew going into this that we were going to need to hold on and maintain," said Mlynarek.

It wasn't easy, but as the company emerged from the crisis, staff was looking forward to meeting new clients and continuing to meet their care needs.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AUTO INSURANCE CHANGES

As of this past July, every driver in Michigan will need to make a choice about their auto insurance. For the first time, they will have a choice in catastrophic insurance coverage, being able to decide between the following options:

- Unlimited lifetime medical benefits
- \$500,000 personal injury protection coverage
- \$250,000 personal injury protection coverage
- \$50,000 personal injury protection coverage
- Complete opt out for people with Medicare or separate health insurance covering car crash injuries



As a full-service home care agency and auto injury care provider, 1st Call Home Healthcare and Preferred Care at Home are in a unique position to step back and evaluate the choices. 1st Call provides skilled, at home nursing care for clients injured in auto accidents. Owners Bob Mlynarek, Mike Barnhard and Jason Groth are former firefighters who have seen firsthand the spectrum of care from the accident scene to long term, in-home

rehabilitation with licensed physical, occupational and speech therapists.

Mlynarek hopes drivers give the change careful consideration because it can drastically change a family's life.

// Unlimited coverage is crucial //

While \$500,000 worth of coverage may seem like enough money to take care of medical needs after an auto accident, Mlynarek said if a serious auto accident results in ongoing care, the amount of funds needed over the course of a lifetime could potentially bankrupt a family and put their future on tenuous footing, he said.

Washington Farm Bureau Insurance agency owner Leo Terzo agreed.

"Unlimited coverage is crucial," he said. "I always try to advise people that it's a good idea to buy unlimited Personal Injury Protection, even if their health insurance carrier will pay primary for injuries related to auto accidents. The reason I say that is there is a small price difference, but we are unlimited and it means just that. We are unlimited for the rest of your life. That



can include in-home health care. That can include home renovations to make the home handicap accessible. It could include everything under the sun."

Mlynarek added that equipment like specialized wheelchairs, long-term rehabilitation and custom equipment to help injured people work, are all generally covered under unlimited auto catastrophic insurance while they may not be with even the best health insurance coverage.

Prior to July, all Michigan drivers were required to carry full, unlimited injury protection. While resulting in higher insurance premiums, the law mandated full coverage of reasonable medical expenses resulting from a vehicle accident for life. Mlynarek worries that after July, as people renew their policies over the next year, they will opt out of the unlimited coverage in order to save money on their policy. This could be a dangerous gamble, he said.

"Usually a catastrophic patient will exhaust the maximum allowable, which is usually about a million dollars within the first three or four months of the incident and then it is basic

care. There is not much rehab long term after that."

Unlimited coverage also makes provisions for a nurse case manager who orchestrates all care. The case manager assists with doctors, attends appointments and coordinates the entire care plan.

"To have that person who is a nurse and specializes in this, to be able to be by your side every step of the way and give you advice and coordinate all that care for the family, that alone is priceless," said Mlynarek.

In the end, people need to determine whether they can afford to save money on their insurance premium and take the chance that they won't need unlimited care in the effect of a devastating auto accident, because if the worst happens, it could potentially financially ruin them, said Mlynarek.

To learn more, call 1st Call Home Healthcare and Preferred Care at Home at (800) 908-3890 or Leo Terzo at (586) 745-4025.

information:

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



Prime location

New Amazon delivery station brings hundreds of jobs to Sterling Heights

By Jane Peterson

A new Amazon delivery station that opened in early September is making a substantial impact on the Sterling Heights community.

Not only does the 500,000+ square foot facility in the Liberty Park Commerce Center on Mound Road just north of 14 Mile Road employ hundreds of people, its location speeds up delivery service for Amazon customers across southeastern Michigan.

“The delivery station is the last piece of the process before customers receive their packages,” said Jessica Pawl, an Amazon spokesperson.

Amazon’s delivery stations are where customer packages are sorted and loaded onto vehicles for delivery. More than 100 employees work inside the facility while hundreds more work with Amazon’s delivery partners as drivers. According to Pawl, Amazon employees earn at least \$15 an hour and are offered a comprehensive benefits package from day one.

Since Amazon’s Delivery Service Partner program launched in summer 2018, it has supported the launch of more than 800 new small businesses globally who have hired tens of thousands of local driver jobs to make package deliveries.

“We are excited to continue investing in these entrepreneurs and adding hundreds more new small businesses this year,” said Pawl in an email.

Sterling Heights Mayor Michael Taylor said a strong customer base and skilled workforce were likely contributing factors that drew Amazon to the city.

“Sterling Heights is a viable location for businesses with lots of economic activity. This is great news for the city and the county,” he said.

Sterling Heights Senior Economic Development Advisor Luke Bonner agreed that the location of Sterling Heights in the middle of a densely populated region makes hiring employees at this location very desirable.

“The location at 14 Mile and Mound Road provides quick and easy access in all directions to service Amazon’s last mile customers,” he said.

The location on Mound Road is part of the Innovate Mound project, a state-of-the-art road improvement project designed to reduce the number of accidents on the local roadway and make traveling this busy corridor safer. The improvements include unified lighting, improved pedestrian access, non-motorized multi-use paths, traffic flow improvements and more.

More than 47,000 people are employed along Mound Road, which supports an additional 71,100 jobs in Macomb County.



Left: Amazon’s more than 500,000 square foot delivery station in Sterling Heights opened in early September 2020.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON

Another 101,000 jobs are supported by the corridor’s business activity, which serves as a major hub for global automotive, defense, aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries.

Bonner said improvements to the corridor will include intelligent transportation systems technology advancements, all of which help a facility like Amazon, and conversely help properly plan for the corridor improvements.

“It’s a beautiful facility,” said Pawl of the new Sterling Heights location. “Everything has been going well.” **M**

CONNECT

AMAZON IN MICHIGAN

Amazon Operations currently has 13 locations across the state of Michigan, with nine locations in metro Detroit, including the Sterling Heights delivery station. The Detroit area locations include four Amazon fulfillment centers, where products are picked and packaged, and five Amazon delivery stations. Statewide, Amazon spokesperson Jessica Pawl said Amazon employs more than 13,500 people.



You Don't Have to Navigate Unemployment Alone

Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! (MSCMW) is here to help. MSCMW is a state and federally funded non-profit organization created to connect you to local employers, no-cost services, and programs. MSCMW assistance is available to everyone in the local community, especially those who are currently or about to be unemployed. With MSCMW it's never been simpler to find the help you need in order to ease your future career transition.

Our service centers are always available to assist you and the community. MSCMW can provide you with the latest local featured job openings, exciting training opportunities, and help set a new path to success with innovative career exploration.

**Employment is Just a Call,
Click or Email Away**

(586) 434-0558
Info@macomb-stclairworks.org
www.macomb-stclairworks.org



Michigan Works! Macomb/St. Clair is an equal opportunity employer/program. Supported by the State of Michigan. A proud partner of the American Job Center network. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TTY #711.

‘Rainbow in every storm’

Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids opens new wellness center, expands its services

By Jane Peterson

After years of planning, Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan moved into a new wellness center in September. The building provides space for the expanded services that the nonprofit organization plans to fully implement once the COVID-19 health crisis subsides.

Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan, headquartered in St. Clair Shores, provides wigs and support services for children across the state experiencing hair loss for a variety of reasons, including cancer, lupus, burns, hydrocephalus and alopecia.

Founder and CEO Maggie Varney said it wasn’t easy completing construction and packing up and moving during the COVID-19 pandemic, but two things were able to ease the stress: Knowing that the new building was already paid for thanks to numerous donors and sponsors, and being able to move slowly since the charity and its Go Green Salon was closed for three months this spring due to the pandemic.

“You always have to look for the rainbow in every storm,” she said.

Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan’s budget is down more than \$400,000 this year due to the pandemic, although she is grateful for funds the organization and Go Green Salon received from the Payroll Protection Plan and Small Business Relief fund.

It also was challenging being separated from children and their families during the COVID-19 closure. Varney said she gets to know the families who visit and while the work itself is physically taxing, the emotional toll impacts her even more when-

ever a child passes away.

“I get very attached to them,” she said.

Because of their compromised immunity, Varney takes great care to keep Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan clean and sanitized. She and her staff strictly adhere to all COVID-19 safety protocols and always wear a mask to limit their exposure to potentially harmful germs. Often she sees children privately to further protect their immune systems. The new facility also includes a special ventilation system.

Moving is usually very stressful, but Varney said she handled the process methodically, packing up one room at a time and leaving the kids room for last, just in case the shutdown orders were lifted and she was able to welcome children back into the salon. She didn’t want to have to turn down an excited family just because everything wasn’t up and running yet.

As she packed everything up, she was able to look across the street and view the progress on the new Go Green Salon at Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan, located at 30130 Harper Ave. Although briefly delayed by the pandemic, construction quickly resumed in May and was soon ready to open. It couldn’t come at a better time as she said they had outgrown the space they were renting in the Lakeshore Plaza strip mall years ago.

The new building is everything Varney ever dreamed it would be – bright and cheerful with plenty of space not only to cut hair and fit wigs, but to take care of the whole child and their families by providing a safe, fun place to hang out with friends,

CONNECT

TO HELP OUT

Like many non-profit organizations, Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan depends on fundraising and donations for revenue. Typically, Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan hosts nearly 130 events a year to raise money to purchase wigs for children with cancer and services that help take care of them and their families. Because of the COVID-19 health crisis, last year, the organization was able to hold only slightly more than a handful. To learn more about Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan, its mission and how you can help, visit Wigs4Kids.org.





Left: Renee Consiglio does the nails of Mary, a wig recipient, at Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan.

Opposite page: Maggie Varney and wig recipient Gwen explore the fitness center at Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
MAGGIE'S WIGS 4 KIDS
OF MICHIGAN

be pampered and just enjoy being a kid.

At nearly 5,000 square feet, the new building is 2,200 square feet larger than the old facility. Because of the extra space, roomy layout and additional privacy areas, Varney was able to expand Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan's services to include a workout room where children can learn about fitness and work off their extra energy on child-sized equipment; counseling and support services for families; space to learn about nutrition, health and wellness topics and cooking; art, beading and music therapy; medical support services; spiritual care; and an enchanted tea room, perfect for birthday parties, end-of-chemo events and life celebrations for children.

The enchanted tea room will be open to the public for a minimal charge, as is the Go Green Salon, which now offers additional services for paying customers like skincare, massages and nails. These services provide a source of revenue so that when the salon closes at 5 p.m., they can be provided free of charge for children and teens receiving wigs and other services.

"We are very grateful for the public support. We accommodate everyone and charge families nothing," she said.

Varney, a licensed cosmetologist, has been providing wigs to children ages 3-18 since incorporating the business in 2003. The idea came to her when she was donating her time and talents to a Look Good Feel Better program for cancer patients. One evening, a 16-year-old girl came to class and Varney learned that there was nothing similar for children who were dealing with cancer.

Insurance often does not pay for children's wigs and depending on the length of their illness, children may require more than one wig as they grow. Each wig retails for \$2,500-\$3,000 and costs Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan approximately \$800 and 16 hours of labor to provide. No families pay for wigs or services. Since its establishment, the charity has assisted more than 4,800 Michigan children and teens.

The wigs are fashioned from donated hair. Some people even intentionally grow out their hair so it can be donated and the majority of donations, said Varney, come from children who want to help other children. The rules for hair donation are simple:

- Only virgin hair allowed, no colored, straightened or chemically-treated hair
- No more than 10% gray hair
- Hair needs to be clean and dry
- Donated hair needs to be at least 7 inches long, but is preferred to be 10 inches minimum length
- Hair should be bundled in a ponytail or braid

Earlier this spring, Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan was unable to accept hair donations because it wasn't known if the virus was present in the hair. Also, wigs are partly processed in overseas facilities, including countries greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These kids just want to be kids," said Varney. "It's about so much more than a wig. It's about hope. It's about self-esteem. It's about end of life and dying with dignity." **M**

Cool beauty

Venture out this winter to discover a new outdoor activity in Macomb

By Jane Peterson

From birdwatching and hiking to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, there is plenty of fun to be had outdoors throughout Macomb County this winter.

The COVID-19 health crisis has changed many aspects of daily life for residents, including the way people recreate. However, one thing remains the same: Even if indoor recreation is limited due to social gathering limitations and social distancing requirements, the Great Outdoors – and all its beauty – is always ready to welcome visitors bundled up in coats, gloves, hats, scarves and boots. Macomb County has numerous nature areas that can be traversed in complete silence without another soul around.

If you want to go it alone, try snowshoeing or hiking on marked trails. Stony Creek Metropark, as well as Kensington Metropark, also maintain a non-motorized path for runners and joggers all winter long. For safety reasons, always let a friend or relative know where you are headed, what time you are expected back and take your cellphone with you.

It's this peacefulness, especially during the COVID pandemic, that can be very appealing, even to those who don't consider themselves "winter people" and usually retreat to the warmth of the indoors when the weather turns cold.

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.

With the nature centers and other indoor facilities closed, the Metroparks are focusing on outdoor programming in smaller groups this season, said Danielle Mauter, chief of marketing and communications for Huron-Clinton Metroparks. This includes activities like snowshoeing, guided hikes, cross-country skiing, sledding, tobogganing and ice fishing on Lake St. Clair as conditions allow.

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 – the sunshine, fresh air and physical movement can all positively impact one's mood and physical health.

"With so many people working from home, getting outside can offer a change of scenery. We expect to be busier than normal this winter," she said.

The Metroparks showcase Macomb County's amazing





Explore winter outdoors to see all kinds of great nature and wildlife in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

ALL PHOTOS, UNLESS NOTED, COURTESY OF HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

CONNECT

FIND A MACOMB COUNTY METROPARK

It is always great to learn or try something new. The Huron-Clinton Metroparks offers many activities from hiking and equestrian riding to fat tire biking and ice skating. Use this list to explore all the Macomb County Metroparks this winter:

- Lake St. Clair Metropark, 31300 Metro Parkway, Harrison Township, MI 48045, (586) 463-4581



- Stony Creek Metropark, 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316, (586)

781-4242

- Wolcott Mill Metropark
- Farm Center, 65775 Wolcott Road, Ray, MI 48096, (586) 752-5932
- Historic Center trails, 64162 Kunstman Road, Ray, MI 48096-2434, (586) 749-5997
- Camp Rotary, 20505 29 Mile Road, Ray, MI 48096, (586) 752-5932

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.

“It’s really pretty in the winter,” said Mauter.

While the popular park attracts crowds in the warmer weather months because of its access to water recreation, in the winter, the atmosphere is completely different. Birds take advantage of the quiet to make their nests here while anglers set up ice shanties to catch panfish and yellow perch.

Wolcott Mill has three distinct areas: The late-20th century working farm, the historic 1840s Wolcott Mill, and Camp Rotary. Each offers different activities and most are ideal for social distancing, such as a visit to the farm to see six heritage breeds of dairy cows or horseback ride on the 12 miles of equestrian trails that wander through wooded areas, meadows and along the shores of the Clinton River.

According to the Huron-Clinton Metroparks website, Wolcott Mill is the only known public farm in Michigan where all six heritage breeds of dairy cow live year round. The breeds include: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Jersey, Milking Short Horn and Holstein. The 250-acre working farm is also home to a number of other animals, including miniature and draft horses and various species of sheep, goats and fowl.



The Historic Center was temporarily closed as of late fall, but the grounds, bathrooms and trails remain open as usual. The mill, pond and two adjacent barns located on the property are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They typically provide a unique peek into mill operations, antique farming equipment and American barns while outlining the important place



MACOMB COUNTY MICHIGAN **BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

Services provided are personalized,
confidential and **FREE**

- Matchmaking with investment incentives and financing programs
- Connections to resources for hiring, training and retaining your workforce
- Site selection analysis and mapping
- Market research
- International Landing Zone
- Connections to business banks, legal and accounting services
- Workshops and networking opportunities

As the official Economic Development Organization for Macomb County, we can also help businesses access COVID-19 relief programs.



Planning &
Economic
Development

GET IN TOUCH, **WE CAN HELP.**

586-469-5285 | MacombBusiness.com



Wolcott Mill has three distinct areas: The late-20th century working farm, the historic 1840s Wolcott Mill, and Camp Rotary. Each offers different activities and most are ideal for social distancing, such as a visit to the farm to see six heritage breeds of dairy cows or horseback ride on the 12 miles of equestrian trails that wander through wooded areas, meadows and along the shores of the Clinton River.

PHOTO BY DAVID ANGELL — FOR MEDIANEWS GROUP



in history that these items hold and the stories they tell about life more than 100 years ago.

Stony Creek Metropark spans 4,461 acres across Macomb and Oakland counties. It is the perfect setting for an afternoon walk, snowshoe adventure or fat tire mountain bike journey on marked trails. Search for tufted titmice, golden-crowned kinglets, dark-eyed juncos and many other bird species among the thick woodlands, tall-grass prairies, wetlands and lake shore. A winter sports area in the park includes snowboard, sled and toboggan hills that are great fun for people of all ages. If you love cross-country skiing, there are 13 miles of marked and groomed traditional cross-country ski trails, covering level to hilly terrain.

“Try something new,” she said. “Cross-country ski rentals are inexpensive.”

According to Mauter, state and local rules do not require a



mask to be worn outdoors when people from different households can stay safely six feet apart from one another. Masks are required when attending public programming or using indoor restrooms, so make sure to pack one just in case you need it.

If there's one thing that all Michiganders know, it's that winter is unpredictable. A snowstorm one day and 50 degree temperatures the next can leave residents wondering what the conditions are like in the parks. COVID-19 safety protocols may also change throughout the season. Stay connected by following the Huron-Clinton Metroparks on social media for the latest updates.

If you insist on staying warm indoors, the Metroparks also plan to have a number of virtual resources available this winter, including virtual and synchronous programming and virtual field trips. **M**

Industries in demand

Macomb's manufacturing sector full of opportunities, despite pandemic

By Jane Peterson

The COVID-19 health crisis has impacted the lives of Macomb County residents in many ways, including one of their most basic daily activities: Their jobs.

While workers in the entertainment and hospitality industries were laid off or furloughed due to mandatory closures of restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, entertainment centers, libraries, movie theaters and other businesses — first in the spring due to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home order, then again late fall per the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services epidemic orders — those working in other industries like medical and manufacturing may have found themselves working more than usual.

Manufacturing in Macomb County continues to thrive and

exceed expectations, creating an unprecedented demand for employment opportunities.

"We are getting a lot of calls from manufacturing companies looking for skilled tradesmen in such areas as CNC programming and operation along with entry level production workers. In addition, there is a big demand for healthcare workers; especially for home healthcare workers," said Bob Apczynski, business and employment services coordinator at Michigan Works! Macomb/St. Clair, in an email.

Paul LaFrance, owner-general manager/regional franchise developer - Michigan for Express Employment Professionals, agreed that there are plenty of opportunities for good-paying jobs in manufacturing right now.



Opposite page: Clarence Martin, president and owner of Eypex, a manufacturing company that makes exterior lights for the automotive industry and looking to hire a second shift, talks to one of his workers.

PHOTO BY GINA JOSEPH — MEDIANEWS GROUP

CONNECT

ABOUT EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS



Express Employment Professionals is one of the largest staffing providers in the state of Michigan. With 25 offices statewide and 12 in metro Detroit, Express has helped more than 15,000 candidates find employment in 2020. Express has provided talent to more than 1,500 client companies so far this year in a myriad of industries including automotive, industrial, aerospace and hospitality. Express is the largest light industrial staffing company in Michigan and also specializes in skilled trades, administrative, professional and training services. For more information, visit ExpressPros.com to find the office nearest you.



Paul LaFrance

With Macomb County offices in Shelby and Clinton townships, his job is to help companies with their staffing needs. He said he doesn't see the manufacturing market slowing down through the first quarter of 2021 for a variety of reasons, including Big Three automakers and their suppliers still trying to catch up from the shutdown in the spring due to the pandemic and General Motors not having time to catch up after the UAW strike in fall 2019 before the COVID-19

crisis hit.

"Manufacturing centers are busy. Their products are still needed," he said.

Other factors are impacting worker shortages, too.

explore experience enjoy



MakeMacombYourHome.com/Explore





According to Apczynski, Baby Boomers are now retiring leaving a shortage of skill tradesmen with no one to replace them. At this time, there is also a fear of contracting the COVID virus among many potential workers, especially in the healthcare industry. Some employees need to stay home to help their children with remote learning, take care of ill relatives or perhaps even quarantine themselves. Others need assistance with childcare or transportation.

The Business Resource Network at Michigan Works! Macomb/St. Clair was developed to assist employers with retaining workers who often leave their places of employment due to childcare, transportation and other personal issues. Success Coaches employed with Michigan Works! provide counseling and support services to help those workers deal with their personal issues and still be able to retain their jobs.

Still, other employees need additional skills. To help with this issue, Michigan Works! Macomb/St. Clair is promoting and providing assistance to employers in developing apprenticeship programs to train young people in the skills needed in many professions, especially in the skilled trades.

Because employers are trying to fill much-needed positions, LaFrance's clients are being more flexible with traditional job requirements, such as level of experience needed.

"There's a battle out there for talent," said LaFrance. "If you have a good attitude and good aptitude, it's fairly easy right now to make a job switch."

Employers are seeking die cast operators, general machinists, licensed journeyman electricians, machine press/trim operators, forklift operators, small part assemblers and more. It's not just manufacturing jobs needing to be filled, either. A quick search in mid-November found job openings on the Pure Michigan Talent Connect website for security guards, accountants, certified nursing assistants, insurance agents and more.

To attract workers, many are offering signing bonuses or increased wage rates. Companies and job recruiters are also hosting numerous virtual job fairs.

"Virtual job fairs are very popular with employers and are catching on with job seekers," said Apczynski. "Our agency recently held our first virtual job fair. We held two separate three-hour sessions, one in the morning and one in the after-

Opposite page: Alanea Lopez, a machine operator at Schuert Technologies in Sterling Heights demonstrates the work involved in making the storage system designed by Shuert and used by companies around the world for shipping goods. Shuert is among the manufacturers hiring workers.

PHOTO BY GINA JOSEPH — MEDIANEWS GROUP

noon. Because of the system's capacity, we could host a maximum of 30 employers per session. We filled all 60 slots within a two-day period and had a waiting list of other employers who were hoping to be able to fill slots in the event that another employer cancelled."

In total, 193 job seekers attended at least one of the two sessions. While Apczynski said virtual job fairs provide a great platform for job seekers who have access to a computer and feel comfortable using it during these times when face-to-face contact is discouraged, the downside is that many individuals in lower income brackets do not have computer or Internet access and they are left without an opportunity to participate in these events.

According to Apczynski, Macomb's unemployment rate for February 2020 (just before the beginning of the COVID crisis) was 4.6%. That grew to 9.2% by September due to the pandemic.

"The shutdown and, in some cases, permanent closing of businesses, especially in the restaurant and retail sectors have been particularly impactful on that increase," he said.

Macomb County officials continue to be proactive in strate-

gies designed to boost worker skills and keep talent here. Vicky Rowinski, director of Macomb County Planning and Economic Development, said they continue to work with Macomb Community College to identify course studies that correlate to job openings and employer needs in the Macomb communities.

Events like Manufacturing Day also expose young people to various industry careers and the steps they need to take to achieve their goals. This year, the event was held virtually and speakers and virtual tours were provided throughout the week instead of just one day. Sessions were also recorded and posted online so the information can be accessed for months to come.

Still, safety continues to be a major concern for both employers and employees as the number of COVID-19 cases surged this fall. Apczynski said COVID has caused employers to rethink the way that they operate. In many cases, they have redesigned operations to allow staff to work from home. When the nature of work, such as manufacturing, requires workers to be on-site, management has implemented measures and purchased Personal Protection Equipment to ensure that all of the employees are kept safe and socially distanced. **M**

CONNECT

HELP FOR JOB SEEKERS

Anyone seeking employment can contact their local Michigan Works! Career Center for assistance. There are career centers in Macomb County in Clinton Township, Mount Clemens, Roseville and Warren. Although the offices may continue to be closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, job seekers can connect with staff by phone who will listen to their needs and connect them with the proper staff person.

Visit macomb-stclairworks.org to find an exact location or dial 1-800-285-WORKS to be connected with the Michigan Works! location closest to you.

According to Bob Apczynski - Business & Employment Services Coordinator at Michigan Works! Macomb/St. Clair, those interested in finding employment can

connect with a member of the Business Services staff who will work with them to find employment that fit their needs and interests. Those who do not possess a vocational skill and who need guidance and training will be connected with a career planner who will work with them to determine if they are eligible for vocational training funded through Michigan Works! and help them identify an appropriate career goal.

Job seekers who wish to work on their own should also register with the Pure Michigan Talent Connect System (PTCS) at mitalent.org, said Apczynski. The PMTC is the State of Michigan's online employment service and job seekers can conduct their own job search using keyword terms. They can also post resumes that can be viewed by employers looking to find individuals who possess their skills. Use of the system is free to both job seekers and employers, he said.

All systems go

Manufacturers find ways to adapt during pandemic; help communities

By Jane Peterson

For manufacturers that hum along every day like a well-oiled machine, being shut down during the COVID-19 was a bit unsettling. With their doors suddenly shuttered, company leaders had a choice: Lay off workers and stay at home or find a way to adapt to the current situation.

Many chose to adapt, not only finding clever ways to safely stay open, but to help their local communities and the entire country in the process.

AXALTA COATING SYSTEMS

Axalta Coating Systems is a global paint and coatings company with a location in Mount Clemens. As a leader in the coatings industry that is dedicated to the development, manufacture and sale of liquid and powder coatings, Axalta employees took their knowledge of chemicals and pivoted to making hand sanitizer. The product was then donated to hospitals, first responders, medical personnel and essential employees in Macomb County, metro Detroit and around the world.

Native Detroit Matthew Boland, who serves as vice president of Global Transportation Coatings Technology for Axalta, said the company was proud to be able to switch gears and help support the safety, health and well-being of hospital professionals, first responders and other medical personnel during a time when supplies were running low and uncertainty about the future was high.

By pulling together the company's collective knowledge and resources, Axalta was able to make a difference in the communities where employees live, work and raise their families.

Top priority was keeping their employees safe as they worked together toward this common goal. Boland said they researched studies on social distancing and implemented strategies such as masks and reporting of COVID-19 symptoms before entry.

"It didn't take much to remind everyone of the greater good we could do," he said. "It was a logical step to make hand sanitizer."

Axalta sites around the world, including Mount Clemens, transitioned from making paint to producing sanitizer. Worldwide, Axalta has 48 manufacturing centers and employs 13,000 people, including 1,400 scientists, chemists and engineers. Its Mount Clemens location, strategically located near the Big Three automakers and transportation hubs, is one of the largest sites that makes paints.

Two to four of the ingredients needed to make hand sanitizer were already in Axalta's vast supply chain. They were the



Axalta employees took their knowledge of chemicals and pivoted to making hand sanitizer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AXALTA COATING SYSTEMS

proper grade that met the high standards of the World Health Organization. The biggest hurdle was getting the tens of thousands of bottles they needed to ship the hand sanitizer.

"Those small containers became a big commodity," said Boland.

The final product was shipped to hospitals and used at Axalta plants to maintain the health and safety of employees. The Mount Clemens team made 2,235 gallons of hand sanitizer.

"I can't say enough about everyone involved in this effort," said Boland. "This was a wonderful opportunity to help our communities in a different way. Our employees rallied around the idea."

While Axalta has gone back to its core competencies, the company still has its hand sanitizer recipe and is prepared to ramp back up production again if needed.

In addition to hand sanitizer, Axalta supplied much-needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to hospitals globally. Items such as face masks, including N-95 masks, coveralls, closed hoods and protective sleeves were shipped to hospitals throughout the world. Medical professionals used the PPE normally worn in Axalta's manufacturing facilities and by its customers to reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting coronavirus.

"We learned a lot about leveraging our global supply chain and using our global footprint to provide PPE donations to hospitals," said Boland.

CONNECT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Axalta Coating Systems is a global paint and coatings company with a location in Mount Clemens.

Worldwide, Axalta has 48 manufacturing centers and employs 13,000 people.



The Michigan City of Center Line

Come join Cattleman's in Center Line's Downtown District

With the recent opening of Cattleman's Meat Company, Center Line's Downtown District is hitting its stride, now with more than \$20 million in new investments completed or planned between 2020 and 2021.

Cattleman's is just the latest new investment, with the renovation of the former Shopper's Market building. Cattleman's is open now and has a great selection of meats, produce, deli, and groceries. According to City Manager, Dennis Champine, Cattleman's offerings go beyond groceries, "they have prepared meals, made by one of the area's best Chefs, and a deli counter where you can order and eat at the indoor cafe". Champine says that Cattleman's meets the affordable grocery needs of the local community, yet offers so much more to the larger region. "This place is truly amazing, I can't get over how beautiful the store is and what they have on the shelves for everyone!". Cattleman's is located at 25225 Van Dyke Avenue in Center Line, and is open Monday - Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Family



Community



Center Line is a great investment for small and large businesses, where cost per square foot is affordable. So come check us out for your new business!

Center Line records historical increases in property values, and is number one in Macomb County for Residential market value increases three years in a row. Check out these numbers!

Commercial -2017-2020 - 23%

Industrial -2017-2020 - 22%

Residential -2017-2020 - 47%

There are many available properties, from 1,000 sq. ft to 10,000 sq. ft. for sale or lease in the Center Line Downtown District, with several incentive opportunities, to include; Opportunity Zone, Facade and Exterior Improvement Grants, and Brownfield Redevelopment. For more information, contact Collin Mays, Economic Development Director, 586-758-8269 or cmays@centerline.gov.

With over \$85 million dollars of new investment made, and planned over the next two years; access to more than 500,000 potential customers living within five miles of the City of Center Line; and City services second to none, Center Line is a great place to start a new business and invest!

Check out Center Line's Master Development Plan at www.centerline.gov.

Welcome to Center Line!

Small Town Life-style in the Heart of Metro Detroit

www.centerline.gov



Business



History

Below: Staying diversified in critical infrastructure industries and producing face shields and N-95 masks kept RCO Engineering staff employed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RCO ENGINEERING

RCO ENGINEERING

When RCO Engineering in Roseville learned that its community was in desperate need of PPE, its employees kicked into high gear and immediately innovated methods to develop and produce face shields and N-95 masks. At the peak of production, they were producing up to 50,000 face shields a day.

What became quickly apparent, said General Manager Jeff Simek, is that Michigan still has the nation's strongest manufacturing industry with the resiliency, flexibility, scalability and agility to carry out the Defense Production Act.

"We make things happen," he said.



Jeff Simek

What the company learned from the pandemic is that diversification is a key. The company's infrastructure produced the N-95 masks and face shields. In fact, RCO Engineering continues to make 10,000 face shields a week as they are often needed by educators and retailers to show expression as they interact with students and customers. Its automotive sector was responsible for making component parts for ventilators during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis in the spring.

"Having business in critical infrastructure industries such as aerospace, defense, energy and medical kept many people employed and families fed," said Simek.

That was critical for RCO Engineering, which was faced with revenue challenges as the automotive industry went on pause and projects were delayed in March and April.

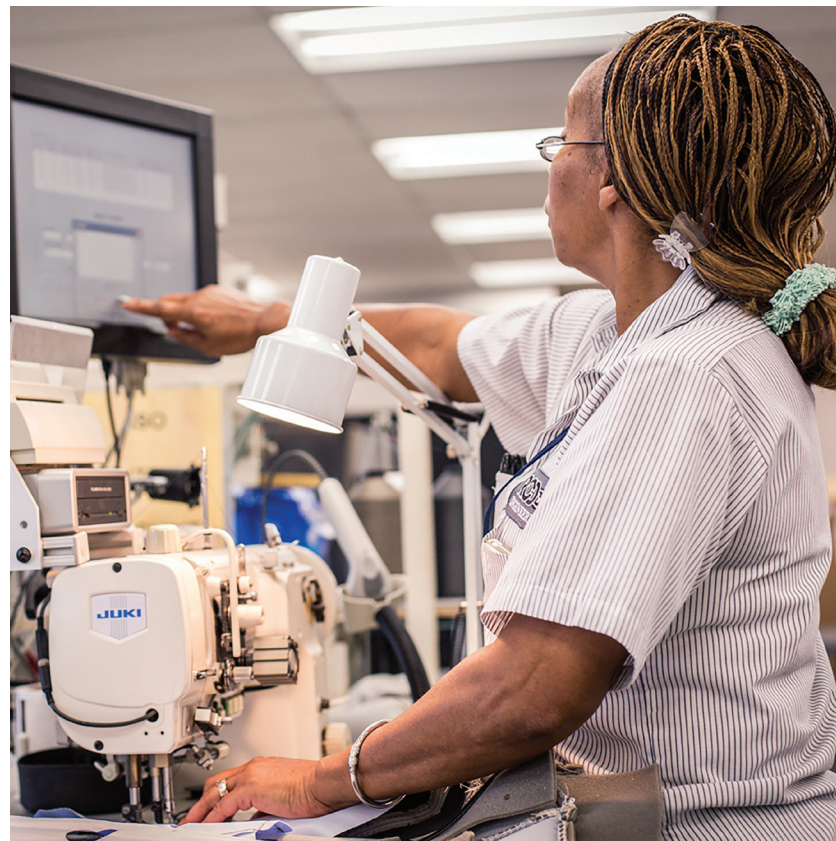
The pandemic, he said, also opened many people's eyes to different ways of working. Simek said it will likely be a while before the travel industry rebounds since companies have be-

come adept at communicating electronically without the need for face-to-face interactions. Also, he believes that the trend of working from home will continue.

"It opened our eyes beyond typical ways of making business happen. Working from home was given a real chance to succeed. I personally believe this will have a positive impact on the ecosystem of working families across many industries," he said.

However, perhaps the biggest change will come from social support as people turn their attention to purchasing products made in the United States, particularly for medical supplies.

"We learned that the medical supply chain appeared deeply fragmented during the pandemic and it will get a lot of attention moving forward. It will require support from the supply chain talent in the auto industry," said Simek. "People are concerned about our ability to take care of ourselves without relying on other countries." **M**



CONNECT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

When the pandemic hit, RCO Engineering in Roseville decided to produce face shields and N-95 masks. At the peak of production, they were producing up to 50,000 face shields a day.



Sheila Coté

Helping seniors navigate the COVID-19 pandemic

By Jane Peterson



Sheila Coté

After a 30-year career in the mental health field, Sheila Coté was looking to make a change. In September 2019, she accepted the position of director of the Macomb County Office of Senior Services, a department that provides assistance to area senior citizens. While she was excited about being able to make a difference in the lives of older adults, Coté could never imagine how the COVID-19 pandemic that struck just months later would impact everyone's health and overall lifestyle, but she never missed a beat.

Typically there are hundreds of volunteers that deliver Meals on Wheels to local seniors. As they distribute the hot meals, volunteers also check in on seniors, have a quick chat with them and make sure everything is OK. It's an essential program and one Coté was not willing to pause during the pandemic.

So, in order to better conform to safety protocols, Meals on Wheels converted to an all-staff system, continuing to deliver 1,700 meals daily.

"We did not miss a single meal," she said. "It took a village with other departments chipping in."

Coté also instituted new programs to assist Macomb County seniors through the health crisis. Volunteers made 10,000 outreach calls, making sure they were doing alright and seeing if they needed anything. Many seniors reported that they were having trouble securing items that were commonly sold out, such as toilet paper and hand sanitizer. With that information, Coté developed a care package delivery program. Using CARES funding, these essential items were purchased and delivered to those in need.

She also led an effort to secure a new partnership with Shipt, an online grocery delivery service. The partnership, which is the first of its kind between Shipt and a senior services agency, allows Macomb County to offer residents over the age of 60 a free, one-year membership to the delivery service. Shipt provides same-day grocery delivery from local stores via a community of reliable shoppers. Users can order groceries – through Shipt's app or website using either a phone or computer – and Shipt shoppers will deliver the order to the home.

Prior to being named director of the Macomb County Office of Senior Services, Coté worked for Macomb County Community Mental Health since 1988 and held a variety of leadership positions throughout her 30-year tenure. She oversaw grant writing and operations for children and family services, crisis services and same-day open access mental health services. She holds a Master of Social Work from Wayne State University and multiple accreditations as a clinical social worker with the State of Michigan.

Q Why is Macomb County a good place for businesses and organizations?

A We have a large senior population in Macomb County. We assist in providing support and services so seniors can live independently, stay in their homes and engage in community activities.

Q How does your organization specifically benefit from its location in Macomb County?

A I'm very proud of our staff. They are very dedicated, always looking to support seniors by answering questions and working hard. Together, we are developing a senior-friendly community with seniors active in events, shopping locally and promoting health and wellness opportunities.

Q How does Macomb County contribute to your organization's success?

A Thanks to our connection to the county, we have support from other departments so we can provide a higher level of support and services. We couldn't have continued Meals on Wheels during the COVID-19 crisis without the help of other county departments, for example.

Q How does your organization contribute to Macomb County's business and economic growth?

A Seniors are a great asset to communities as they share their knowledge and experience. They like to support local businesses and newly retired seniors tend to give back financially to the communities that have given them so much through the years.

Sheila Coté, director of the
Macomb County Office of
Senior Services

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MACOMB
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Don Hutchison

Preparing tomorrow's leaders for exciting careers in technology

By Jane Peterson



Don Hutchison

QUOTABLE

“I love Macomb Community College. It is a growing, thriving environment.”

— Don Hutchison

For Don Hutchison, the past 18 months have been like coming home as he returned to Macomb Community College as the Dean of Engineering & Advanced Technology. Previously he served the college as Associate Dean of Engineering Technology from 2012-17.

“I love Macomb Community College. It is a growing, thriving environment,” he said.

As an educator, his goal is to prepare today's students to be the leaders of tomorrow. Engineering and technology are exciting fields to be in, especially in Macomb County, where technology and creativity converge on many different levels at some of the world's most innovative and driven companies.

Hutchison was born and raised in Detroit, where he graduated from the Focus: HOPE Machinist Training Institute. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Technology

from Lawrence Technological University and a Master of Science degree in Manufacturing Operations from Kettering University.

Macomb Community College supports many industries in Macomb County by offering quality programs that prepare graduates for the rigorous work that needs to be done in the areas of manufacturing, engineering, technology and more. College representatives meet often with leaders and business professionals in the community to re-evaluate current employment and develop programs to address local business needs while providing training for careers that have great demand in the region.

Hutchison brings plenty of practical experience to his position. He was previously employed by General Motors, where he worked in several different design and engineering disciplines. He also helped implement manufacturing processes across the board in GM facilities throughout North America and Europe. His most recent position was as Dean of Engineering, Manufacturing and

Industrial Technologies at Oakland Community College.

Q Why is Macomb County a good place for businesses and organizations?

A We are right in the heart of advanced technology and automotive innovation. We want to continue to lead the pack in design technology and skilled trades. Students are preparing for exciting, demanding careers while other people are upgrading their skills and changing careers. There is a lot of engagement between the high schools and industries in Macomb County and that benefits everyone in the community.

Q How does your organization specifically benefit from its location in Macomb County?

A We are here to bridge the gap as people transition to new careers. Right now it is important for residents to be as skilled as possible, so Macomb County can stay on the cutting edge of technology. This is a good place to be because we have strong partnerships with industry leaders. We meet with community members to find out what their needs are and because of that we are able to provide people with everything they need to move forward.

Q How does Macomb County contribute to your organization's success?

A We work in close collaboration with County Executive Mark Hackel and his staff. We partner with high schools in the region and have been able to hold large events that feature advanced automotive technology.

Q How does your organization contribute to Macomb County's business and economic growth?

A We have a keen understanding of where we are and where we are going. With Industry 4.0, technologies are being connected and we are working hard to integrate academic programs as technology progresses. We are able to provide services that truly benefit the region and the community. We have an impact across the globe thanks to the great leadership at the college.

Don Hutchison, dean of Engineering & Advanced Technology at Macomb Community College

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Amy McMillan

Ensuring residents have access to quality recreation experiences

By Jane Peterson



Amy McMillan

Amy McMillan started working toward a career in public parks and recreation when she was just 14 years old. That was when she started volunteering in Midland, getting involved in a program that allowed her to get to know her cousin, an individual with disabilities, better.

After her volunteer experience, McMillan attended Central Michigan University, where she focused on therapeutic recreation and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation and Parks Administration and a Master of Science in Public Administration.

Her internship was at Metro Beach in Lake St. Clair Metropark in 1988, where her main focus was evaluating the park for accessibility. From there, she accepted a position at Superior Township Parks and Recreation before becoming director for Parks and Recreation for the city of Ypsilanti and then serving as the director for the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, a position she held for 18 years.

With her appointment as Huron-Clinton Metroparks director a few years ago, McMillan's career came full circle, back to the place where she started her internship and had many fond memories of her time living in Mount Clemens.

When she's not busy at work, McMillan enjoys spending time with her horses and dogs.

Q Why is Macomb County a good place for businesses and organizations?

A Parks draw people and make it a great place to live. We are proud to play a part in helping Macomb County continue to thrive. Macomb County features the popular Stony Creek Metropark, a park that borders Macomb and Oakland counties and includes four communities, including Shelby Township and Washington Township. We also have Lake St. Clair Metropark that showcases our wonderful natural asset, Lake St. Clair and Wolcott Mill Metropark that is a wonderful area for educational programs, rustic hiking and equestrian activities.

Q How does your organization specifically benefit from its location in Macomb County?

A Macomb County has many natural assets. Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River lend themselves to water recreation activities like swimming, fishing and boating. At nearly 5,000 acres, you could spend every day at Stony Creek Metropark and still discover something new about the park. Wolcott Mill Metropark provides a unique connection to the history of Macomb County.

Q How does Macomb County contribute to your organization's success?

A We have many Macomb County partnerships with organizations such as the Six Rivers Land Conservancy, Clinton River Watershed Council, Macomb County and the Macomb Intermediate School District. These local partnerships help us to broaden our perspective and address issues like natural resources management so we can improve water quality and reduce the number of beach closings in the summer. With the Macomb Intermediate School District, our partnership allows us to share interpretive programming with students with disabilities. The residents of Macomb County are supportive of their park resources and are constantly engaged with us to help us continually succeed.



Q How does your organization contribute to Macomb County's business and economic growth?

A A recent economic benefit study of the Metroparks region continues to demonstrate how parks raise property values, lead to direct visitor spending and allow residents to save on healthcare since parks offer many opportunities for exercise and other health benefits (metroparks.com/economicbenefits). There are so many opportunities to connect to nature, be healthier and make memories with your family at the metroparks. **M**

Amy McMillan, director,
Huron-Clinton Metroparks

PHOTO COURTESY OF HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

Join us on a virtual journey through the favorite foods of Michigan.

Deliciously Michigan

February 24—May 1, 2021



Thank you to The Kresge Foundation and Sonya K. Brett Memorial Endowed Fund for Cultural Enrichment Programs for their generous support of Deliciously Michigan.

Presenting



Director



Media Partners



LorenzoCulturalCenter.com/programming

LEARN MORE

Pasties, fudge and square pizza are just a few of the delicacies known to Michiganders. Food traditions from many cultures and over many years have blended together to form our unique combination of favorite eats!

Michigan has a rich heritage with diverse foods, beverages and dishes that have become so much a part of the culture that we often are not even aware of their origins. Immigrant populations and Native Americans have contributed many food traditions that seem almost ubiquitous, while we continue to diversify local cuisine as newcomers arrive in the "mitten."

Agriculture has also shaped the food landscape of Michigan with staples like potatoes, cherries, rhubarb and so much more! Sold in stores, at roadside stands and iconic landmarks like Detroit's Eastern Market, the produce and food products made in Michigan are also significant drivers of the state's economy.

Our offices remain closed; however, our staff is working remotely. Have Questions? Contact us at CulturalCenter@macomb.edu and a staff member will reach out to you during regular business hours.

THE ALBERT L. LORENZO

Cultural Center

AT MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MACOMB COUNTY'S PLACE FOR DISCOVERY



All For

SKIPPING THE WAIT FOR SAME DAY CARE



ALL FOR YOU

Don't let the COVID-19 pandemic stop you from seeking care. At our urgent care and walk-in clinics, you can make your reservation online and get the care you need for those health issues that aren't quite an emergency but need to be seen today! With safety precautions in place, we are ready to serve you and your family. Reserve your spot online at our clinics in Bruce Township, Chesterfield, Fraser, Richmond and Sterling Heights at

HenryFord.com/Skipthewait



COMING IN 2021

Join us for our new expansion at The Village of East Harbor-Harbor Inn

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan is excited to announce the expansion of our ranch style apartments and a brand new congregate apartment building on our beautiful 44-acre lifeplan campus.

Ranch Apartments:

- 36: two bedroom with two bathrooms
- All with attached one or two car garage
- Smart technology such as; front door lock, light switch thermostat, outlet in living room
- Concrete patio slab
- Open floor plan, fully equipped kitchen, pantry, 8' ceilings with coves, high grade finishes, oversized windows, stackable washer/dryer
- All lawn and snow maintenance covered

Congregate Apartment Building:

- 60: one and two bedroom apartments, with one or two bathroom (units vary)
- Smart technology such as: thermostat, outlet in the living room, front door lock, light switch
- Some units have balconies or patio*
- Carports available*
- Community room with full kitchen
- Open floor plan, fully equipped kitchen, pantry, 8' ceilings with coves, high- grade finishes, oversized windows, stackable washer/dryer.

Campus:

- Lifeplan campus which provides independent living, assisted living, memory care support, short term rehab, long term care. Future outpatient rehab center onsite
- Multiple food venues available on campus
- Transportation is available
- Fitness, spiritual, and enrichment programming
- Housekeeping and home health care available at additional fees

**additional fees may apply*

*All buildings are designed and built with
LEED for Homes Certification*



The Village of
East Harbor

A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

 A Mission of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan

HARBOR INN

Embrace the possibilities

The Village of East Harbor - Harbor Inn

33875 Kiely Drive
Chesterfield, Michigan 48047

Call: 586.725.6030 Fax: 586.716.7170
www.pvm.org

10/20

