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MOMENTUM

Uniquely Macomb County, Michigan | Volume 2, Issue 1

Simple philosophy, amazing growth

Crafting crazy good food
is what Ethel's Edibles is
all about

Page 6



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Improving air quality, public health and recreational opportunities are just some of Green Macomb's many goals. Here kayakers enjoy an outing on the Clinton River.

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On the cover: The Pecan Dandy, Ethel's Edibles signature product, is chockfull of toasted pecans, honeyed caramel and buttery shortbread. The Turtle Dandy also includes a layer of chocolate.

PHOTO COURTESY RAY SKOWRONEK

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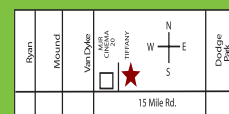
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Responding to needs of industry

County Executive Mark Hackel:
We are focused on dynamic partnerships and responsive service

Q How is industry changing in Macomb County?

A There is an industry transformation happening in Macomb County which is being spurred by technology and workforce. Billions of dollars in investments are changing the way we do business, and how facilities operate. Thousands of new jobs illustrate how we are working in a completely different manner than we have ever done before. This revolution can be seen at the GM Tech Center where they are testing fully autonomous vehicles on its campus and our public roadways. At, FCA they have committed billions of dollars to retool both the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant and Warren Truck, which will make these two facilities some of the most technologically advanced plants in the world. In defense, our military installations and network of more than 600 prime defense contractors continue to push the limits of innovation. This past year Macomb County Companies were awarded more than \$1.4 billion dollars in defense contracts. Macomb is now home to nearly 400 IT firms, which employ 9,000 individuals. All of these trends are prime examples, of how Macomb County has become a preferred destination for innovation and transformational economic investment.



Q In what ways is Macomb County's workforce evolving to meet the needs of today's employers?

A Macomb County possesses a world class workforce. Our skilled and adaptable workforce of more than 430,000 individuals has the ability to meet the emerging needs of virtually every single industry sector. From advanced degrees to unrivaled skilled trade, we can have continually illustrated our ability to help business thrive. With steady population growth and rising educational attainment across our County we believe that Macomb County is a premier destination to meet all your workforce needs.

Q What are some of the unique industry trends in Macomb County?

A The first thing that comes to mind is the auto industry. Macomb County is at the intersection of top tier production and leading edge technology. The emergence of tech-driven-



Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel

production is leading the way for next generation mobility Autonomous vehicle testing, advanced robotics, connecting cars to infrastructure and unrivaled research and development all happening in our automotive sector. Defense is another major economic driver in Macomb. Hundreds of defense contractors transacting billions of dollars in defense work. Major installations like TACOM, TARDEC and Selfridge are focused on mission readiness while

fueling our local economy with civilian and military personnel. Aerospace is taking off in Macomb County. Every major aerospace company is doing work in Macomb County. Companies like Boeing and institutions like NASA have found their way to Macomb because we possess some of the world's most skilled and capable suppliers. Our retail and service is also growing. Places like Jimmy Johns Field, CJ Barrymore's and Cabella's are expanding and investing in our community. This adds to our great quality of life, and provides unique destinations for residents and visitors. IT and Cyber Security operations are expanding in Macomb County. The national average for IT and Cyber growth over the past five years is 12%, in Macomb County its 116%. We are seeing a number of positive and sustainable trends across many industries.

Q How is Macomb County involved in this transformation?

A We are focused on dynamic partnerships and responsive service. Each day a committed and expanding group of economic development partners work with businesses throughout Macomb County. It starts with our Planning and Economic Development Department developing tailor made business growth strategies with our private sector partners. We connect with our workforce development agencies to develop and refine everything from retraining to custom industry readiness programs. We engage our educational partners at the MISD and Macomb Community College to explore curriculum that will transform the classroom experience and set the tone for lifelong learning. At the municipal level we are helping develop innovation parks and corporate centers that are becoming major job centers. All of these examples illustrate how we are connecting to our key economic development partners and showcasing their creativity, energy and passion. **M**

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Simple philosophy, amazing growth

Crafting crazy good food is what Ethel's Edibles is all about

By Jane Peterson

If Jill Bommarito and her team have their way, shoppers will be able to find a Pecan Dandy on the shelves in every store.

They are well on their way to achieving that dream.

Bommarito is the powerhouse behind Ethel's Edibles, a premium bakery based in St. Clair Shores. The company's

signature product, the Pecan Dandy, is full of toasted pecans, caramel and buttery shortbread. The taste is so decadent that people don't realize they are eating a gluten-free bar – and that's exactly the way Bommarito wants it.

"We don't want people eating it just because it's gluten-free. That's only an attribute," she said. "We create crazy good food for all to enjoy. Taste is why people buy our products."

Shoppers can find the Pecan Dandy at Whole Foods Markets, but it won't be in the gluten-free section. Instead it is stocked with the fresh-baked treats on the main bakery floor.

But make no mistake, all of Ethel's Edibles baked goods are certified gluten-free. With a history of celiac disease in her family, Bommarito didn't want to single out guests at the dinner table by having different dishes for each person's unique dietary needs.

"Food is the one thing that draws people together," she said.

Instead, she crafted her bakery recipes using non-genetically modified, all-natural ingredients using cage-free eggs and hormone-free dairy. She purchases items like butter from local sources.

This simple philosophy has led Ethel's Edibles to amazing growth. When Bommarito established the business in 2011, she was running it from a small church kitchen. Today, Ethel's Edibles maintains a thriving storefront in St. Clair Shores and its products can be found in 12 states at retailers such as Kroger, Plum Market, Holiday Market and Randazzo Fresh Market. Products are also in a variety of coffee and specialty shops, entertain-



ment and sports venues, hospitals and universities.

The menu has expanded as well. In addition to the iconic Pecan Dandy, an assortment of blondies, brownies, cookies and muffins are available.

However, making handcrafted food is time and labor intensive. To further build her brand, Bommarito has worked closely with Jack Johns, project coordinator with the Macomb County Planning & Economic Development. With his connections in the industry and the Detroit Agriculture Network, Bommarito conducted an efficiencies analysis and purchased new equipment. She also learned more about branding and exporting.

Exciting developments are on the horizon for Ethel's Edibles in 2017 with additional retailers selling her products and the recent introduction of a new chocolate chip cookie. With the Macomb Food Collaborative, she hopes to help other local entrepreneurs as well.

"There is always enough business to go around if you are doing business right," she said. "Try us. You're going to love us." **M**

PHOTOS BY RAY SKOWRONEK

CONNECT

Ethel's Edibles

22314 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080

Phone: (586) 552-5110

Online: EthelsEdibles.net

Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday-Friday.

Visit Ethel's at the Eastern Market in Detroit 7 a.m.-

3 p.m. Saturdays.



Jill Bommarito (left) and her team at Ethel's Edibles works hard to craft gluten-free baked goods using non-GMO, all-natural ingredients, including cage free eggs and hormone free dairy.



The Turtle Dandy from Ethel's Edibles features luxurious caramel topped with toasted pecans and chocolate spread on top of a layer of buttery shortbread.



Ethel's Edibles menu includes the Pecan Dandy as well as an assortment of blondies, brownies, cookies and muffins.



Ethel's Edibles is a premium bakery brand based in St. Clair Shores. Its signature item is the Pecan Dandy.



Ethel's Edibles products are carefully crafted. Most people don't realize they are eating a gluten-free bar.

Logistical solutions

Macomb County home to popular public Foreign Trade Zone

By Jane Peterson

When companies need to move products from overseas, they count on Technology Ventures Inc. in Warren.

The company, operating as TVI Logistics, provides fulfillment, light assembly, packaging, distribution and freight management services.

TVI Logistics is a public Foreign Trade Zone, giving it the flexibility to bring in a variety of commodities. Located near companies that service both government and industry, TVI's clients include the U.S. Army, NASA, U.S. Energy department, U.S. Interior department, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and more. This area is a hub for the defense industry with easy access to I-75, I-696 and I-96. TVI has clients creating custom furniture and now the automotive sector.

As a Foreign Trade Zone, it can defer, minimize or eliminate customs duties and taxes based on operations performed in the zone. By storing imported goods in the zone, for example, duties and taxes can be deferred since they are not due until the goods leave the zone and enter U.S. commerce.

Foreign Trade Zones were created in the 1930s to offset the effects of tariffs and keep assembly jobs in the United States, said Axel Cooley, business development director at TVI Logistics.

While it sounds like a service strictly for large corporations, any size business can benefit from a Foreign Trade Zone if they import goods from another country, Cooley said.

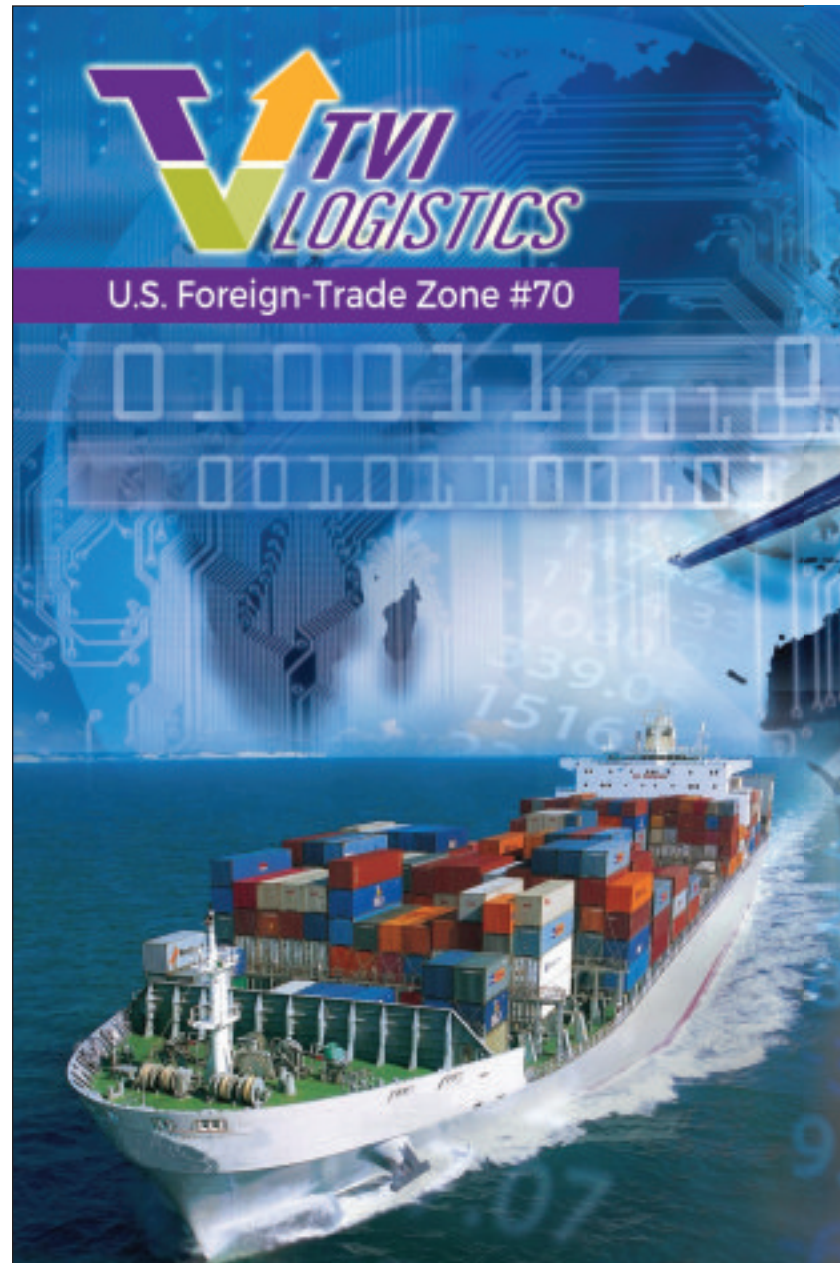
For example, Cooley said, a small design firm could have a client who ordered a one-of-a-kind chandelier from Italy. The chandelier is shipped to TVI and inspected when it arrives to determine if there is a manufacturing defect. Since the inspection is done inside the Foreign Trade Zone, the product can be sent back to the artisan before duty fees are collected, thus eliminating the need for a second duty charge.

"Top designers work with us from all over the nation," said Cooley.

However, a Foreign Trade Zone often involves more than just moving goods into the country. By assembling individual components in the zone to create finished products, companies can see substantial savings.

"Logistics applies to everybody regardless of industry," said Cooley. "There are real cost savings with the logistics side."

TVI President Constance Blair started the company in 1992,



TVI Logistics provides logistics, distribution, fulfillment and assembly.

using her military experience in logistics at the Pentagon to help customers in Macomb County. The company is a certified Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business, Woman Owned Small Business and Minority Business Enterprise.

TVI also offers locations for foreign companies trying to break into the U.S. market. Cooley said foreign companies can't get a contract without a U.S. physical presence and they don't want to set up a presence until they have locked in a contract.

With its Foreign Trade Zone to defer duties, warehouse space and manage inventory, TVI offers an affordable solution.

"We are always looking for ways to reduce costs for our clients," said Cooley. 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TVI LOGISTICS

CONNECT

Foreign Trade Zones

What: Import/Export seminar for small, medium and large businesses hosted by Macomb County and TVI Logistics
Phone: 586-563-8000



As a Foreign Trade Zone, TVI Logistics can defer duties and taxes until goods leave the zone.



Above: TVI Logistics is a public Foreign Trade Zone, giving it the flexibility to bring in any commodity. Logistics.

Left: TVI Logistics in Warren.



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Partnership with MEDC brings economic prosperity to region

By Jane Peterson

With a solid business infrastructure already in place and unique enterprises like the defense corridor within its borders, Macomb County has experienced plenty of growth opportunities. Its well-developed relationship with state agencies such as the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) help the county reach its full potential.



Macomb County officials work closely with MEDC to help businesses access state programs and incentives to achieve goals for growth. MEDC in turn works to empower communities so they can proactively shape their future and achieve their vision. This is often completed through attracting – and retaining – economic development, business investment and workforce talent to its boundaries.

MEDC Business Development Manager Drew Coleman said Macomb County officials have been very receptive to strategies that draw growth to the community and business corridors. Among the MEDC/Macomb County projects are:

- The designation of Roseville and Eastpointe as MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities, meaning they are “thoroughly prepared” as it relates to planning, zoning and other key features that remove traditional barriers and promote opportunities for prospective investors.
- The Pure Michigan Business Connect program. This MEDC initiative joins together buyers and supplies in need of products to Michigan suppliers. MEDC works with these buyers to discover where the need is in their supply chain and schedules meetings where suppliers can share their solutions to close the gaps.
- The Michigan Defense Center. Located in Sterling Heights, this MEDC operation centers on the growth, retention and support of local businesses that work to secure the nation’s safety and security. According to MEDC officials, at 21,930 positions, Macomb County has more defense-related jobs than any county in Michigan, resulting in an economic impact of nearly



The Pure Michigan Business Connect program is a MEDC initiative that joins together buyers and supplies in need of products to Michigan suppliers. Pictured is a Pure Michigan Business Connect summit held at Macomb Community College in October 2014.

\$2.2 million.

- Through the Michigan Business Development Program, MEDC offered a \$4.56 million grant to FCA US for expansion of its Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in order to produce the next-generation Ram 1500 truck. According to the MEDC, the company announced it will be investing \$1.48 trillion to reconfigure and retool the plant.
- Construction of the Lipari warehouse and production facility in Warren that uses \$1,938,885 in funds awarded by the Michigan Strategic Fund. These monies, derived from local and school tax capture, are designed to be used for alleviation of brown-field conditions at sites being prepared for redevelopment. The Lipari project is expected to generate \$39.4 million in capital investment and generate 337 new jobs. The company is a wholesale food distributor that serves retailers and food service establishments throughout the Midwest.
- Approval of a \$98,663 Gatekeeper grant for the Macomb-Oakland University Incubator to continue funding a gatekeeper position for an additional year.

The grant will be matched with funding from Oakland University and in-kind services from the Business Advisory Board. Gatekeeper grants are awarded to nonprofit/university organizations to provide business services to early stage technology companies and institutions for commercializing competitive-edge technologies, according to the MEDC.

- Work with Michigan’s 17 SmartZones, including the Macomb-OU Incubator, which is the SmartZone for Macomb County. “Having an open line of communication is key when working on a number of projects in tandem,” said Coleman. “(Macomb County Economic and Planning Director) John Paul Rea and his staff have been successful partners. They are enthusiastic and passionate about that they do. It’s been a pleasure working with them.” ■

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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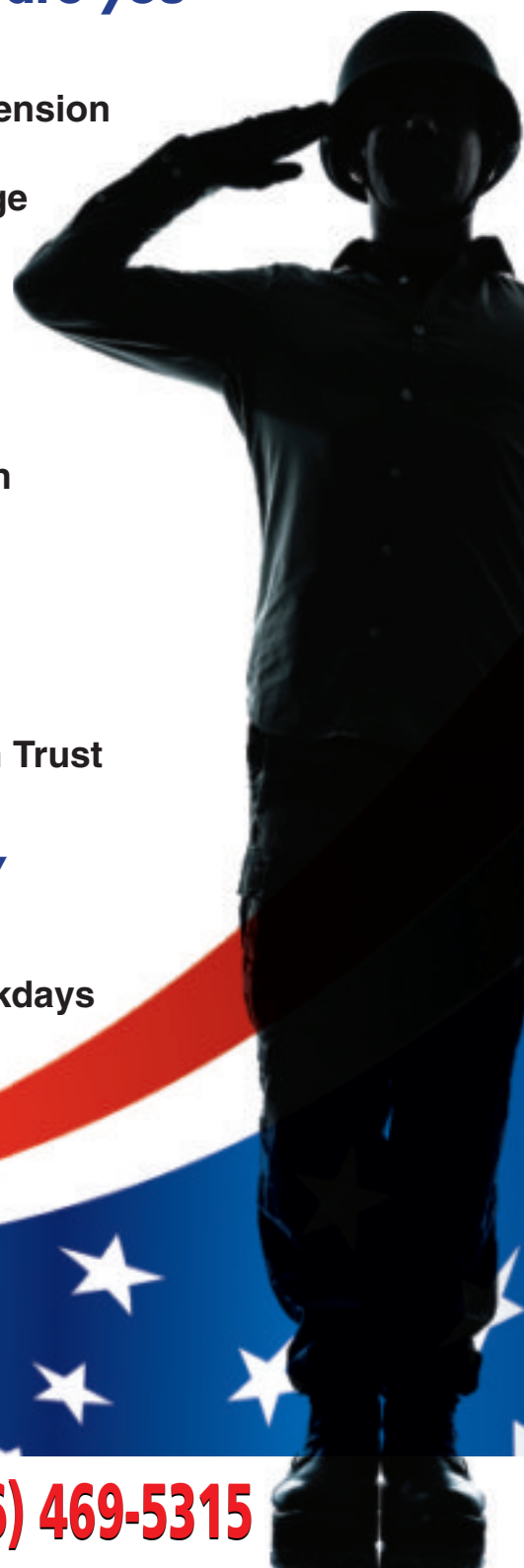
You may be eligible for a grant from the Michigan Trust Fund or the Macomb County Relief Fund.

Do you know a veteran that recently passed away?

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Jobs on the rise

Macomb County employment numbers show impressive growth

By Jane Peterson

For several consecutive years, Macomb County has demonstrated consistent job growth. That is welcome news to Planning & Economic Executive Director John Paul Rea, who is passionate about helping businesses find secure footing in an ever-changing global marketplace.

Recently released statistics show a 5 percent county unemployment rate. This is in sharp contrast to 2010 when the county had a 12.5 percent unemployment rate, leaving more than 50,000 residents without a job, said Dr. Jim Jacobs, president of Macomb Community College, who prepares an economic forecast each year.

Rea is pleased employment numbers are reaching the near historic levels they were at before the economy took a nosedive in 2008 and led to one of the most painful recessions ever for people who relied mainly on the automotive industry for their livelihood.

However, there is more to a community's jobs story than just what the numbers reveal. To get a true sense of how employment impacts Macomb County residents, one needs to examine the reasons behind the numbers more closely.

In Macomb County's case, diversification was essential. Many suppliers that employed skilled tradespeople once focused only on the Big Three auto makers.

Today, automotive is still a big employer but it's often jobs in research and development vehicle testing not solely production and manufacturing, said Jacobs. Large investments like the one at the General Motors Tech Center in Warren also continue to make the automotive sector a key contributor to the county's economic prosperity.

In addition, emerging sectors in professional areas like healthcare, cybersecurity and aerospace technology are growing.

The Defense Corridor in Sterling Heights also draws more companies that do business with agencies like TACOM and the defense sector's research and development defense company, TARDEC. This had led to a healthy boost in population as young people with families move into Macomb County neighborhoods and create additional demand for services.

"Macomb County is still growing in population. Its growth will play a huge role in the local economy," said Jacobs.

However, not all residents are enjoying prosperity. Jacobs pointed out that there remains a large number of workers in part-time positions even though they want full-time work. Others are working for lesser wages, so their personal income



Emerging sectors in professional areas like healthcare, cybersecurity and aerospace technology are growing, leading to a boost in Macomb County's economy



Local officials celebrate the opening of The Velocity Hub with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Growth in the cybersecurity sector is positively impacting Macomb County's economy.

remains stagnant or even below what it has been in the past.

These residents may seek to further their education at colleges like MCC and improve their prospects. The college constantly monitors changes in employer needs and adapts programs so students will graduate with in-demand, employable skills.

Overall, Jacobs believes that by monitoring trends across various industries Macomb County's leadership has positioned the county nicely to react to changes in the economy.

"It's a fascinating change in the economy," said Rea, "and it really speaks to the creativity of businesses to pivot their services as necessary. Macomb County's workforce is very adaptable."

With this emergence in advanced manufacturing, Rea expects the positive employment trends to continue.

So does Jacobs, who reiterated that unemployment numbers have been consistently going down since 2012.

"The future looks pretty good," he said. "2017 should be a continuation of some of the growth we have seen the last few years." **M**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB-OAKLAND UNIVERSITY BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Custom forging, customer focused

Weldaloy continues its tradition of excellence for 70 years and counting

By Jane Peterson

The four words on Weldaloy's website home page say it all: Custom Forging. Customer Focused.

It's the way this Warren company has done business for 70 years and the reason it continues to thrive today.

"We have an obsession with quality," says Jay Hidalgo, Vice President and Chief Marketing Executive. "We check every part that goes out the door. We don't do any sampling. All parts are checked."

Weldaloy's roots are in welding and its ability to forge non-ferrous metals sets it apart in the industry. It is an intricate process that involves heating and pounding large pieces of copper, brass and aluminum into a rough shape before a machine details it into its final form. Customers include leaders in the aerospace, electronics, power equipment, semiconductor, material processing and oil and gas industries.

Hidalgo said it's the attention to details and high level of customer service that keeps customers coming back.

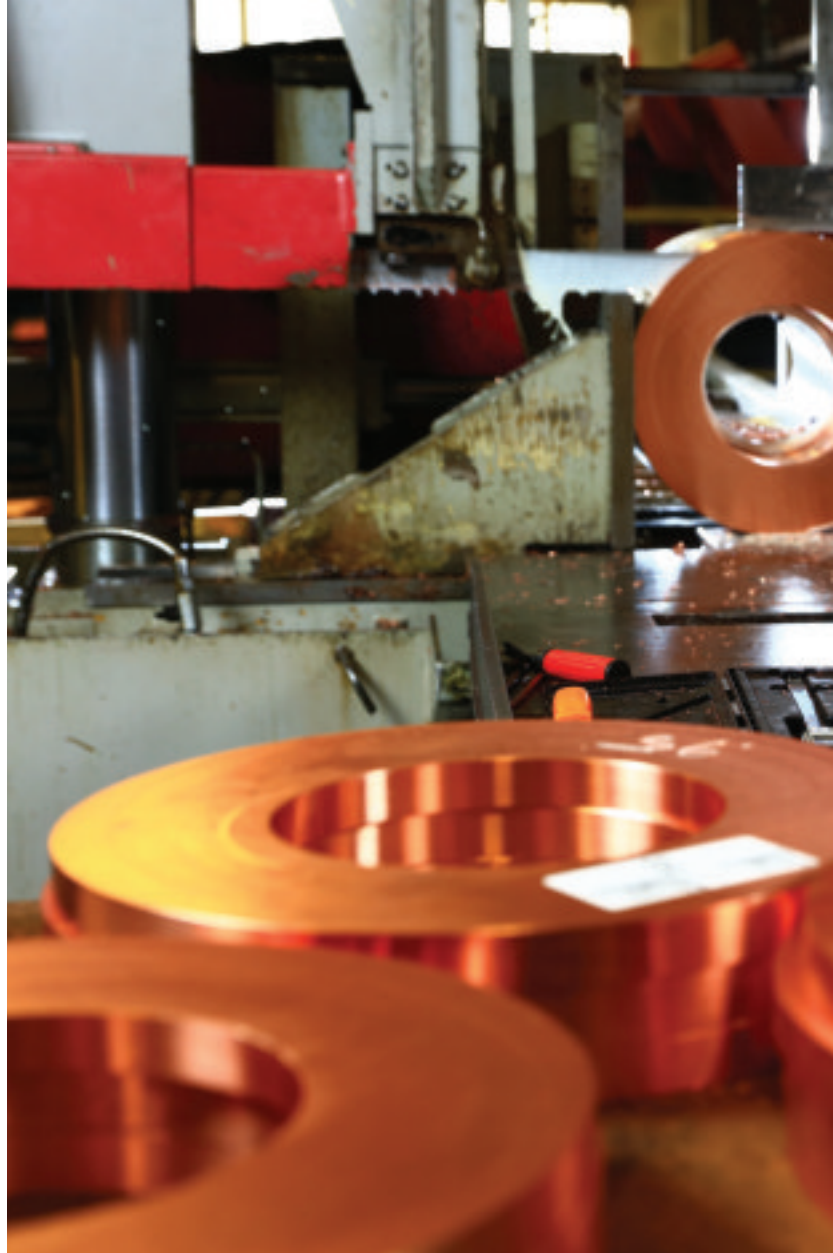
Weldaloy was founded in 1946 by Joseph O'Grady. In the beginning, it purchased extruded copper alloys and developed tooling techniques to produce precision shaped welding caps, tips, sleeves, and shafts. After furnaces were installed, the company could melt copper billets and produce its own alloys. It became a major supplier for General Motors.

As more exotic alloys containing copper were developed, Weldaloy diversified its offerings and carved out a niche in the industry by becoming one of the few suppliers for these non-ferrous alloys. In the late 1960s, forging capabilities were added and the business was known for seam welding wheels. At that time, production was centralized to its current location in Warren.

The business celebrated its 70th anniversary with a private party last October that was attended by its 85 employees and their families as well as former employees, local government officials and other members of the community.

As the company celebrates its history and past successes, it continues to look toward the future. A very proactive leadership team, led by owner Rick Warren who purchased Weldaloy in 1994, is pursuing significant growth industries, said Hidalgo. Renovations are also currently under way in one of the plants.

"Throughout 2016, we've announced several new strategic initiatives and expansions such as achieving AS9100C certification, renovating our office space, expanding our aluminum capacity,



Weldaloy employees heat and pound large pieces of copper, brass and aluminum into a rough shape before a machine details it into its final form.

weldaloy

launching a new website and revamping our brand. To be experiencing all of this growth while celebrating our 70th year in business is truly something special. Thank you to all of our customers who have supported us over the years," said Warren in a press release.

Management and staff members also continue to educate and inspire the next generation of skilled trades by visiting high schools and partnering with a Detroit high school on a student internship program, said Hidalgo. **M**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WELDALOY

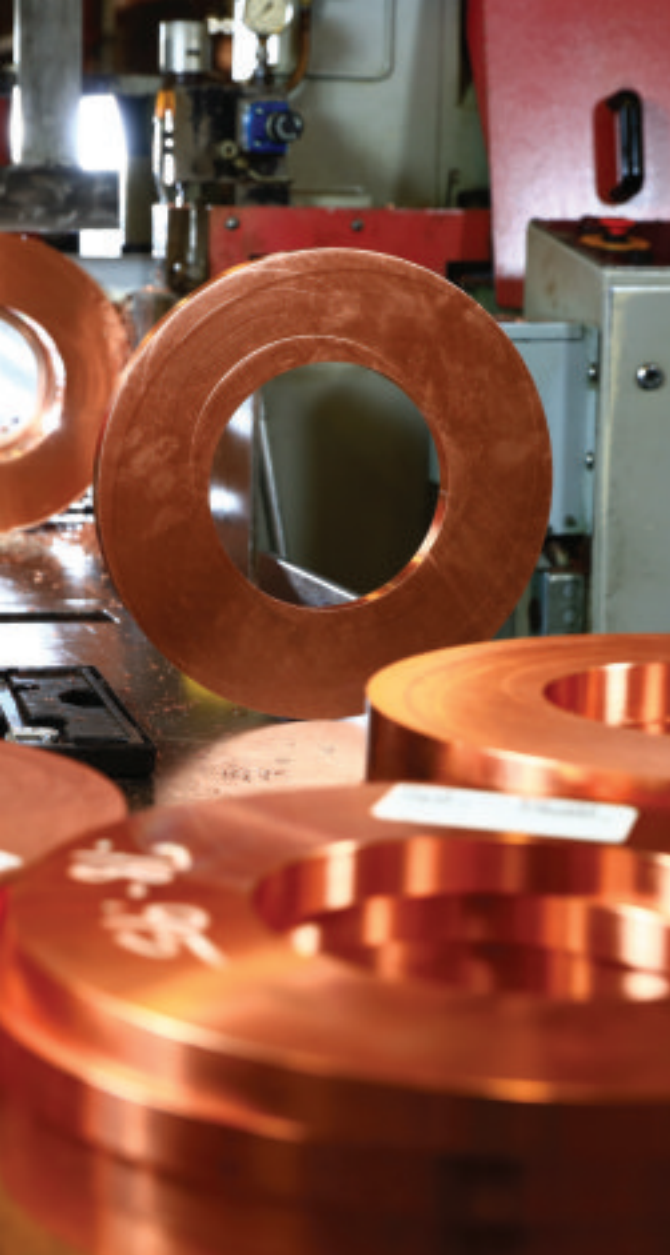
CONNECT

Weldaloy Products Company

24011 Hoover Road, Warren, MI 48089

Phone: (586) 758-5550

Online: Weldaloy.com



Above: A driver at Weldaloy is pulling a part that has just been heated so it can be taken to the hammer to be forged.

Below: The Weldaloy forge crew forges a part for a client.



Midwest Freight Systems

An American dream in the making

By Jane Peterson

When Samir Latic, his three brothers, mom and sister fled war-torn Bosnia and came to the United States in 1996, they weren't necessarily thinking about achieving The American Dream.

But they did.

Although the family endured many challenges along the way, they were able to seek refugee status and eventually purchased a semi-truck. That led to the founding of what would become Midwest Freight Systems.

Today the Latic family owns a fleet of trucks and operates one of the largest small trucking firms in the region from its headquarters in Warren. The company has 370 employees – about 60 percent of them immigrants from places like Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Russia and Eastern Europe.

Samir Latic said they didn't set out to hire immigrants specifically. Still, he is proud of the company is proud of its diversity saying that it is a very dynamic workplace where everyone works hard and brings something different to the table.

"It's a family atmosphere," he said. "For us it's about business and people."

That approach has served the business well. Founded in 2004, the company faced an uncertain future when the recession hit hard just four years later. The automotive industry – the business' main customer – was struggling.

However, that did not deter Latic and his family. They took advantage of lower prices on equipment and boldly purchased 20 additional semi-trucks.

"We were looking for a good opportunity to build and things turned around," he said.

By 2014, Midwest Freight was ready to expand so the company purchased 16.5 acres in Warren. The resulting 180,000 square foot facility includes a 125,000 square foot warehouse, a 55,000 square foot maintenance garage and a 10,000 square foot cross dock.

"It puts us in a good position for growth," he said.

Latic said Macomb County is a great place for their business because there is a lot of industry here and it is a good geographic location with its automotive customers nearby. The company hired 40 more drivers last year and is looking forward to more growth in 2017. **M**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIDWEST FREIGHT SYSTEMS AND RAY SKOWRONEK

CONNECT

Midwest Freight Systems

21900 Hoover Road,
Warren, MI 48089

Phone: 586-580-1200

Online: MidwestFreightSystems.com





Top: Midwest Freight Systems has 370 employees – about 60 percent of them immigrants from places like Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Russia and Eastern Europe.

Middle left: Office employees use a work-out center upstairs.

Bottom left: Operating from its headquarters in Warren, Midwest Freight Systems is one of the largest small trucking firms in the region.

Bottom right: Bosnian brothers and co-owners of Midwest Freight Systems in Warren, left to right, are Kasim, Asim and Samir Latic.



Teaching real world applications

Center Line leading the way in
reshaping high school experience

By Jane Peterson

In conversations with students, Superintendent Eve Kaltz and staff members at Center Line High School noticed that one point kept coming up in conversations again and again: Students didn't understand why they had to learn certain concepts. They simply weren't relative to real world applications for them.

It was clear that something had to change.

"We began to talk about re-thinking the way high school looks," said Kaltz.

Instead of telling students why they had to study these subjects, school officials decided to show them. After reaching out to local business owners for support, three academies were created

- 9th Grade Academy
- Academy of Industry, Technology and Innovation
- Academy of Health and Human Services

The 9th Grade Academy is designed to help students transition between middle school and high school and get them on a successful, positive path.

"Research shows that much work needs to be done to reach 9th graders," said Kaltz. "The 9th grade year is a real important time to capture these students and get them engaged in high school learning."

Freshmen take classes in their own wing. In addition to studying core subjects, students explore different career paths, forge relationships with other students and staff members and build a supportive structure that will serve them well throughout their high school experience.

The other two academies focus on career preparation. They offer students opportunities to job shadow, visit vocational programs and hear presentations by local business leaders. Students match their own personal strengths and interests and join either the Academy of Industry, Technology and Innovation or Academy of Health and Human Services.

Both academies teach core academics like science, math and English, but the topics and discussion within those subjects are



Students in the Academy of Industry, Technology and Innovation participated in Manufacturing Day last fall with local companies.



geared to a specific career path, giving students a real-world application in their course of study.

"Students really see the power in this. They are making the connection beyond high school," she said. "Students are more engaged and everyone is re-energized."

During their time in the academies, students can also take part in internships and earn industry certifications. Discussions with the business community resulted in school leaders tailoring lessons to jobs that are available in Center Line. While some students will continue to study in college, those who choose not to will have opportunities available to them locally through jobs or apprenticeships. Kaltz sees this strengthening the community as a whole.

Teachers spent years preparing for this new way of learning. Thanks to a Ford Next Generation Learning grant, teachers traveled to Nashville to see other academies in action and attended many training sessions, said Kaltz.

"There are so many possibilities," she said. "This is something really exciting and good for the kids. It's the right thing to do." **M**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CENTER LINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONNECT

Center Line High School

26300 Arsenal Road,
Center Line, MI 48015

Phone: 586-510-2100

Online: www.clps.org

Top left: Law Enforcement and EMS students at Center Line High School demonstrate crime scene activity and patient management.

Below right: In addition to studying core subjects, freshman students explore different career paths, forge relationships with other students and staff members and build a supportive structure.

Bottom right: Both academies teach core academics like science, math and English, but the topics and discussion within those subjects are geared to a specific career path, giving students a real-world application in their course of study.



Ninth-graders at Center Line High School participate in team-building activities.



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Education

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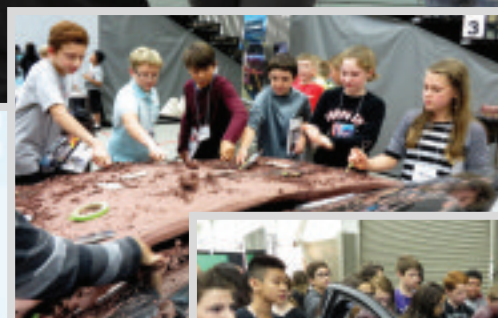
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Macomb County Manufacturing Day

Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. On October 7, Macomb County celebrated its fourth annual MFG DAY. Thanks to the willingness of 54 local companies to get involved, an estimated 2,000 high school students visited area plants to see the industry in action and learn about career opportunities.

A special thanks to our 2016 MFG hosts:

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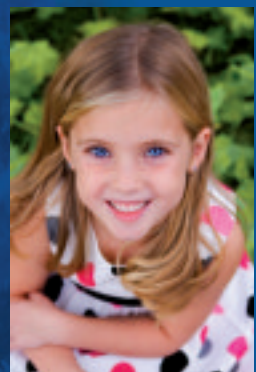
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Urban Forest Partnership

Green Macomb continues to spread the word about the importance of trees

By Jane Peterson

With its first county-wide Arbor Day commemoration planned for April 28, the Green Macomb initiative can celebrate another success toward its goal to enhance green infrastructure in communities across Macomb County.

The initiative began when the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) identified Macomb County, especially the population-dense areas along and south of the Clinton River, as good candidates for urban tree canopy efforts. This led to Green Macomb's inaugural project – the Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership.

Green Macomb seeks to educate people about the important role that trees play in neighborhoods and to replenish tree canopies in urban areas that have been hard-hit by Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch elm disease and urban development. It seeks to enhance green infrastructure by educating, encouraging and assisting with conservation and preservation efforts.

“This is a long-term program that is destined to make a long-lasting effect in Macomb County,” said Gerard Santoro, program manager for Macomb County's Land and Water Resources Group.

Green Macomb's first goal is to boost tree canopies in these targeted areas. Trees are important for clean air and water, to prevent flooding by managing storm water runoff and help reduce home energy costs. They can also increase property values and have been known to boost physical and mental health, he said.

With a grant from the Michigan DNR and U.S. Forestry Service and matching funds from ITC Holdings, the Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership is working to plant trees.

Nearly 250 trees were planted in Utica and Warren last fall. In Warren, volunteers planted trees along the SMART bus stops on Macomb Community College's 12 Mile Road campus. The plantings were designed to add beauty, block wind and provide shade along the bus route and make the area overall more pleasant for students and visitors.

In Utica, trees were planted along the Clinton River Hike and Bike Trail near Jimmy John's Field and downtown Utica.

In all, 1,000 trees are to be planted besides those in the two demonstration areas. The first 500 will be provided to the 12 tar-




Green Macomb seeks to increase urban tree canopies.

geted communities and an additional 500 trees will be competitively awarded in the next year.

Santoro said Green Macomb also encourages residents to get involved by planting their own trees.

“This is something that everybody can do. It's not just a municipal program,” he said. “Success will depend on private participation.”

To assist residents, Green Macomb has published planting guides and other community resources. These are posted on the organization's website, Green.Macombgov.org. 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY



Volunteers planted trees along the SMART bus stops on Macomb Community College's 12 Mile Road campus.



Above: Macomb is seeking to boost tree canopies in 12 Macomb County communities.

Right: Nearly 250 trees were planted in Warren and Utica last fall, including these along the Clinton River Hike and Bike Trail



Trees are important for clean air and water, to prevent flooding by managing storm water runoff and help reduce home energy costs.



Trees were planted along the Clinton River Hike and Bike Trail near Jimmy John's Field and downtown Utica.



Established neighborhoods

Today's housing market looks to the past to create a promising future

By Jane Peterson

With moving season right around the corner and a housing sector that has been heating up since last spring, builder Joe Iacopelli has two words for first-time homebuyers in Macomb County: Established neighborhoods.

Subdivisions with deep roots in local communities are often near amenities young people and growing families want to be close to, like downtown areas rich with dining options, entertainment experiences and retail shopping. They also may have well-developed landscapes, established access to municipal services and be in close proximity to community assets like parks, playgrounds, schools and libraries.

"Prices are going up and costs and land values are rising, too," said Iacopelli, owner of Iacopelli Building Co., which is based in Sterling Heights. "The majority of first-time buyers are looking for affordable homes in the \$200,000 range and they may not be

able to afford new homes in new neighborhoods."

Iacopelli is excited about efforts in communities like St. Clair Shores where officials are taking a serious stance on blighted housing.

The city has been purchasing tax-foreclosed properties for the last seven years, said Chris Rayes, director of Community Development for St. Clair Shores. Depending on the conditions of the homes, they are either renovated and upgraded or the home is demolished and the lots placed for sale. Either way, the goal is to improve neighborhoods, put vacant properties back the tax rolls and attract new families to the area with homes that are move-in ready, he said.

These homes are outfitted with features that are sought-after by today's homebuyers, like front porches, attached garages, hardwood floors and granite countertops, said Iacopelli, whose company has recently rebuilt seven homes in St. Clair Shores.

"Neighbors are pretty open to the changes because it eliminates blight and raises property values," he added.

The goal is to attract buyers who want to make Macomb County their home, not make a quick buck by flipping, re-selling or renting the properties. So far, St. Clair Shores has purchased approximately 70 homes and vacant properties, said Rayes, who is pleased with the results he has seen in local neighborhoods.

"I think this trend is going to continue," said Iacopelli, "not only in the residential sector, but it should also help downtown areas grow." **M**

PHOTO COURTESY OF IACOPELLI BUILDING CO.

CONNECT

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St. Clair Shores

Phone: 586-795-5150

Online: iacopelliBuilders.com

To learn more about curbing blight, call 586-447-3340.



Older neighborhoods have plenty to offer first-time homebuyers looking for affordable housing says Joe Iacopelli (right), owner of Iacopelli Building Co. in Sterling Heights. He is pictured with his son-in-law Eddie Sanchez, who is superintendent at the company.

Community

- 32** Center Line
- 33** Charter Township of Clinton
- 34** Shelby Township
- 36** Eastpointe

Center Line

Small town lifestyle in the heart of Metro Detroit

A TRUE COMMUNITY

Center Line has more than 80 years of rich history tied together by the strength of many families who have been residents of the city for several generations. The community gets in the bloodstream of its residents, resulting in a fierce pride of the city, its residents and its businesses. With easy accessibility to major thoroughfares and just minutes away from north Macomb County, many parts of Oakland County, downtown Detroit and more, Center Line is small-town lifestyle in the heart of Metro Detroit. Center Line oozes charm and personality. It is an environmentally-conscience city with a large parks and recreation system, widely recognized and accredited public safety departments, urban forestry and green infrastructure programs, a modern, contemporary library and efficient public works team dedicated to providing city services. The Center Line, Van Dyke and Warren Consolidated school districts and the Math and Science Academy service city residents and Macomb Community College campus sites are minutes away. And events such as the Center Line Independence Festival, first celebrated in 2016, help give the city its personality.



ter of Warren Township, which is now the City of Warren, and as a city in 1936.

Farms lined the road, and eventually a store and saloon made their appearance at the corner of Sherwood and Ten Mile Roads in the mid-1940s. The crossroads

with such a “shopping and recreation center”, naturally became the meeting place of the local population. The strong sense of community that was created in the city over the years ensured that Center Line would remain viable even as other communities in Macomb County sprouted up and grew over the years.

FUTURE GROWTH

Center Line is poised for future growth with an effort to transform its downtown district from 9½ Mile to 11 Mile to be a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly community. An ongoing development effort is underway to make Center Line the most unique and progressive downtown community in the densely populated area of Southwest Macomb County.

Retail and commercial development efforts are ongoing that offer investors and business owners buildings from one to four stories tall, with upper floor residential properties mixed in between 9½ and 10 Mile Roads. More traditional commercial developments of no more than two stories are available between 10 and 11 Mile. The end product will turn Center Line into a destination downtown that feels like the small town it is, while providing resources and tax base of a larger city.


Industrial employers also see the potential Center Line offers as highlighted by the \$80 million investment that global Tier 1 automotive supplier Sodecia USA announced in 2016 it would make for its North American headquarters in Center Line.



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

As conceptual ideas for this vision of a future downtown Center Line are being developed, city officials recognize the importance of ensuring the infrastructure can support such growth. Among the planned strategies:

- Potential expansion of the Iron Belle Trail close to downtown Center Line
- Efforts to secure funding to resurface and redo curbs along 10 Mile Road
- Partnering with SEMCOG and the Macomb Planning & Economic Development to seek additional funds and understand other infrastructure challenges
- Direct outreach with residents and business owners in Center Line to engage in town hall and other discussions around infrastructure needs
- Approval to update and redesign four gateway signs around the perimeter of Center Line, welcoming visitors to the city

For more information email dchampine@centerline.gov or call 586-202-5608. 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CENTER LINE

FAST FACTS

Founded: Settled in 1837 and incorporated in 1936

Population (2010 census): 8,257

Square miles: 1.74

Median age: 41.2

HISTORY

Having just celebrated its 80th anniversary, Center Line has come a long way since it first became a “city” in 1936. There are several theories regarding the name “Center Line”. The theory is that the French named it Center Line because it was the middle of three Potawatomi trails from Fort Detroit to northern trading posts. The ‘center line’ was the trail used from Detroit to Utica.

The “Centre Line” post office closed on July 31, 1906, and the name was restored to Center Line thereafter. In this era, street car tracks connected Detroit to Center Line along Van Dyke Road, and Ten Mile Road was the final stop of the street car. The village was incorporated in 1925 in the cen-

Charter Township of Clinton

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AMENITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS

The Charter Township of Clinton is the most populous township in the state of Michigan. Yet despite its size, Clinton Township offers residents a wealth of tight-knit residential neighborhoods with all the amenities that families require. Parks and recreation are unique and varied in the township, with a variety of indoor and outdoor activities offered throughout the year. There is a dedicated dog park, which is part of an 11-park system. The Clinton-Macomb Public Library, with three locations, is one of the largest libraries in the county. Finally a 15,000-square-foot Senior Adult Life Center offers arts and crafts, exercise and fitness, and travel programs.

EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTHCARE CENTER OF MACOMB COUNTY

Five K-12 school districts serve township residents providing educational programs for all students, including those who are gifted and children with special needs. There are more than 14,000 students enrolled in a wide array of degree programs at the Clinton Township campus of Macomb Community College (MCC) and 6,000 students at two campuses of Baker College. The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is one of many satellite programs available onsite at MCC's University Center.

Three full-service hospitals are located within a five-mile radius in Clinton Township. Residents have convenient access to Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, McLaren Macomb Hospital and Children's Hospital of Michigan.

FUTURE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

The Clinton Township Gratiot Downtown Development Authority (DDA) counts more than 300 businesses as members, and the high-profile Gratiot Avenue corridor carries




FAST FACTS

Founded: Settled in 1782
Population: 100,500
Square miles: 28.2
Median age: 37

more than 70,000 vehicles. The Township is committed to finding the right mix of retail, industrial and residential areas. For example, the Mall at Partridge Creek is an open-air shopping mall with 90 stores and a pet-friendly environment, but is also minutes away from residential areas for middle class families.

EVENTS ARE HELD YEAR-ROUND

The DDA also hosts the annual Clinton Township Gratiot Cruise that attracts thousands of classic car fans, bringing millions of dollars into the community each year. The annual Festival of the Senses Art Show is a two-day art festival that features more than 100 artists, food vendors, local entertainers and samplings from nearby restaurants. Clinton Township also holds its annual fireworks and concert event each July and several military veteran recognition events in conjunction with Resurrection Cemetery. Learn more at www.clintontownship.com. 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP





[Fast Facts]

Location: At the crossroads of the M-59 and M-53 expressways, Shelby Township offers easy access to educational, industrial and recreational assets

Key sectors: Advanced Manufacturing; Hospitality; Recreation; Healthcare; Residential

Business contact: Planning Director Glenn Wynn, AICP
Office: 586-726-7243; email: planning@shelbytwp.org



Shelby Township offers fast track for new, expanding businesses

A working partnership between local government and business places Shelby Township as an integral part of the growth of the metro Detroit and Michigan economy.

Initiatives such as tax incentives and constantly improving and expanding infrastructure has helped the township cement relationships with some of the top industrial firms in the nation including: Fori Automation; General Dynamics; KUKA Robotics; Paslin Automotive; and Flex-N-Gate.

“When we are contacted that a new business venture is on the horizon, Shelby Township springs into action,” Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. “In Shelby Township the door is always open and the red tape is minimized to help businesses take root and grow.”

Whether it is a new company or an established firm looking to expand, Shelby Township offers personalized services to meet industry demands in the most cost-effective means possible.

Led by Planning Director Glenn Wynn, the township’s economic development team works to fuel the region’s growing economy.



Macomb County's Lowest-cost, full-service Community

Shelby Township boasts county's lowest local millage with full-service police, fire protection

Shelby Township's rate of 9.299 mills to fund a full-service township ranks lowest in Macomb County. Other comparable rates for full-service local government include 16.2952 mills in Clinton Township, 15.1858 mills in Sterling Heights and 21.2278 mills in St. Clair Shores.

The total 9.2999 mills tax rate costs taxpayers owning \$200,000 homes, which have a taxable value of \$100,000, \$929.99 per year.

"It is because of the dedication and professionalism of our employees that Shelby Township can boast the region's best service at Macomb County's best value," Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. "Our employees operate more efficiently and strategically than any team I can think of, and it allows our Board of Trustees to keep costs to taxpayers low."

Along with the region's top public safety professionals, Shelby Township offers residents more than 1,100 acres of first-class public parks and countless recreation options for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

"We do not cut corners in Shelby Township to keep our costs low," Stathakis said. "We work with all of partners in our community to ensure our residents get the best return on their tax dollars in Macomb County."



[Fast Facts]

Number of residents: 78,944

Known for: More than 1,100 acres of developed parkland, planned stop on statewide Iron Belle mountain bike trail

Website: www.shelbytwp.org



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Quick Links: Redevelopment Resources

- Master Land Use Plan
- Procedures Manual
- Conceptual Planning Meetings
- Collaborative, Consolidated and Shared Municipal Services Strategic Plan
- Eastpointe Zoning Map
- Strategic Fiscal Management Charts
- Public Participation Plan
- Stormwater Standards

Building roads for the future

Macomb seeks funding for multi-million dollar Mound Road construction project

By Mike Scott

The exact cost is unknown but it is expected to cost millions of dollars to rebuild Mound Road between I-696 and M-59 in Macomb County. But a coalition of municipalities and county departments is collaborating to do everything they can to ensure that funding is found for this project, and that it doubles as a high-tech testing ground for passenger vehicles of the future.

That stretch of Mound Road is an important thoroughfare in Macomb County, according to John Crumm, director of planning for Macomb County's road department. Many of the county's most prominent manufacturers and retailers are located in that area. It also provides access to residential areas as well, he said. But the road is more than 30 years old and short-term concrete fixes are no longer effective, Crumm said.

"It is in disrepair and is completely worn out," Crumm said. "We were replacing chunks of concrete over the years one mile at a time but the concrete is now crumbling around the edges."

So Crumm's department came together with the cities of Warren and Sterling Heights to develop a plan to overhaul the road over a few decades. Grant funding will be needed to pay the estimated \$150 million price tag to tear up the existing roadway, expand the width of the road to four lanes in both directions, rework the base, add drainage, add pedestrian access, pour new concrete and complete the landscaping.

Yet what sets this project apart is that once funding is approved, the Mound Road corridor will be ready for autonomous vehicles. The local consortium is partnering with General Motors on testing autonomous vehicles along this stretch of road now, with much of the testing about how the vehicles connect with traffic lights.

"This will be a state-of-the-art street both in structure and technology," Crumm said. "It will also create high-speed internet connections that will run along the corridor."

The 2017 calendar year will be dedicated to finding the funding for the project, which will include the pursuit of several federal grants. The nature of the collaboration among three public entities, and Mound Road's connection to a federal interstate, I-696 to the south, increases the chances of receiving grant money, Crumm said.

The goal is to begin construction in 2018 for the eight-mile stretch of road.

Learn more about road projects in Macomb County by visiting www.macombgov.org or calling 586-463-8671.

PHOTO BY RAY SKOWRONEK



Motorists on southbound Mound Road north of Interstate 696 in Warren, the southern border of a \$150 million plan to spruce up the Mound Road corridor.



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Senior housing

New development addresses the important needs of aging population

By Jane Peterson

A new senior living facility will open in the fall and the first of its kind in St. Clair Shores.

Called Lakeshore Senior Living, the development is located on the west side of Jefferson Avenue north of 11 Mile Road directly across from Lake St. Clair on the site of the former St. Gertrude High School and Catholic Church. It will house 144 units on three floors. In addition to one- and two-bedroom apartments for independent living, it will also include units for those who need assisted living for memory care.

The site will be managed by Presbyterian Villages of Michigan. Audra Frye, director of sales and marketing, said the senior community will also house a number of unique amenities, such as units on the second and third floors with a view of Lake St. Clair, 24-hour reception service and a pub on the third floor. St. Clair Shores Community Development Director Chris Rayes said the site of the former St. Gertrude Church and school is perfectly suited for a use such as this

A groundbreaking ceremony for Lakeshore Senior Living in St. Clair Shores was held on Aug. 31, 2016.

because it is surrounded by a residential neighborhood.

"It's the right location for the right place," said Rayes.

Amenities include complimentary laundry rooms on each floor, a pet-friendly atmosphere, unisex hair salon, fitness center and theater. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Aug. 31, 2016 and the site has been in active construction mode ever since.

"We are on track to move residents in this fall," said Frye.

Many who move in may be area residents. Rayes said many people understandably don't like to move far away from their friends, family, doctors, hairstylists and other service providers they are comfortable with. That means this type of development can better serve senior citizens in St. Clair Shores and offer more options in housing, he said.

Two baseball diamonds on the site will continue to be the home of community Little League games and practices as the athletic diamonds were donated to the city, said Rayes. **M**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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Roseville 48066
586-447-9200

Warren
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Melissa Roy

Executive Director of Advancing Macomb

By Mike Scott

Melissa Roy is the executive director of Advancing Macomb, a nonprofit organization comprising leaders from across Macomb County that is focused on creating long-term economic opportunities and sustainable communities.

Roy previously led public affairs for Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel. Modeled after organizations like Detroit Renaissance and Grand Action, Advancing Macomb — a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit — was launched in June 2013 in Mt. Clemens.

Q Why did you join Advancing Macomb and what opportunities did you see that it would provide?

A I think the Detroit area is one of the most under-leveraged economies in U.S. I am proud to be from this area - and specifically from Macomb County. Advancing Macomb has an incredible board of top leaders and a mission that connects with my personal and professional values.

Q What is the mission of your organization?

A We provide a strategic unified and leveraged civic leadership voice for Macomb County. We also identify and execute projects that assist a positive transformation of our local communities, economy and natural resources.

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

A We could not be anywhere else - literally - because our focus is entirely on Macomb County. Yet Macomb has so many assets that have not been leveraged for the total narrative of the region there is great opportunity to provide that story. The needs of economic and community development have changed over the past 20 years. What were formerly separate functions are now more successful as partner initiatives. Business development depends on a solid economy and the success and capabilities of individuals and individuals need a healthy and enriching environment to live and thrive.

Q How is your organization contributing to Macomb County's business and economic growth?

A We are funding and supporting key transformative projects throughout the county. Our projects are focused on redeveloping our local downtowns and town centers; enhancing our natural resources and promoting our global leadership in manufacturing.



Melissa Roy

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

A As a hotbed for a number of industries, from food to vehicle and manufacturing production technology, Macomb's economy yields a number of great business leaders and innovative thinkers. Here in Macomb we have a collection of great affordable communities with a range of assets. It is a community our

residents and business owners are proud to call home.

Coupled with the fact that we are a part of a major metropolitan area that is a global leader in transportation and production, Macomb County is a great under-marketed story that provides an environment for a lot of new development opportunity.

Q What does the future hold for your organization in Macomb County?

A There are a number of great projects in the planning stages that can help create a legacy for Macomb County and for the Detroit Region. The present time and the future holds many opportunities for Advancing Macomb to help catalyze these projects and help them continue to evolve in the future.

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

A Professionally, we have connected Advancing Macomb to as many partners as possible. I think that doing projects in conjunction with other organizations help give those projects the kind of strength and diversification they need to succeed. We have partnered with Leadership Macomb, No Bike Left Behind, The Macomb YMCA, Macomb County, Mt. Clemens co-working space The CoLaborative, Thoughtful Missions, The Clinton River Watershed Council, and a number of local communities across the county.

Personally, I serve on the boards of Detroit Public Television; The SMART bus system; The Detroit Zoo and the Detroit Convention & Visitors' Bureau. In each of these organizations and any other organization in which I become involved, I am proud to promote new opportunities for those organizations in Macomb. **M**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ADVANCING MACOMB

Kevin Chandler

Co-founder of NextGEN Macomb

By Mike Scott

Kevin Chandler has Macomb County running through his blood. As Dean of University Relations at Macomb Community College, Kevin has long been an advocate for the area. He also is the co-founder of NextGEN Macomb, an organization whose membership includes a group of young (20-40 year-old) leaders and professionals dedicated to making Macomb County a preferred place to live and work by engaging in community visioning, participating in community involvement, promoting Macomb's Live, Work, Play mantra and fostering professional development.

Kevin is also a trustee of the Village of New Haven along with other community roles.

Q What is the mission of NextGEN Macomb?

A We are dedicated to making Macomb County a preferred place to live and work by engaging in community visioning, participating in community involvement, promoting Macomb's live, work, play mantra and fostering professional development.

By investing in the Macomb area, we hope to strengthen the local economy, care for the community, and leverage influence in the county's future. It is a rewarding achievement to be engaged in your community and we want to propel that.

Q Where do your members come from?

A NextGEN Macomb is a group of young (20-40 something) leaders and professionals dedicated to making Macomb County a preferred place to live and work. For us it is all about engagement and helping community members to become as active as they want to be. Our members come from all over the Southeast Michigan region and have some sort of tie to Macomb County whether through work, home, friends or any other reasons.

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

A There are so many young professionals in Macomb County who want to get involved on a local level and this gives them a platform. A lot of our members understand that a substantial portion of change is driven from a local platform and they want to be a part of that. What's nice about our organization is the change can be through policy, volunteering, professional development, or through employment.



Kevin Chandler

Q How is your organization contributing to Macomb County's business and economic growth?

A The organization is contributing to that growth by harnessing and fostering that desire to develop this county. There is an intrinsic reward in knowing your actions are helping to solidify the direction of a place you call home or find a career. We have the ability to encourage our members to use

their skills, talents, degrees, abilities and experience to help propel Macomb forward as one of the prominent and progressive counties in the state of Michigan and in the U.S.

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


A Macomb County's elected officials, county departments, Macomb Community College, businesses and non-profits have been nothing but supportive and encouraging. They have helped in numerous ways to support and sponsor events. The county looks to NextGEN Macomb to help identify volunteers for various activities as well. The county also provides numerous professional development opportunities, and encourages collaboration on projects and initiatives.

Q What does the future hold for your organization in Macomb County?

A We have an extremely positive outlook. There are numerous county initiatives in the pipeline to support our community, infrastructure and more. We are also developing collaborative opportunities with other area young professional organizations. And we are excited to be working with various non-profits to provide volunteer services in the coming year.

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

A

- President and Co-Founder – NextGEN Macomb
- Dean of University Relations – Macomb Community College
- Vice Chairman- Macomb Chamber of Commerce, (Chair of Military Affairs and Economic Development)
- Vice President – Clinton River Watershed Council
- SEMCOG member
- President Pro-Tem and Trustee – Village of New Haven 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEXTGEN MACOMB

Barbara Rossmann

President and CEO of Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals

By Mike Scott

Barbara W. Rossmann joined the organization in 1999 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and was appointed president and chief executive officer in January 2004. Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals is among Macomb County's leading employers and health providers, with nearly 3,000 employees, 900 medical staff members, an acute care hospital with tertiary level services, an inpatient behavioral health facility and an extensive regional ambulatory network including six health centers.

With annual net operating revenue of approximately \$400 million, Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals is the second largest operating unit of Henry Ford Health System.

Q What is the mission of your organization?

A Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals shares the mission of Henry Ford Health System: to improve human life through excellence in the science and art of health care and healing. We strive to achieve this every day by being the Macomb regions' most trusted provider of care, and supporting health and well-being of those we serve.

Q Where do your patients come from?

A We serve all of Macomb County and surrounding regions.

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

A Our hospitals, health centers and medical staff partners are ideally positioned to play an integral role in the communities we serve. We are blessed with strong partnerships and support from other leaders, industries and service providers throughout the region, all working together to improve the health of Macomb County residents. The growth, diversity and exciting developments throughout the county are helping drive continued transformation of our services.

Q How is your organization contributing to Macomb County's business and economic growth?

A Henry Ford Macomb is one of the county's leading employers and healthcare providers, with approximately 3,500 employees, 1,000 medical staff members and an extensive regional ambulatory network that includes six health centers. We reinvest our profits in the services we provide, reinvest



Barbara Rossmann

in our buildings and give back to the community. In 2015, HFMH contributed more than \$34 million in community benefit programs and services to residents of Macomb County and surrounding communities.

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

A By providing a desirable place for people to live, work and play with affordable housing, attractive jobs and recreational opportunities – Macomb County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Michigan, which in turn gives us the chance to impact the health of a diverse and growing population.

Q What does the future hold for your organization in Macomb County?

A We remain committed to continuing our more than a century-long tradition of providing high quality care to those we serve. This requires a continuous investment in our technology, people and the community. This spring, we look forward to the opening of our newly constructed Richmond Health Center. It will offer easier access to health care and a wider variety of services to citizens of northern Macomb and southern St. Clair counties. We are also in the middle of a \$15 million Capital Campaign to expand our Clinton Township hospital's surgical services, which is essential to meeting the future health care needs of our residents, while ensuring we can continue to recruit, retain and educate top surgeons in our region. A key feature of the expansion is a hybrid operating room for cardiovascular surgery – a first-of-its-kind in Macomb County. A hybrid cardiovascular surgical suite is equipped with medical imaging devices like CT or MRI scanners, providing surgeons with real-time information that results in more accurate, advanced treatment and safer, shorter procedures.

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

A I serve as a board member for a number of local organizations, including the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Macomb Health Plan, Leadership Macomb, Advancing Macomb, Macomb Community College Foundation and the Advisory Board for Families Against Narcotics. **M**

PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRY FORD MACOMB HOSPITALS

By the Numbers

- 45** Business Mix
- 46** Recent Investment
- 47** Workforce Talent



Business Mix

MACOMB COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

17,000

► Businesses in Macomb County

3,400

Approximately **3,400** businesses in Macomb are certified **minority- and/or woman-owned.**

- In 2014, **Macomb's GDP** was **\$38.6 billion.**
- More than **70 firms** with headquarters outside the U.S. have operations in Macomb County.
- As of June 2016, at least **9 million** square feet of industrial space was available in the county as well as an estimated **2.2 million** square feet of office space.

TOP Establishments

By industry

Retail trade	2,399
Health care, social assistance	1,952
Services	1,719
Manufacturing	1,634
Professional services	1,597
Accommodations and food	1,557

TOP Industries

By number of employees

Manufacturing	70,190
Retail trade	40,498
Health care and social services	39,073
Education and government	35,346
Accommodations and food service	27,445

TOP Employers

General Motors
U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command
Fiat Chrysler America
Ford Motor Company
St. John Providence Health System
General Dynamics Land Systems
McLaren Macomb Health Care
Faurecia North America
Johnson Controls

Recent Investment

MACOMB COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.48
BILLION

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles to build the next-generation Ram 1500.



\$1
BILLION

General Motors - \$1 billion and **2,600 new jobs** for its Technical Center in Warren including new design studios, renovated labs, an IT Center and additional testing facilities at its Advanced Energy Center.



\$84
MILLION

Portugal-based **Sodecia**, a global Tier I supplier of chassis, powertrain and "body in white" commodities - \$84 million and **300 new jobs** to develop its North American headquarters in Center Line.



\$30
MILLION

UK-based **Cosworth**, high performance automotive engineering and manufacturing group - \$30 million and **50 new jobs** in Shelby Township.



\$28
MILLION

Transform Automotive LLC, manufacturer of precision powertrain and engine components as well as tool and die equipment - \$28 million and **135 new jobs**.



\$22
MILLION

Paslin, robotic assembly line designer, assembler and integrator - \$22 million and **225 new jobs**.



\$18
MILLION

Art Van Furniture, a family-owned retailer with 39 stores in four states - \$18 million and **166 new jobs** for their headquarters in Warren.



\$10
MILLION

Germany-based **KUKA Systems North America**, manufacturer of automated systems and assemblies for the automotive, aerospace and alternative energy industries - \$10 million and **100 new jobs** in Clinton Township.



\$3.6
MILLION

Global Tooling Systems, key supplier of aerospace assembly tools and tooling designs - \$3.6 million and **70 new jobs** in Macomb Township.



Workforce Talent

MACOMB COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS



436,357

► More than 430,000 residents are in the **workforce**, with **2 million** more throughout the region.

Michigan ranks **first in the nation: Electric, mechanical and industrial engineers.**



232,000

Overall, the region's high-tech workforce ranks **third in the nation for the number of engineers (87,000)**, research & development specialists (70,000) and journeyed skilled tradespeople (75,000).

60%

Nearly 60 percent of Macomb County residents over the age of 25 **have some college education**; 22 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher.

62,509

Michigan colleges produce **more than 62,000 graduates** in a full range of disciplines each year.



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- Snoezelen Room and program for Alzheimer's and memory loss residents

Our Life Plan Community

- Planned programming and social engagements
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