

Industry | Innovation | Technology | Opportunity | Community | Diversity

# MOMENTUM

Uniquely Macomb County, Michigan  
Volume 2, Issue 2

## Dramatic changes

Innovation keeps National Bronze strong after 106 years in business

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Motown Soup takes volunteering to a new level

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How GM's Helen Emsley found her dream job in Macomb County

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A smiling man with short dark hair, wearing a light grey cardigan over a purple patterned shirt and a purple patterned tie, is sitting at a desk. He is looking towards the camera with a friendly expression. On the desk in front of him are a laptop, a pen, and some papers. To his right, the back of a woman's head with blonde hair is visible. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window showing greenery outside.

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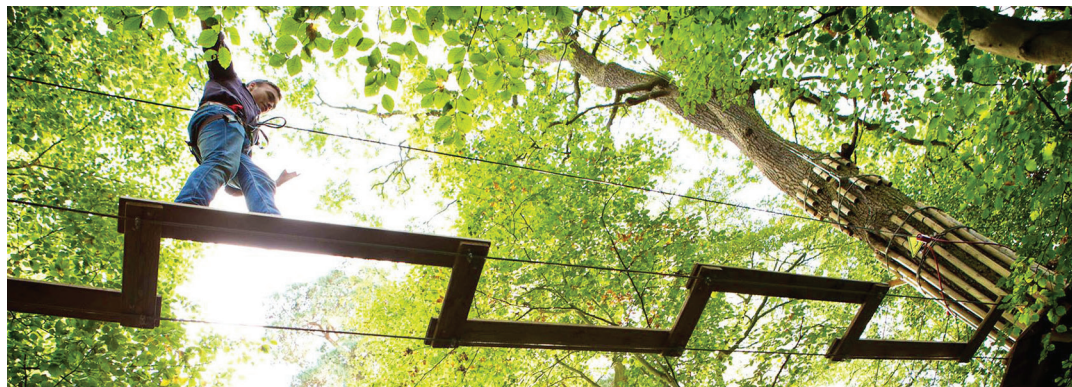


PHOTO COURTESY OF HURON-CLINTON METRO PARKS

The Go Ape! Zipline and Treetop Adventure, at Stony Creek Metropark, is a 2-3-hour journey through the forest canopy as you take on suspended obstacles, Tarzan swings and breathtaking zip lines.

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**On the cover:** Michael Hill clamping a work piece into one of National Bronze Manufacturing's computerized machining centers. The CNC machining centers allow the company to streamline multiple operations and effectively compete with competition from countries with much lower labor and operating costs.

PHOTO BY DAVID ANGELL FOR DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

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

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# Summer fun in Macomb County

County Executive Mark Hackel:  
New assets in place just in time for  
enjoying Macomb's out-of-doors

**Q** What are some of your favorite things to do during the summer?

**A** When I was a teenager growing up in Warren, I discovered Lake St. Clair and was amazed by how we are to such an amazing natural environment. That "Up North" experience of being close to nature really is in our own backyard. Physical fitness is important to me. I love taking my bike out on the Macomb Orchard Trail and traveling at a pace where I let my senses really take in the sights, sounds and smells of our agricultural land.

A couple of summers ago, I tried paddleboarding on Lake St. Clair for the first time and I have to say, it is a great workout as well as a really unique way to enjoy our fresh water.

I also really enjoy taking the family to baseball games at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. President and Founder Andy Appleby has done an amazing job of creating a fun environment where there is something different happening every night.

**Q** What's new in outdoor recreation in Macomb County?

**A** Stony Creek Metropark in Washington Township just installed a challenge course set in the treetops at the park. Managed by a company with courses all over the United States, "Go Ape" provides all needed equipment and offers a lesson on course safety and etiquette lesson. Their guides help get you started and then offer assistance throughout the challenges and ziplines throughout the park. I was one of the first to try it and I had a blast!

Gene Shepard Park in Shelby Township has a brand new splash park which is going to be a great place for families to visit and cool off during the hot summer months. I want to check out the new rustic trail from the park that leads to Yates Cider Mill.

**Q** What recreational assets are on the horizon?

**A** I am really excited about the new universally accessible canoe and kayak launch scheduled to be built this summer in downtown Mount Clemens on the Clinton River. This offers a great place to put in or as a place where paddlers can pull in and enjoy downtown restaurants, bars or summer concert season.

**Q** Communities across the county gather for special events over the summer. Which are some of your "can't miss" events?

**A** This is a hard one to pinpoint – I attend so many of them! I think our friends in Roseville have done a great job in bringing the Rose Festival back to life (June 8-11, <http://www.rosefest.info/>). Sterling Heights and the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce have done an amazing job growing Sterlingfest (July 27-29, <https://www.sterling-heights.net/714/Sterlingfest>) and of course, the Michigan Peach Festival in Romeo is a great way to cap off the summer over Labor Day weekend (<http://michiganpeachfest.com/>)

Bassmaster Elite returns to Lake St. Clair Metropark in August along with the Bass, Brews & BBQ Festival. It's a great combination of fishing, music and good eats!

These are just a few. Pretty much any day of the summer you'll find something interesting to do in Macomb County. A running list is maintained on the Make Macomb Your Home events calendar.



Photo courtesy of Macomb County



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**Left:** A volunteer assists with soup production efforts at Motown Soup.



**Right:** Volunteers – many from Macomb County – package soup at Motown Soup.

# New level of volunteering

Motown Soup is a good product that's good for Macomb County communities

*By Jane Peterson*

**W**hen you take a cup of dried beans and add in a few caring volunteers, you've got a recipe for success in the form of Motown Soup, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for local charities.

On any given Tuesday, up to 100 people gather together at Trinity Lutheran Church to prep, package and label dry soup mixes. This production line isn't a job, but rather a labor of love.

These volunteers donate their time to Motown Soup, a Utica-based organization that sells soup mixes and donates the profits to ministries in Macomb County and the surrounding Detroit metro area.

"We sold our first package of soup in September 2004," said Dan Karlin, facilitator for Motown Soup. "Since then we have given \$750,000 back to local communities."

Motown Soup was formed when eight local ministries

decided to pool their efforts to make a greater overall impact in the community. Soup was chosen because it was a consumable product that people could buy again and again. Organizers started with a simple bean soup with dried beans and seasonings. Volunteers sold the soups via word of mouth and at local craft shows.

"After the success of the bean soup, a culinary arts instructor gave us a potato soup recipe," said Karlin. "Soon we expanded into other varieties, including some vegan options."

Today Motown Soup sells nearly 20 different soup flavors as well as a selection of sides and baked goods. Soups include: Beef barley and vegetable, Bonnie's cream of jalapeno, Buscia's stuffed green pepper, cheese and broccoli, chicken pot pie, homemade chicken noodle, Maggie's premium white chicken chili, Margaret Ann's lemon chicken orzo, Mateo's awesome tortilla, Richard's tortellini, shiitake mushroom caps with





**Above:** Motown Soup's products are available in a variety of flavors, including homemade chicken noodle, tomato basil bisque and chicken pot pie. **Right:** A volunteer packages soup at Motown Soup. The soup mixes are sold at craft shows, artisan markets, retail stores and online. **Bottom right:** Motown Soup's products are available in a variety of flavors to suit all tastes. Regular versions are great choices for families while half versions are great for individuals and couples who don't need to make a large pot of soup.



wild rice and Sister Rita's rainbow bean soup. New to the lineup is Uncle Vinny's Old World Lasagna Soup Mix.

Customers like helping out those in need, but they come back time and time again because the soup mixes taste good, said Karlin. Most soups made fresh with the dried ingredients and seasonings are ready to eat in 15 to 20 minutes, making a quick and easy supper any night of the week. Soup mixes are available in two sizes: Large that serves 6-8 people for \$8 and small that serve 3-4 for \$5.

Among the sides and baked goods are mixes for cornbread, brownies, cocoas, dips, muffins and cookies.

These products are sold online at [MotownSoup.com](http://MotownSoup.com) and at Art Is In Markets and retail stores. All profits are distributed to local organizations that help those in need, including soup kitchens, homeless shelters and food banks.


Organizations benefitting from the \$150,000 raised in 2016 included Capuchin Soup Kitchen, City Rescue Mission, Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners Food Bank, Lighthouse, Macomb Warming Shelter, Manna Food Pantry, Trinity Community Care, St. Paul Lutheran Food Ministry, MCREST Shelter and many others.

Many of Motown Soup's volunteers are from Macomb County, says Karlin. Some participate as part of a work organization, like employees from General Motors or area credit unions that lend a helping hand. Others donate their time as individuals or to fulfill community service hours.

Once a year, Motown Soup hosts a luncheon for its hard-



working volunteers. They invite a few of the nonprofit organizations that receive funds from the soup sales to come in and share how their efforts help neighbors in need.

"For many, poverty isn't real until they see for themselves. You hear about it, but it doesn't really hit your heart," said Karlin.  Photos courtesy of Larry Peplin

#### CONNECT

##### **Motown Soup**

45160 Van Dyke Ave., Utica, MI 48317

Phone: (586) 731-4490, ext. 3, for more information.

Online: [motownsoup.com](http://motownsoup.com)

Volunteers are always needed to package and label soup. Those ages 16 and older interested in donating their time can email [MotownSoup@yahoo.com](mailto:MotownSoup@yahoo.com)



# Dramatic changes

## Innovation keeps National Bronze strong after 106 years in business

By Jane Peterson

When National Bronze Manufacturing Company's biggest customer came to them in 2008 and said they wanted parts for less than cost or they would pull their business and take it overseas, the future of the company was uncertain. With the country entrenched in a deep recession and National Bronze mainly servicing the hard-hit auto industry, losing that single customer could have been disastrous.

At the time, National Bronze Manufacturing Company was a few years shy of marking 100 years in business. Founded in 1911, it was established as the National Bronze & Aluminum Foundry, a bronze casting foundry operating in a renovated horse stable on Detroit's lower eastside. Throughout its early years, business boomed as the company was a major supplier to the emerging auto industry. The company continued to thrive over the next several decades as they moved from casting to machining; produced parts for military vehicles, tanks and planes during World War II; and made durable goods such as bushings and bearings for pumps, machine tools, construction and agricultural equipment and hydraulics as the country focused on building its infrastructure following the war.

"In the 1970s, there was a change in the casting process to continuous casting technology. It really streamlined everything," said Michael Russo, vice president of business development. "We did real good business throughout the 70s, 80s and 90s."

National Bronze, one of the largest manufacturers and suppliers of bronze bushings, bearings and other industrial components, moved to Macomb County in 2002. At its new 15,000 square foot facility, the company could remain close to its client base and the welcoming business-oriented synergy in the county.

All this success led to that day in 2008 when National Bronze Manufacturing Company's leadership had to make that pivotal decision about their major customer's ultimatum. Knowing that it would impact the future of the company dramatically, they ended up declining the client's request anyway. Instead, they boldly set out on a path to diversify the company on their own terms.

"We are not afraid to take risks. We are not afraid of failing, either," said Russo.

National Bronze invested in new technology, made serious innovations in their company processes, diversified its client base and adopted a digital strategy to market its products to the masses.

A crucial cornerstone of the plan involved boosting National Bronze's online presence. As company officials looked for ways to reach potential customers in a cost-effective way using



Michael Hill visually inspecting a bronze wear plate after the initial machining operation. The CNC machining centers gives National Bronze the ability to machine bronze wear plates to precise tolerance and finishes, while ensuring the same level of accuracy in 1 or 1000 pieces.

technology, they took what Russo described as more of a "brochure website," and transformed it into a leading source of information for industry professionals.

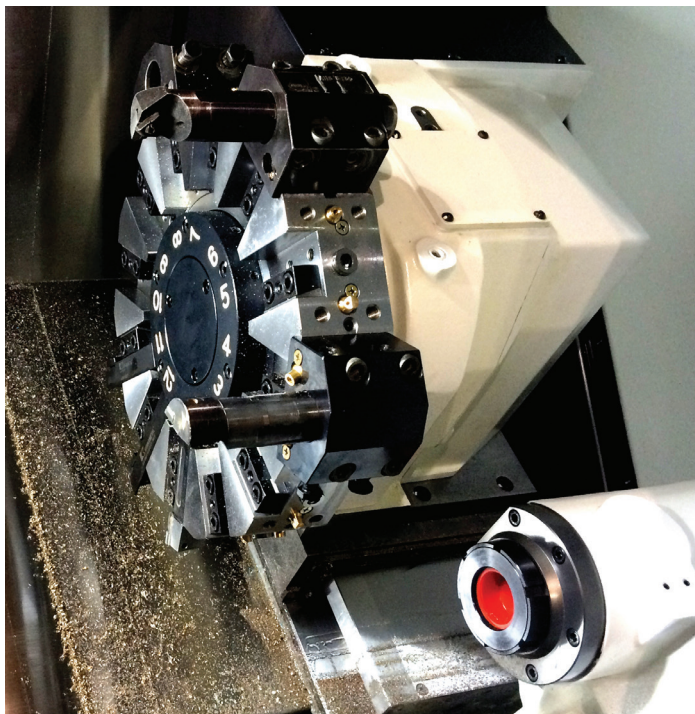
They did this by developing a blog that covered many topics of interest to small- to mid-sized companies. They also created a digital strategy to educate manufacturing buyers on how to purchase the products they needed online. The website eliminated the need for current and potential customers to place orders via phone, fax or email. Instead, they could access National Bronze's complete inventory online.

At its e-commerce website [www.bravobronze.com](http://www.bravobronze.com), National Bronze connected with local machine shops that needed products but were not big enough to purchase directly from the mills. The company had been in the metal service business since the 90's and this technology was the latest move to improve the metal service business. Today, that sector is a solid 50 percent of the company's business, Russo said.

"It was a great service to our customers. We discovered that at







This is one of National Bronze Manufacturing Company's newest state-of-the-art CNC lathes. Once programmed, it completely machines parts unattended. It also self-feeds additional raw bar stock and collects the chips for re-melting back at the company's mill. These types of machines can make parts 24/7 with accuracy – unheard of years before.



Nick Walsh honing the inner diameter of an engineered bronze bushing. National Bronze has developed processes and equipment to manufacture the highest quality bronze with attention to detail.



This is a piece of aluminum bronze round bar stock being cut for one of National Bronze Manufacturing's many metal service customers. Cutting material to the exact size customers need is one of the benefits that helped grow the company's metal service center.

10 p.m. and 2 a.m. sales were being made online that we would have never gotten before," said Russo.

National Bronze officials also noticed they were fielding many calls from individual customers. In response, they created a self-service e-commerce site at [www.bronzebushings.com](http://www.bronzebushings.com) and encouraged customers to go straight to the factory by purchasing online instead of through a representative. The website specializes in orders for standard size bushings that total less than 500 pieces.

"That has been an eye opening experience for us," said Russo. "We noticed that more and more businesses were using it."

In four short years, National Bronze went from its worst year in 2009 to its best year ever, said Russo, boosting its customer base from 200 to 7,000 by reaching out to smaller companies and individuals. In 2006, National Bronze added a 6,000 square foot warehouse to boost inventory. Five years later, the company purchased a 25,000 square foot facility in Roseville to expand service center inventories and processing. Recently, company officials announced a new 20,000 square foot building and an additional one acre of undeveloped land for future growth.

"The additional facility will be used to accommodate the company's growing product range. This investment reflects the long term commitment of the ownership to our customers, employees and to the community. The success we are enjoying is the direct result of the hard work and dedication of all of our employees," said Russo.

Efficient use of technology frees up staff members to focus their efforts on creating quality products and providing excellent customer service.

At its state-of-the-art facility, nearly all of its machines and processes are computerized with a paperless system that tracks customer orders electronically.

Each year National Bronze opens its facility up to local high school students by hosting Manufacturing Day. Russo said students are often shocked to discover a manufacturing plant that is all about computers and digital processes.

"We like to introduce young people to modern day manufacturing," said Russo.

"We want to bring the next generation of employees here. This is not your grandfather's manufacturing plant." **M**

Photos courtesy of National Bronze Manufacturing Company and David Angell for Digital First Media

#### CONNECT

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# A family legacy

## Headquartered in Center Line, Binson's is a leader in home healthcare

By Jane Peterson

When people think of the healthcare field, what often comes to mind are hospitals, emergency rooms and doctor's offices. However, there is another aspect of healthcare that few people seem to consider, at least until they or a loved one needs it – home care.

Since 1953, Binson's Medical Equipment and Supply Company has been supplying individuals, hospitals, nursing homes, doctor's offices and health providers with medical equipment and at-home supplies. The business was established when George Binson purchased the ever-busy Van's Pharmacy in Center Line. As was custom in those days, the pharmacy made deliveries, and while he was out and about George discovered a real need for people to have access to healthcare items in their home.

According to George's son, James (Jim) Binson, people were struggling to provide their sick loved ones with proper care as they fought cancer or struggled with chronic conditions like cystic fibrosis. That prompted George to start delivering medical equipment to homes along with other pharmacy staples.

Those early years, George Binson had to be frugal to keep the doors open. Jim remembered that the only salary his father took from the store came from the penny scale and stamp machine.

As the company continued to grow, Binson's became a pioneer in the industry. Under George's leadership, it was among the first companies to provide home infusion (IV) therapy in Michigan, said Jim. The company was also one of the first to bring patients home with home ventilator care, he added.

In the late 1960s, Binson's acquired 80 hospital beds that Henry Ford Hospital no longer needed. They fixed them up and started delivering them to homes so people who were ill no longer had to be propped up on pillows on the couch, said Jim, who took over as president and CEO after George's retirement.

Binson's continues to be family-owned and operated, with George's grandchildren Bob, Jimmy, Nick and Robbyn in the business. Bob's daughters Stephanie, who works in the business office, and Tina, an auditor, makes the family is a fourth generation-company. In addition, more than 100 employees have another family member working at Binson's.

"We have lots of loyalty. We consider them family," said Bob.

And Center Line continues to be home to the company's headquarters. Today Binson's employs 600 people in 14 locations across the state, including three in Macomb County, and in Florida. Recent expansions in the past decade include opening stores in Sterling Heights, Dearborn, Livonia, Troy and in St. Mary Mercy Hospital. Binson's also purchased H-Care, a medical supplier in Flint, from Hurley Medical Center.

In the last 10 years, business has grown 150 percent as some of their competitors have gone out of business, partly due to



Binson's Medical Equipment and Supply Company's Executive Team rolls out order number 10 million. Pictured are: Jim Willhite, Jimmy Binson, Bob Binson, Jim Binson, Nick Binson and Ken Fasse.



Binson's Race for the Cure team is pictured.

**BINSON'S**  
Medical Equipment & Supplies  
*Since 1953*

changes in the Medicare bid process. Binson's is one of 18 companies nationwide to receive the Medicare bid.

Macomb County is a great place for businesses, said Bob, who also serves as the mayor of Center Line. He said more than 350,000 residents live within five miles of Center Line's borders – one of the largest population centers in Michigan.

Binson's takes its responsibility to the community seriously. Throughout the years they have donated funds to charities including the Karmanos Cancer Institute and Muscular Dystrophy Association. They also support the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, with Binson's team raising \$8,000 in donations this year.

Binson's Medical Equipment and Supply Company continues to grow. Bob said their major strength is being able to adapt to changes in the ever-evolving healthcare industry. He recently traveled to Washington D.C. to speak out on healthcare issues and said he will continue fighting so customers can live healthier, longer lives. "It's an interesting part of healthcare to provide these services in the home," said Bob. "We help when people need it the most. It's why we keep on doing what we do." **M**

Photos courtesy of Binson's Medical Equipment and Supply Company

### CONNECT

#### Binson's Medical Equipment and Supply Company

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Online: [binsons.com](http://binsons.com)





The U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's procurement network includes a depot that repairs M1 tanks.

# HIGH-TECH ARSENAL

TACOM uses the latest technology to keep soldiers safe

*By Jane Peterson*

Tucked away in a quiet corridor lined with traditional office buildings in Warren, The U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) is a stark contrast to active military bases. Instead of training soldiers for combat, the Macomb County headquarters for TACOM LCMC is charged with developing, acquiring and moving tank-automotive systems, equipment and supplies.

"We are responsible for the national readiness of the Army's vehicles and truck fleet," said COL Jeffrey D. Witt, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army TACOM LCMC, "but it is the hidden secret of Macomb County."

It's where cutting edge strategies are being developed to help ensure that troops have the best equipment and supplies available when they need it on the battlefield. To achieve this, TACOM LCMC partners with three other organizations located on the campus: The United States Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), the

Program Executive Offices and the Army Contracting Center.

Each has its own role to support soldiers, but operations between the four entities are seamlessly synchronized: TARDEC develops cutting-edge technology; the Program Executive Offices apply technology to emerging systems and oversee new equipment acquisition for the Army; the Army Contracting Center takes care of the contracts for supplies with manufacturers; and TACOM LCMC manages these advanced military tools, keeping equipment well maintained throughout its life cycle and ready when soldiers need it.

As a result of their efforts, TACOM LCMC manages approximately 67 percent of everything a soldier wears, drives or uses on a daily basis, said Witt.

Under the command of Maj. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters, Jr., Commanding General, TACOM is located on the Detroit Arsenal, property that among other facilities once housed the Detroit Arsenal Tank Plant that mass produced tanks for World





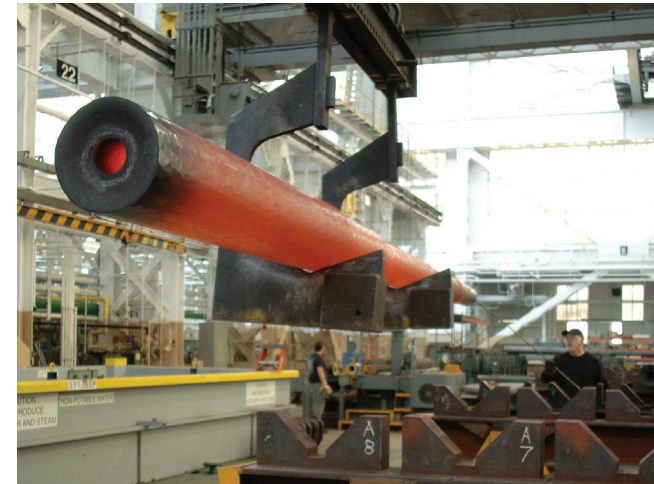
A view of the Sierra Army Depot. The depot has a large storage facility where military vehicles can be refurbished as needed. The depot is part of the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's procurement network.



Work at the Red River Army Depot, one of the six depots and arsenals in the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's procurement network.



The Rock Island Foundry is part of the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's procurement network.



The Watervliet Arsenal displays a newly forged gun tube. The arsenal is part of the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's procurement network.

War II in the 1940s.

Macomb County is the ideal place for the enterprise headquarters, said Witt, because of the partnerships they have here with other companies, including the automotive industry.

TARDEC, which creates technology solutions for ground systems, looks at emerging technologies and seeks ways to apply it to military vehicles. Technologies such as autonomous vehicles can reduce the risk to soldiers as they deliver supplies, for example.

Fuel efficiency technologies are currently being tested because the more fuel-efficient the Army is, the easier is it to fight, said Witt. TARDEC is working with the Michigan Department of Transportation and General Motors on hydrogen fuel cells, which would create quieter military vehicles with reduced re-fueling requirements.

While TACOM LCMC manages the supply chain at its headquarters in Warren, it has a procurement network that totals

19,000 personnel in more than 130 locations worldwide, including six depots and arsenals located across the United States. The Macomb County location has 7,000 employees. Of this number, approximately 100 are military personnel and the remainder are civilians. There are also 300 logistics representatives stationed around the world to assist military mechanics with troubleshooting systems and identifying trends and potential trouble spots that need to be addressed.

Witt referred to TACOM LCMC as the corporate side of the Army that keeps it running. All systems always need to be ready to go because they never know where the next threat may be and what supplies will be needed.

"We solely exist to support Army readiness and we quietly complete our mission," said Witt. "We have a professional workforce focused on ensuring soldiers can go to war tomorrow with equipment that is modern and functional." **M**

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command



# High school embraces its artistic side

## Arts Academy in the Woods also celebrates diversity

By Jane Peterson

For students at Arts Academy in the Woods High School, art isn't just a school subject, it's a verb.

Every day at this free, public school in Fraser, the arts are celebrated as they are integrated into a rigorous academic curriculum.

"It's a way of looking at the world through an artistic lens that applies to language arts, math, social studies and science," said Principal Michael A. Mitchell Ed.D. "Lots of schools include art, but there are very few that integrate art."

The student body is diverse, a mix of students from across Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties who express themselves best creatively through dance, music and writing.

"Some kids struggle to fit into other high schools. We are an open, accepting and diverse community with students who have different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. We have LGBTQT kids. Everyone is welcome here," he said.

Typically young people are used to others who are like them, said Mitchell, but they find that artistically-inclined students are very accepting of others. To ensure a smooth transition, school begins each year with a three-day orientation for new students, led by current students, that focuses on diversity.

"We encourage kids to be who they are," Mitchell said. "They find their voice here."

Staff members also receive training from outside organizations on how to facilitate helping students understand and get along with each other.

Every student majors in an art that speaks to them. A wide variety of choices are available, including dance, vocal music, drama, creative writing, instrumental music and multimedia and visual arts. Throughout their studies, students compile a portfolio of their work and achievements that is presented as a senior project.

Students complete the Michigan Merit Curriculum and by the time they graduate, have earned multiple art credits. Classroom instruction is driven by the concept of arts integration. Instead of



memorizing parts of human anatomy, for example, students may draw a skeleton and label it. In social studies, a class created a mural that represented the pain of political strife during a civics lesson.

"Students learn how to use art to express certain emotions," said Mitchell. "They also use academic lessons to elicit art."

Every May as the end of the school year approaches, students participate in An Evening of the Arts, a celebration of music, song, dance, spoken word, drama, visual art and multi-media arts.

Arts Academy in the Woods was founded in 2001 by public school teachers. It is chartered by the Macomb Intermediate School and accepts children in grades 9-12. Its mission is to give students the tools they need to pursue their dreams. Currently, 350 students are enrolled, and Mitchell expects to continue seeing enrollment numbers increase.

Students graduate and go on to enjoy a variety of careers. Some become professional dancers or musicians. Others take more traditional career paths in education, business or social work.

"We all know someone who likes art," said Mitchell. "At Arts Academy in the Woods, art is who we are." **M**

Photos courtesy of Arts Academy in the Woods

### CONNECT

**Arts Academy in the Woods**  
32101 Caroline St., Fraser, MI 48026 (just northwest of the intersection of Masonic and Utica roads)  
Phone: (586) 294-0391  
Online: Artsacad.net  
The Arts Academy in the Woods is open to any Michigan student.





**Above:** Classroom instruction at Arts Academy in the Woods is driven by the concept of arts integration.

**Above:** Instrumental music is one of the areas of emphasis students can choose at Arts Academy of the Woods. **Middle right:** Every day at Arts Academy in the Woods in Fraser, the arts are celebrated as they are integrated into a rigorous academic curriculum. **Below:** Every student majors in an art that speaks to them.





# Data driven decision-making

## Mapping portal tells the story of Macomb County's successes

By Jane Peterson

When potential developers or investors inquire about a community's available vacant properties, they are really asking for more than just an address or directions to a building.

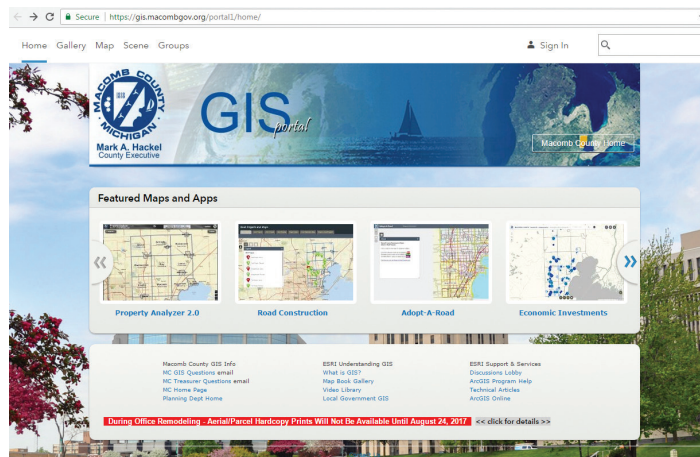
"Data drives decision-making," said Planning & Economic Executive Director John Paul Rea, "and behind every map, there is plenty of data. It's not just enough to say I know this property is available. It's about why is that property available? What is located nearby? What does the workforce around the property look like?"

Macomb County's Geographic Information System (GIS) portal includes an interactive economic investment map that allows interested persons to analyze investments others have made in the community, track patterns in job creation/retention and get a feel for where the future of the county is headed.

"It allows people to make more strategic business decisions," he said.

Investments are organized by year and industry with categories such as manufacturing, automotive, food/agricultural, healthcare and more. By clicking on their area of interest, developers can gain valuable insight into whether the community is the right fit for their development.

"The portal makes it easy to for people to get the information they need while highlighting successes in the billions of dollars



The mapping portal has attracted thousands of individual users, from residents checking on what their home is worth to investors seeking business opportunities.



Macomb County's Geographic Information System (GIS) team continues to work on maps that offer a snapshot of Macomb County at a glance.

of investments that have been made in Macomb County," said Rea.

The mapping portal is home to a wealth of information. Other maps that can be accessed in the portal include local shops; Macomb County parks, recreation and green spaces; road construction; and a property analyzer.

Found at GIS.MacombGov.org, the mapping portal has attracted thousands of individual users, he said, adding that residential real estate professionals love it and property owners can check how much their home is worth.

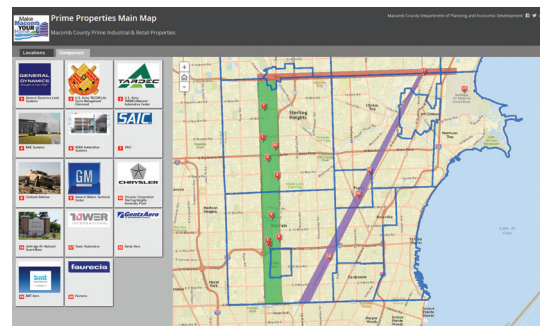
There is really no limit to the amount of information that can be included on a map. The GIS team is working with the sheriff's department on a public safety map to show how police and emergency personnel are deploying services.

Rea also mentioned the possibility of a health department map that could be used to track restaurant inspections, water quality and other public health issues. **M**

Photos courtesy of Macomb County

### CONNECT

Explore interactive maps that use Geographical Information Services (GIS) technology online at GIS.MacombGov.org. For more information about the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development, call (586) 469-5285 or visit Ped. MacombGov.org/PED-Home.



Pictured is the Prime Properties main map at GIS.MacombGov.org.





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R&E Automated Systems opened a 10,000 square foot state-of-the-art training facility. The company focuses on training young professionals, expanding the skills of those already in the workforce and offering on-site training for its own employees.

# Turnkey solutions

R&E Automated Systems offers custom services to boost productivity, profits

*By Jane Peterson*

**M**any Macomb County companies rely on employees with a specific set of technical knowledge and skill. For businesses that rely on automation processes, like R&E Automated Systems, proper training isn't an option; it is a critical component to the company's success.

R&E specializes in turnkey engineering solutions for automated systems. From design, programming, engineering, testing and prototype assembly, the company provides customized services designed to increase productivity and profitability.

R&E transforms concepts into reality using advancements

in robotic programming, mechanical design services and weld engineering. Once heavily focused on the automotive industry, today the company serves an ever-expanding diverse client base, including aerospace, automotive, pharmaceutical, agricultural and military industries.

"We like to stay cutting edge," said Anthony Bologna, general counsel for R&E Automated Systems.

Its efforts have paid off as the company has gone from employing 30 people to 400 in just 10 years.

As technology continues to advance and change the way





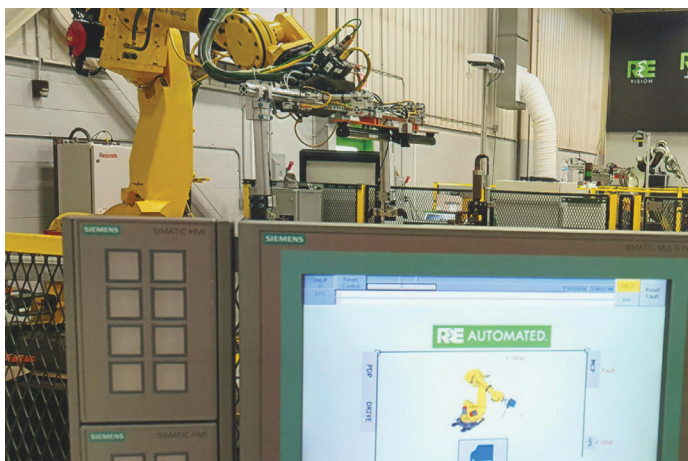
**Above:** R&E Automated Systems offers training courses in machine safety, Siemens Certified Training, PLC 1 Basics, PLC 2 Programming, Basic and Advanced Robotics and Ultrasonic Testing.

**Left:** R&E Automated Systems' approach to technology training has contributed to the economy in Macomb County in unique ways.

## CONNECT

### R&E Automated Systems

17500 23 Mile Road, Suite B, Macomb, MI 48044. It also has offices in Taylor and South Carolina.  
Phone: (586) 228-1900  
Online: REAutomated.com



The training facility at R&E Automated Systems focuses on training young professionals, expanding the skills of those already in the workforce and offering on-site training for its own employees.

businesses operate, R&E Automated Systems realized a need for employers to keep pace with trends and keep employee skills current.

It solved this challenge by opening a 10,000 square-foot state-of-the-art training facility. The company focuses on training young professionals, expanding the skills of those already in the workforce and offering on-site training for its own employees.

R&E Automated Systems offers training courses in machine safety, Siemens Certified Training, PLC 1 Basics, PLC 2 Programming, Basic and Advanced Robotics and Ultrasonic Testing.

According to Bologna, in order to provide a true learning experience, training classes are limited to three to six participants.

"This includes coursework and hands-on instruction in robotics and controls," he said. "We can tailor classes to a client's specific need or offer a more standard, general class."

Its comprehensive program provides clients with a greater knowledge of technology. In many cases, computer applications can help streamline company processes and systems to

move companies forward in a more cost-effective, efficient manner.

While ongoing training is a necessity in many industries, R&E Automated Systems' approach to technology training has contributed to the economy in Macomb County unique ways. The training not only strengthens the skills of the current workforce, it offers potential employees who want to transition into skilled trades a quicker path. It also keeps young professionals in the area instead of moving out of state for other employment opportunities.

"There was a mass exodus of people from the area during the Great Recession," said Bologna. "We lost a lot of talent, but that has all changed."

That's important because communities with a highly skilled workforce attract technologically advanced companies to its tax rolls.

For its efforts, R&E Automated Systems recently received the Champion of Workforce Development honors at the 2017 Macomb Business Awards.

For R&E, it all comes back to its employees.

"Our greatest asset is people," said Bologna. "We make an investment in our workforce and recruit the best talent from around the world."

R&E also inspires young people to consider the automation industry as a career choice. The company is very involved with local middle and high schools, helping to grow their STEM programs and encourage students to consider future jobs in the industry.

Students from Romeo Community Schools, for example, visit R&E Automated Systems to see automation in action firsthand. They are often amazed to view 3-D simulations, virtual reality applications, prototype construction and laser applications instead of traditional welding. **M**

Photos courtesy of R&E Automated Systems



# Proactively shaping future communities

## State program helps build strong communities to attract more future investment

By Jane Peterson

**W**hen developers come calling, municipal leaders have to be ready if they want to bring additional jobs and tax revenue into their community.

A Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) program called Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) helps cities, villages and townships prepare for potential development. The comprehensive certificate program provides re-development strategies by taking a look at past successes, what communities currently have to offer and where they want to be in the future.

“We want to build places that people want to invest in, work in and play in,” said Christopher Germain, RRC planner for the MEDC. “Decisions are based on what is a good fit for each community.”

A handful of Macomb County communities have been part of the RRC program so far, including Roseville and Eastpointe, which are RRC-certified. Others are actively working toward certification or considering participation.

The goal is simple: To explore innovative redevelopment strategies and establish efficient processes that make communities attractive to invest in. Being RRC-certified tells developers and investors that a community has purposefully chosen to be proactive with shaping the future of their town by committing to a business-friendly environment with a firm vision, clear procedures and defined properties ready for development.

“You never know what is going to happen, but you always have to be prepared,” said Eastpointe City Manager Steve Duchane.

Becoming RRC-certified is a rigorous process that requires self-evaluation, training and commitment. A key part of the program is examining and putting strategies in place to address six critical areas of development:

- Community Plans and Public Outreach
- Zoning Regulations
- Development Review Process
- Recruitment and Education
- Redevelopment Ready Sites
- Community Prosperity



The City of Eastpointe has been certified as a Redevelopment Ready Community.

“What we have found is that every community is doing something right, but most have at least one thing they can improve on,” said Germain.

RRC planners provide recommendations, feedback, guidance and support through the certification process. In the end, communities have re-invented the way they approach development, outlined a clear vision and taken steps to positively impact the future of their community.

Going through the certification process, Eastpointe identified five properties prime for redevelopment. All have been successfully developed in the past few years, said Eastpointe Mayor Suzanne Pixley.

One of Eastpointe’s redevelopment success stories is the construction of Grafton Townhomes, a 48-unit affordable housing complex constructed on the site of a former school building on Nine Mile Road west of Gratiot Road. Developed by Community Housing Network of Troy, the development represented an \$11 million investment in the Eastpointe community, according to a news release at the time.

A decade ago, Eastpointe was struggling. During the Great Recession, residents lost their jobs, sometimes their homes and the city’s 5 square miles were dotted with vacant businesses. Today, more than 800 commercial and industrial businesses call Eastpointe home, property values have stabilized and affordable single-family homes and condominiums are occupied.

RRC is available at no cost to Michigan communities. Certified RRC communities are eligible for technical assistance funds with a match up to \$20,000.

Since RRC was established in 2003, 92 communities statewide have taken part. The program has attracted national attention as it is the only one of its kind in the country, said Germain.

RRC communities need to re-certify every three years. This allows all involved to evaluate a community’s progress, review processes and remain engaged in achieving the program’s goals. **M**

Photo courtesy of Michigan Economic Development Corporation

### CONNECT

To learn more about the Redevelopment Ready Communities program and how it helps cities, villages and townships prepare for potential development, visit [MIPlace.org](http://MIPlace.org). To view information about Eastpointe, visit [sites.google.com/site/eastpointefyi/home](http://sites.google.com/site/eastpointefyi/home).



# 2017-18 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

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Jersey Boys



Patti LuPone — Don't Monkey with Broadway



Pirates of Penzance



TAO: Drum Heart

## SEPTEMBER

Nathan Carter  
 Forbidden Broadway  
 Broadway Music on Tour with  
 Terry Barber

## OCTOBER

United States Air Force Band  
 of Mid-America  
 Sybrina Fulton  
 Jersey Boys  
 Wynonna & The Big Noise  
 Irma Thomas, The Blind  
 Boys of Alabama & The  
 Preservation Legacy Quintet  
 Sense and Sensibility  
 Hamlet

## NOVEMBER

Classic Disney Princess Stories  
 presented by All the World's a Stage  
 How I Became a Pirate  
 Jeff Daniels with Ben Daniels  
 Band  
 Vienna Boys Choir

## DECEMBER

A Charlie Brown Christmas

## JANUARY

Chicago The Musical  
 Erth's Dinosaur Zoo  
 E.J. Dionne  
 Mr. Popper's Penguins  
 Cinderella presented by Moscow  
 Festival Ballet  
 Steve Solomon's My Mother's  
 Italian, My Father's Jewish  
 and I'm in Therapy

## FEBRUARY

Mayhem Poets  
 Natalie MacMaster & Donnell  
 Leahy: Visions from Cape  
 Breton and Beyond  
 John Denver Musical Tribute  
 starring Ted Vigil  
 PostSecret: The Show  
 Mutts Gone Nuts  
 Darius & Twig

## MARCH

Cirque Éloize Saloon  
 Madagascar Jr. presented  
 by All the World's a Stage  
 27 presented by Michigan Opera  
 Theatre  
 Go, Dog. Go!  
 Pirates of Penzance  
 TAO: Drum Heart  
 Cabaret

## APRIL

R. David Edelman  
 Million Dollar Quartet  
 Peter Pan  
 The Wailin' Jennys  
 Max Raabe & Palast Orchester  
 Patti LuPone — Don't Monkey  
 with Broadway

Artists and programs are subject  
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1861-17



# Tech innovation

## JEM Tech Group works to improve your computer infrastructure

By Jane Peterson

While businesses both large and small are always on the hunt for ways to squeeze more out of every technology dollar, one area they might be overlooking is innovation in their IT service and technology products.

Established nearly 40 years ago, JEM Tech Group is a leader in IT efficiency. The company, based in Clinton Township, offers solutions to retrofit existing systems, inventory current products and put energy efficiency best practices into place.

One sector that is often ignored is heating and cooling, said President Jami Moore. “You have all these computers and all these switches and all this equipment. Computers generate heat and lots of it,” she said. “We help customers look for ways to use power and cooling effectively by taking what they have and making the system more efficient.”

Energy and airflow can make or break a critical system used to power an educational facility, financial institution or health-care system, for example. When those crucial services go down, it can bring any business to a grinding halt. Power and cooling infrastructure, added Moore, can be monitored and managed from anywhere in the world.

Working within budget constraints, the JEM Tech Group team can make recommendations ranging from simple, like re-organizing room layouts, to more complex, like full-scale computer equipment upgrades.

Earlier this year JEM Tech Group received a Macomb Business Award in the Efficiency Expert category.

Like Macomb County, JEM Tech Group has gone through many changes and transformations. When James Edward Miller founded the company in 1979, the digital landscape was entirely different. Back then, computers were not yet commonplace in the workforce and computer products were an emerging industry. Focusing his efforts on larger Fortune 1000 companies that had already invested in the technology, Miller sold backup media tapes to save data, toner and printer ribbon.

Soon he innovated to offering mission critical services like managing telecommunications rooms, data storage and maintaining data centers - all essential to keep a successful company up and running. In 2001, Miller retired and Moore took over the reins. In 2012, the company re-branded itself, changing its name from JEM Computers to JEM Tech Group. The name, said Moore, continues to honor her father by using his initials, JEM.



JEM Tech Group helps businesses innovate their IT service and technology products.



However, it more adequately reflected the nature of the company's comprehensive computer and IT services.

In the past 16 years, JEM Tech Group has experienced phenomenal success, quadrupling revenue and adding new employees. In addition to Moore, her two sisters have joined the business. The company added an office in New York and has plans to expand further. JEM Tech Group's headquarters have always been located in Macomb County. As Moore stated, “It's been my home all my life and it is where most of us live.”

Because of their strong connection to the community, Moore likes to be involved with a variety of charitable causes and community organizations. She enjoys mentoring other entrepreneurs and high school students and is active in Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

The company is also a participant in GROW, a Michigan Economic Development Corporation program designed to help growing companies like JEM Tech navigate the many challenges that growth can bring.  Photos courtesy of JEM Tech Group



JEM Tech Group President Jami Moore with Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel at the Macomb Business Awards.

### CONNECT

#### JEM Tech Group

23537 Lakepointe Drive,  
Clinton Township, MI. 48036  
Phone: (586) 783-3400  
Online: JEMTechGroup.com



# EDUCATION

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**26** Anchor Bay School District

**27** L'Anse Creuse Pubic Schools





An elementary student leads the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Two elementary students enjoying learning with Mark Hackel, Macomb County Executive.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Mark Hackel, Macomb County Executive, assists a student with his assignment.

## Macomb County School Districts

### Setting precedents for the future of public education

The 21 Macomb County School Districts are leaders in providing unique opportunities for its more than 140,000 students in grades Pre-K-12. From increased emphasis on pre-school education, technology and math and science programs to college credit opportunities, the districts are helping to set precedents in the state for the future of public education.

In all Macomb County Schools include 21 local districts and 260 buildings. As part of its growing population, Macomb County Schools continue to develop new programs to meet the needs of students of all skills and backgrounds. Because of the focus on student success, it is reported that 65% of Macomb County high school graduates have earned an Associates or 4-year degree within five years of graduation.

As part of its long-term planning, Macomb County Schools are focused on providing many opportunities for students. Three of those areas are highlight below.

With roughly 700 students, the Early College of Macomb is the largest Early College program in Michigan. It allows students in grades 11-13 to attend classes at Macomb Community College (MCC) while still attending their high school while also providing opportunities for job internships and job shadowing.

These students make a three-year commitment to the Early College program and at the end of year 13 are able to earn their high school diploma and an Associates' Degree from MCC. All

tuition and fees are paid in full by the participating district through this partnership with Macomb county schools and MCC.

"My internship at General Motors Company was great," said Early College of Macomb student Miriam Salama. "I was able to (job) shadow different GM employees, and that gave me an idea of the different roles designers have. I was able to ask the engineers questions regarding colleges they attended and their degrees as well."

Career and Technical Education through Macomb Schools gives all students an opportunity to explore firsthand what their future could look like and provide them with a concrete path to get there. Infused industry standards and technical skills while fostering creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking are readily available to all students. These include nationally recognized automotive and medical programs, involvement in national Manufacturing Day (largest participation in the country), and industry certifications in a variety of areas from Microsoft Office to robotics to AutoCAD and more.

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) provides direct services to 2,000 moderate to severely disabled children and young adults throughout the county as part of its special education programs. These services are provided to children and youth ages birth- age 26 and delivered throughout the county in 7 center programs.

As part of the services provided, the MISD can provide assessments to parents with newborn children that may be showing signs of development disabilities. The fastest-growing disability not just in Macomb County, but around the country is autism, and the MISD along with the local districts provide custom services for students with moderate to severe autism.

Programs for young adults 18 and over can focus on independence, life skills and managing job schedules.

Other programs include:

Collaboration with the County Executive Office and Sheriff Department in many areas including traffic safety, emergency preparedness, and community programs for families; senior citizens; and youth.

Consolidated technology services for over 15 years. Currently, key shared services include Internet access and content filtering, web site and application hosting, and help desk services for all districts.

Two International Baccalaureate Programs for students in grades 9-12 that are open to all county students. The 1,000 + students in these two programs are able to benefit from the rigorous high school curriculum offered through the IB organization. One of the programs is a countywide consortium where seventeen school districts share costs.

For more information on all 21 Macomb County School Districts, please visit [www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net). **M**



Macomb County CTE student learning auto mechanic skills – hands on.

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East Detroit Public Schools  
Fitzgerald Public Schools  
Fraser Public Schools  
Lake Shore Public Schools  
Lakeview Public Schools  
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools  
Mt. 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



**Macomb Intermediate  
School District**  
44001 Garfield Rd.  
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

**For more information about the MISD  
and the 21 school districts, go to  
[www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)**



# Anchor Bay School District

With more than 6,000 students district-wide, Anchor Bay School District offers unique programs in its high school, two middle schools and all seven elementary schools. In fact, its emphasis on programs at the elementary school levels are one of the features that sets it apart from other districts around the state.

Parents and students have two options for kindergarten – full or half-day classes as a way to provide convenience. Most districts today offer just one of the two for all students.

There is also a fifth grade band program at all elementary schools that prepares students for their band experiences in middle and high school. This is one of the many reasons that Anchor Bay's band programs have achieved many awards and championships over the years, and are recognized as one of the top performing districts in the state.

District interventions begin at the elementary school level, where students are monitored closely by staff, and provided with extra assistance and guidance in such areas as math, language arts and sciences. Students requiring individual teaching are pulled into special sessions where they receive the one-on-one attention needed.

Starting with the 2017-18 school year, students from K-12 will all have access to Project the Lead the Way programming that will emphasize STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) courses. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S.

The program creates an engaging classroom environment unlike any other. PLTW empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges. Through its pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science,



students not only learn technical skills, but also learn to solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate, and collaborate. Teachers are also provided with the training, resources, and support they need to engage students in real-world learning.

Separate from PLTW girls in high school are offered a co-hort engineering program that focuses on encouraging young girls to consider that career, given the industry shortage. Engineering is a career technical educational (CTE) for all students as well. In fact there are 15 state-approved CTE courses for high schoolers ranging from marketing, computer programming and graphic arts to healthcare, culinary arts and business management.

The Anchor Bay Honors Academy offers an elite academic environment where students can earn as many as 25 Advance Placement college credits. We are proud to be the only high school in Macomb County to earn the AP Honor Roll distinction in 2017.

"It is our intent to always refine and improve our learning standards for students any way we can," said the district's Superintendent Leonard Woodside. "National and state standards as well as local experts shape our district curriculum and how we go out of our way to ensure the needs of all students are met."

An array of student activity clubs and after school programs to fit all tastes are available for students in grades 6-12 and articulation agreements with Macomb Community College and Ferris State University ensure the presence of co-op programs, internships and college credit opportunities in a variety of fields.

Furthermore, a Positive Behavior Support System (PBS), and Peacework programs assist students in making wise decisions regarding their behavior.

Learn more by visiting [www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net) or contact Sherry Kenward at 586-648-2525, ext. 2339, or [skenward@abs.misd.net](mailto:skenward@abs.misd.net). **M**







## L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools has built a strong reputation of family, loyalty, opportunity and achievement. As the fourth-largest school district in Macomb County, the district serves over 10,000 students from Harrison Township and portions of Clinton, Chesterfield and Macomb Townships, Mount Clemens and St. Clair Shores.

The district has developed a philosophy of providing something unique for every student helping to ignite their passion for learning. Students from three to 83 are discovering themselves in two early childhood centers, nine elementary schools, four middle schools, two traditional high schools, an alternative high school, a career and technical center, and a multitude of adult and community education classes.

"We encourage life-long learning and self-discovery," said Director for Public and Community Relations Kelly Allen. "We have created a collaborative environment that will prepare our students for success in a global economy."

The collective achievements of L'Anse Creuse students, elementary through high school, are proof of this mindset. Their personal accolades are fostered by the opportunities in their schools from a robust curriculum, to specialized classes and programs, and extra-curricular activities including clubs and sports teams.

At the elementary level, all students participate in specials classes including art, music, physical education and Spanish. To further emphasize the global nature of the district's curriculum, two of its elementary schools are involved in immersion programs where all students learn Chinese, and communicate with teachers in Chinese while in the classroom. Additionally, two (soon-to-be three) schools are involved in *The Leader in Me* program, a national effort that emphasizes the seven



habits of highly effective individuals and other 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Students also have the opportunity to participate in after school activities like Science Olympiad, Girls on the Run and much more.

At the middle school level, students are able to widen their horizons with a range of elective classes, sports, activities and clubs, giving them the ability to learn more about what excites them. Students participate in several sports, perform in band or choir, enroll in advanced classes and continue to compete in Science Olympiad.

In addition to the top-notch traditional high schools, the Pankow Center hosts a number of unique programs including Math, Science and Technology (MST), Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Performing Arts. MST is an academic qualification-based curriculum for students who want to be challenged and learn in a cohort model. Those in the program consistently display high achievement and grades in the classroom.

The CTE program gives students the opportunity to learn specialized skills in a wide variety of areas, from horticulture to healthcare; law enforcement to automotive; robotics to computer-aided design. Students who graduate with a CTE specialization are often prepared to enter the workforce directly out of high school in one or more specific fields. CTE programs are open to all students. Additionally, the award-winning Performing Arts program features classes where students act in numerous plays, direct, produce and edit shows, and perform on a team of precision dancers.

Throughout the district, all programs and classes are enhanced with cutting-edge technology, including smart boards in every elementary and middle school classroom and state-of-the-art labs.

Call 586-783-6300 or visit [www.lc-ps.org](http://www.lc-ps.org) to learn more about L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. **M**





# COMMUNITY

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# Charter Township of Clinton

## Offering a unique wealth of amenities for residents

### 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

## Charter Township of Clinton



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 Township is committed to finding the right mix of retail, industrial and residential areas. The Clinton Township Gratiot Downtown Development Authority (DDA) counts more than 300 businesses as members, and the high-profile Gratiot Avenue corridor carries more than 70,000 vehicles daily. For example, the Mall at Partridge Creek is an open-air shopping mall with 90 stores in a pet-friendly environment but is also minutes away from some of the most attractive residential areas in the area.



### Events are held year-round

Each year, the DDA hosts the Clinton Township Gratiot Cruise, which attracts thousands of classic car fans and brings millions of dollars into the community. 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

### FAST FACTS

**Founded:** Settled in 1782, organized in 1818 and chartered in 1989

**Population (2010 census):** 96,796

**Square miles:** 28.2

several military veteran recognition events in conjunction with Resurrection Cemetery. Learn more at [www.clintontownship.com](http://www.clintontownship.com) **M**



# Eastpointe

## The University of Michigan says: “Eastpointe knows how to attract redevelopment”

### Eastpointe: The Gateway to Macomb County


A great place to live, work and play, Eastpointe is a residential community with ample shopping areas, businesses, professional services, green spaces and public transportation options. Conveniently located along I-94 and just a mile away from 696, Eastpointe is close to many local destinations and just a short drive to downtown Detroit and the large industrial and manufacturing areas of Warren and Sterling Heights.

### Redevelopment opportunities

In Eastpointe you'll find a managed environment without the tight controls that stifle creativity and individuality. With multiple redevelopment ready parcels, we envision the future of our community as a place for the young and old, single and family, cutting edge and comfortable to gather and connect. We are looking to create partnerships where the private sector and the City government work together toward prosperity, sustainability and an exciting future.

### 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
- Storm water Standards

For more information, visit the Business Development section of Eastpointe's official web site: [www.cityofeastpointe.net](http://www.cityofeastpointe.net) 

**“The Redevelopment Ready area of Eastpointe's web site provides good information for developers!”**

*Source: University of Michigan Dearborn 2016 eCities Project*





# Harrison Township

## Plan a visit to “Boat Town U.S.A.”

Harrison Township is the type of community where once people decide to live there, they rarely leave. That's because it is a mostly residential area with great restaurants, located close to a major highway, and truly a boating community.



can experience the park's Olympic-sized swimming pool with waterslides, the Squirt Zone Spray Ground and a 1,000 foot-long sandy beach on Lake St. Clair. In the winter, ice-fishing, a game of hockey or ice-skating outdoors is all possible.

With roughly three-fourths of its borders nestled along Lake St. Clair, Harrison Township has been referred to as “BoatTown, U.S.A.” given the large number of marinas located within its borders. That lake access is a big part of the township's identity, according to Township Supervisor Ken Verkest.

“It's a popular attraction not just for residents but many of our visitors who may know Harrison Township as a great place to grab a meal, enjoy time with friends and family and experience lake life together,” Verkest said. “We certainly have families and individuals who may consider the township their second home because that is where their boat is docked.”

Harrison Township is also the home of Lake Saint Clair Metropark, formerly Metro Beach Metropark. The park contains nature trails, a nature center, playgrounds, beaches, pools, and picnic areas. The park is a popular destination for hikers, joggers, in-line skaters and picnic enthusiasts with its picturesque views along the one-mile shoreline of Lake St. Clair.

The metropark also offers two marinas and eight ramps that provide easy access to the lake. During the summertime, guests

From Luigi's to River Rat to Crews Inn and more, Harrison Township has a number of well-known and highly regarded restaurants that draw visitors from around southeastern Michigan. Diners can enjoy all types of cuisine including American, Mexican, Italian and seafood.


During the summer months, the township offers a free shuttle service on Friday evenings as well as Saturday and Sunday. Whether you want to enjoy one of the many fine restaurants or attend religious services, you can call (586) 612-4454 for a free ride. This is available for both residents and guests and is especially popular with marina guests.

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools provides K-12 education to our residents and is one of the most highly rated school districts in the state, offering a full range of unique services and extracurricular programs for its students. The Harrison Township Fire Department provides the highest level of Advanced Life Support and transportation and law enforcement service is provided by the Macomb County Sheriff's Department.

Finally Harrison Township is the home of the Air National Guard 127<sup>th</sup> Wing and Selfridge Air National Guard Base. In addition



to air shows and other public events on the base, the 127<sup>th</sup> Wing is active in the community in assisting civic groups, schools and community projects.

Learn more by visiting <http://www.harrison-township.org>. 

### FAST FACTS

**Founded:** 1827

**Population (2000 census):** 24,461

**Square miles:** 23.8



# City of Richmond

## Offering a small-town feel with larger city resources

The city of Richmond is a bedroom community with plenty of housing opportunities for residents and easy access to neighboring communities for work and play. It's a community where families flourish, and stay, yet ones that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year through a variety of events and activities available to residents and guests alike.

With just over 6,000 residents, Richmond offers a small-town feel with larger city resources. Beautiful historic homes grace tree lined city streets throughout the city while new home developments offer the latest in single family living, though there is plenty of room for those who want to experience a rural life-style. The city offer a many housing options in various price ranges for everyone.

Richmond residents enjoy a superior quality of life, with access to some of the finest recreational amenities in all of Michigan and nearby access to inland lakes, Lake St. Clair and the Great Lakes. Richmond is a growing city linked by the I-94 Expressway, M-19 highway, and the Gratiot Avenue corridor for easy access to the Detroit/Flint/Port Huron metropolitan areas.

At Richmond Community Schools the focus is on "Guaranteed Learning" for all students. The continuous school improvement process is organized around the concepts and principles of a Professional Learning Community (PLC), where student achievement is its top focus. The district has a tradition of highly successful extracurricular clubs and athletic



teams, many of which have won state and other championships.

Over the years Richmond has become known as a community with terrific events. The Richmond Good Old Days Festival, held each year the weekend after Labor Day, draws well over 80,000 people annually and offers the largest musical marching parade in the state of Michigan. It has been voted as the best "local event" by the Macomb Daily Readers' Choice Awards in 2015 and also features a variety of motorsports events, musical entertainment and food and drink.

Recently more people have been coming to Richmond as well to attend vintage market events, which are a cross between an antique show and a flea market, said City Manager Jon Moore. One such event this past spring attracted more than 10,000, and the Rummage and Relic Sale will be held the last weekend in July.

Richmond offers a wide variety of recreational activities for the outdoor enthusiast through its many municipal parks as well as a comprehensive sidewalk system throughout the city. The Macomb Orchard Trail, a 23.5 mile linear park, begins in Richmond and connects to a network of trails throughout Macomb County. This is one of many examples of Richmond being a community that focuses on fun and fitness.

Its retail business districts offer turn of the century charm and



unique modern Main Street architecture. The pedestrian friendly downtown is the perfect location for shopping and services while offering that traditional, small-town retail flair. Additionally, the city is working with private property owners on the development of prime industrial property.

Richmond is ready to support entrepreneurs and small business owners. For more information on the City of Richmond, please visit its

website at [www.cityofrichmond.net](http://www.cityofrichmond.net) or contact the city office at (586) 727-7571. **M**

### FAST FACTS

**Founded:** Settled in 1835 and chartered in 1879

**Population (2010 census):** 5,735

**Square miles:** 2.89



# Roseville

## Contemporary urban setting with a small-town feel

As a “ring” suburb of Detroit with easy access to highways and transportation and with close proximity to roughly four million residents and many of the world’s largest employers, Roseville is a contemporary urban setting with a small-town feel throughout its nearly 10 square miles.

The seal of Roseville mentions: family, community, church and country. And those are the merits its more than 47,000 residents live by. Roseville was Michigan’s first certified Redevelopment Ready Community, which is a formal recognition of the city’s effective strategic development plan. Yet its appeal also includes a strong park system, an active library with a variety of all-age programming, an increasing number of walking, hiking and biking trails and many vibrant small businesses, said City Manager Scott Adkins.

On the residential side, Roseville is attractive because it has a wealth of housing options that appeal to first-time home buyers, growing families and empty nesters, Adkins said. With easy access to many entertainment options within the city and surrounding communities, it offers an ideal location: just minutes from Detroit, Royal Oak, northern Macomb County and Lake St. Clair.

Large employers have made their home in Roseville, including RCO Engineering and Atlas Tool & Die. Roseville has also become the home of many chain restaurants as Tubby’s, National Coney Island and Buscemi’s are among those businesses that have chosen to have their headquarters within city limits.

Furthermore, there is a wide range of employers that attract



talented professionals with all types of backgrounds. The small industrial companies located along Groesbeck Highway have attracted engineers, machinists, fabrication experts and more. Meanwhile local residents can enjoy virtually any type of retail store they desire along Gratiot Avenue from locally-owned family businesses to national retailers.

The Macomb Mall recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary and has invested millions of dollars as part of a redevelopment plan during a time when other malls are closing. The Eastgate Center, one of the area’s first outdoor strip malls, also remains vibrant along Gratiot.

Roseville Community Schools has long been recognized for excellence, with an especially strong tradition in preparing students in the arts and trades. For example, many high school graduates actually receive job offers in such areas as construction and manufacturing, even before they may pursue a college degree or a trade program.

Roseville is also located close to many post-secondary educational institutions from Baker College to Dorsey Business School to Macomb County Community College, some of which call Roseville home. Other universities or satellite campuses from Michigan State and Wayne State Universities are a short drive away.



### FAST FACTS

**Founded:** Established in 1840 and incorporated in 1926

**Population (2010 census):** 47,299

**Square miles:** 9.86

The Recreational Authority of Roseville-Eastpointe is well known for their vast variety of programs and activities. The two neighboring communities have partnered to provide a well-rounded selection of opportunities for all local residents, with an emphasis on family togetherness. The Recreational Authority building also houses the Senior Center, giving our senior residents a safe place to be active and build new friendships.



Award winning police and fire departments have fostered safe neighborhoods for all residents. And among the many community events throughout the year is the Roseville RoseFest each June, which attracts tens of thousands of people over a four-day span.

“All we ask of other residents is that when they see signs alerting you to Roseville exits along the freeway, to jump off of the freeway and give Roseville a look,” Adkins said. “There’s a lot for visitors to see and do. We’re involved with many collaborative programs and activities with neighboring communities as well.”

Learn more by visiting [www.roseville-mi.gov](http://www.roseville-mi.gov). **M**





## Shelby Township

Offering a 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 business 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.



### FAST FACTS

**Location:** At the crossroads of the M-59 and M-53 expressways, Shelby Township offers east 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@shelbytwip.org](mailto:planning@shelbytwip.org)

Grow with  
**Shelby Township**  
Michigan





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

Shelby Township's rate of 9.2999 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, \$929.999 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 Trustee to keep costs to tax-payers low."

Along with the region's top 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 cost 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](http://www.shelbytwp.org)



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



# Paving the way for new business

## Putting Macomb County's best foot forward as companies seek to invest

By Jane Peterson

Site selectors have become powerful influencers in the corporate world. As businesses look to expand their operations, relocate facilities or open new locations, they put their trust in the due diligence of these professionals whose task is to examine various properties and determine which the best fit is for the company.

This shift in the way major future property acquisition decisions are made hasn't escaped the attention of the Macomb County Economic Development and Planning Department.

"Companies are making more strategic business decisions," said John Paul Rea, director of Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development. "We are working on a daily basis with businesses who want to invest. We are actively engaged with them and provide them with the information and data they need in order to cultivate business opportunities in Macomb County."

Rea described a site selector as a hybrid of a real estate agent, tax consultant and property developer. They research various aspects of a community, including what property parcels are available, the overall economic health of the region and what the quality of life is like. The site selector then takes the information he has collected, compares it to the data from other communities under consideration and makes a recommendation to the CEO.

The mission for Rea's team is to present strategic, compelling reasons why companies should choose Macomb County.



Through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Macomb County Economic Development and Planning Department has met with many national site selectors to share opportunities available in the county.



The Macomb County Economic Development and Planning Department has made coordinated pitches to site selectors aimed at generating additional business, tax revenue and jobs for Macomb County.

"We've compiled all the data and highlight our economic growth and showcase local talent, particularly in the areas of robotics and cyber security," he said.

In order to cultivate business opportunities and bring possibilities to local partners, it is beneficial if data is in place so site selectors can access the information they need when they need it. This includes

information on building permits, zoning regulations and certificates of occupancy as well as details regarding modes of transportation in the area, access to highways, proximity to clients and/or competitors and community amenities.

"We have to meet the emerging needs of industry," said Rea, "and forge good relationships."

Putting your best forward when site selectors call is one thing, but Rea prefers not to sit around and wait for the phone to ring. Through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, he has met with 18 national site selectors and made coordinated pitches aimed at generating additional business, tax revenue and jobs for Macomb County. "Michigan is part of the national conversation," he said. "Our job is to convince them that the best place for their business is Macomb County." **M**

Photos courtesy of Macomb County

### CONNECT

To learn more about how the Macomb County Economic Development and Planning department is working to attract investors and businesses, visit [Business.MacombGov.org](http://Business.MacombGov.org). To view the Prime Properties map, visit [Gis.MacombGov.org/PrimeProperties](http://Gis.MacombGov.org/PrimeProperties).



# Thinking ahead

## SEMCOG improves Macomb County's business climate through strategic regional planning

By Jane Peterson

Construction projects, traffic concerns, safety factors, economic numbers and water quality can all impact the business climate in Macomb County. These factors and other geographic data aren't confined to county borders. Just as Macomb County officials work closely with local business leaders, they also collaborate with regional partners that can provide a broader direction of southeastern Michigan.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) promotes coordinated regional planning and supports local initiatives that can ultimately spur economic development, improve quality of life and draw visitors to local attractions.

While SEMCOG provides the data, local governments prioritize projects and implement ideas, said SEMCOG Deputy Executive Director Amy Mangus.

"Macomb County is a great partner of SEMCOG and very receptive to information and ideas to move the county forward," she said.

When the county launched its Green Macomb initiative, for example, it was able to address deficiencies in tree canopies that SEMCOG identified in Macomb County, especially along the population-dense areas along and south of the Clinton River. With this information at its fingertips, the county moved forward

with the Green Macomb Urban Forest Partnership that benefitted water and air quality.

And when regional safety data showed that bicycle and vehicle accidents were on the rise, SEMCOG started working with the county on a regional campaign to increase safety education, said Mangus.

Kevin Vettraino, manager, Plan Implementation, said SEMCOG reviews ways people get to core services and determines methods to make facilities like parks, schools and hospitals more safely accessible by car, bus, bicycle and walking.

Projects such as these increase quality of life and make the county more attractive not only to potential residents, but also developers looking to invest in communities by opening, relocating or expanding their businesses.

According to Xuan Liu, research manager, Data Collection and Analysis, Macomb County's numbers look strong. He said jobs and employer numbers have rebounded steadily since 2009 when there were 233,000 private sector jobs. Today that number is 282,000. This improvement is reflected in the population numbers as well with 868,144 residents in 2016 based on SEMCOG's estimates, compared to 840,978 in the 2010 Census.

Every five years, SEMCOG releases a comprehensive regional forecast that examines long-term trends to project the region's economic and demographic outlook.

For example, Liu said that SEMCOG's research shows that the K-12 student population will continue to decline through 2028 while the number of senior citizens will continue to grow. This information can assist counties with future planning decisions, such as redeveloping former schools into senior housing and strategies to meeting the increased demand for healthcare.

"These are ways changing demographics can impact future economic development," said Vettraino. "Trends can help communities plan for the future." **M**

Photo courtesy of Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

### CONNECT

To learn more about SEMCOG's 2045 Regional Forecast for Southeast Michigan and other ways the organization assists local governments like Macomb County, visit [Semcog.org](http://Semcog.org).



SEMCOG and the City of Mount Clemens worked on this enhanced pedestrian intersection in the downtown area. It addresses some safety issues and increases accessibility.





Helen Emsley, executive director of Global GMC & Buick Design at General Motors, uses feedback from buyers and potential buyers to design vehicles with features that people want, especially when it comes to electronics and navigational tools.

# Pioneering leadership

How GM's Helen Emsley found her dream job in Macomb County

*By Jane Peterson*

**H**elen Emsley didn't set out to be a pioneer, but by following her dreams, she ended up becoming one anyway.

As executive director of Global GMC & Buick Design at General Motors, she is responsible for the exterior and interior design of these iconic brands.

While she and many other women hold leadership positions at GM today, when Emsley first started her career in the late 1980s, there weren't many women in design – and there were no female designers in the European car studios at all.

Emsley changed all that, but she didn't necessarily set out to

work in the automotive industry, either. She just loved fabrics.

"I grew up in Yorkshire, England, an area known for coal mining and textile mills," she said. "I knew I wanted to in the fashion and textile arena at an early age."

She held tight to her passion for fabrics and went on to pursue a degree in woven textiles at Birmingham Polytechnic in England. During this time, she found out about a prestigious transportation interior design program at the Royal College of Art in London. Intrigued, she applied and was accepted. The opportunity allowed her to focus on fabrics for two years while earning her master's degree.





Helen Emsley, executive director of Global GMC & Buick Design at General Motors, talks about the grill of a vehicle in the GMC Design Studio.

It also paved the way for a job at GM's Opel Design Studio in Germany. She packed two suitcases and boarded a plane not having any idea what to expect.

She discovered that the team she worked with included people from 16 countries. They spoke several different languages and all left their home countries to do what they wanted to do.

"I'm not afraid of trying anything. I thought I would give it a year," she said. "It ended up being the best decision I ever made."

She stayed in Germany for nearly a decade before accepting a position with General Motors in America, settling in at GM Design World Headquarters located at the company's Technical Center in Warren.

When it comes to the interior and exterior design of vehicles, there is more to consider than one might think. Emsley and her team make sure the seats are comfortable and the fabrics are stain resistant. They use feedback from buyers and potential buyers to design vehicles with features that people want, especially when it comes to electronics and navigational tools.

"Everyone needs a place for all their items as well as storage and plenty of plugs for electronic devices. Everything needs to be conveniently located within reach. After all, your vehicle is likely to be the second biggest purchase you'll ever make after your home," she said.

In her job, Emsley talks with vehicle buyers about proposed features and reasons why they would or would not purchase a GMC or Buick vehicle again in the future. She uses this feedback to develop vehicles that incorporate practical purposes and suit the needs of today's busy families.

"It's unbelievable how much time we spend in our vehicles," she said.

Emsley also continues to spread the word about opportunities available to women in the automotive industry, speaking with



Helen Emsley, executive director of Global GMC & Buick Design at General Motors, and her team are responsible for the exterior and interior design of the GMC brand.



Helen Emsley, executive director of Global GMC & Buick Design at General Motors, talks with her team in the GMC Design Studio.

middle school and high school students about jobs available in the art field. She said most students aren't aware that they can turn their creativity into a well-paying, satisfying job. Instead, most assume art students will end up as starving artists.

"They don't know they can get a job in the field," she said. "I tell them you have to love what you do."

Emsley has lived in the United States for 18 years and enjoys her home in Mt. Clemens. She and her husband, who owns a wood shop in Macomb County, bought a historic 1926 house and are working on restoring it. She adores the neighborhood with its streets lined with stately maple trees and hopes that one day her 14-year-old son pursues his dreams, too – even if it means moving away from the life they have built in Michigan.

"I like living in a different country. It makes you grow as a person," she said. "I chose to come here and I love it. It really has been a dream come true." **M**

Photos courtesy of General Motors





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The Mall at Partridge Creek



# John Paul Rea

## Economic planning efforts help shape the future of Macomb County

By Jane Peterson

**J**ohn Paul Rea has lived and worked in Macomb County most of his life. As director of the Department of Planning and Economic Development for Macomb County, he is charged with creating and implementing economic development projects; facilitating relationships with developers and other professionals to attract new businesses; and developing comprehensive strategic plans designed to draw new community development.

Rea is graduate of Romeo Community Schools and earned a Bachelor of Science in political science with a minor in public administration from Grand Valley State University. He also has a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis on urban and regional policy and planning, also from GVSU.

While working on his graduate project, Rea had an internship interview and he started as an intern with the Department of Planning and Economic Development in 2006. He has happily been with Macomb County ever since, helping to shape the future of its communities.

Rea and his wife, Roberta, make their home in Washington Township. They have a daughter and another child on the way.

**Q** What is mission of your organization?

**A** The mission of the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development is to retain, grow and attract economic investment while improving the overall quality of life for residents and businesses in Macomb County.

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

**A** We invest in the success of local communities and are one of Macomb County's greatest cheerleaders.

**Q** What does the future look like for your organization?


**A** It looks great. We have the resources we need in place to attract economic development and help shape the future of Macomb County. People understand that we are a good broker of opportunities in Macomb County and they are coming to us to help grow their businesses. 

Photo courtesy of Macomb County



John Paul Rea

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15950 12 Mile Rd.  
Roseville 48066  
586-447-9200

##### Warren

27850 Van Dyke  
Warren 48093  
586-574-2170

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*God be in my head,  
and in my understanding.  
God be in my eyes and in my looking,  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart and in my thinking,  
God be at my end and at my departing.*



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# Stacey Frankovich

## Helping students on the path to entrepreneurship

By Jane Peterson

With a Bachelor of Arts in healthcare administration, Stacey Frankovich has carved out a unique career path, working as special education assistant for Clarkston Community Schools, coordinator for the Ideas to Business program at Oakland University School of Business and then market development manager for the Macomb-Oakland University INCubator.



Stacey Frankovich

Today Frankovich is director at the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) at Macomb Community College. The CIE is a comprehensive resource for both students and community members who seek entrepreneurship education and training, mentorships and capital funding for projects. It sponsors various workshops and pitch competitions for student entrepreneurs as well as houses the Macomb Innovation Fund, supported by JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Macomb Community College's Strategic Fund.

Frankovich said entrepreneurship is a unique space and she wanted to be involved as students build, improve, innovate, revise, fund and take their projects to market.

**Q** What is mission of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship?

**A** The CIE supports and mentors students and community members as they pursue their entrepreneurship goals. It helps to stimulate economic development and provides access to capital funding for startups.

**Q** What is the Innovation Fund?

**A** It is a pre-seed fund that helps fund innovative technology-focused start-up companies with high growth potential while in an early stage of development. There was a gap in this area as most start-up funding is awarded at the end of the process because investing earlier on is riskier. Companies awarded funding are required to provide educational experiences to Macomb students, which include internships.

**Q** How does the CIE benefit from its location in Macomb County?

**A** CIE is all about education. It's a useful, interesting opportunity for students to understand problem-solving and engage in entrepreneurship activities. There are so many opportunities available to students in Macomb County. They will be able to go to a variety of industries with the skills they have learned.

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

**A** The future looks bright. We want to continue to engage students and work with collaborative partners to watch their startup businesses grow and succeed.

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

**A** I collaborate with a number of local resources professionally, including Macomb County Economic Development and Planning, Macomb-Oakland INCubator and the defense sector. Personally, I serve on the Michigan Board of Medicine. ■

Photo courtesy of Macomb Community College

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# Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine

## Promoting prosperity through achievement of educational goals

By Jane Peterson

**A**hmad Ezzeddine Ph.D. is a Wayne State University Warrior through and through. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Information Systems, Master of Business Administration and a Doctorate in Business and Industrial Engineering, he has focused his career at Wayne State working on businesses development, strategic planning and educational outreach initiatives.

Currently serving as Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs, Ezzeddine promotes economic prosperity by helping Macomb County residents achieve their educational goals. That may mean taking classes at WSU, enrolling in online courses or attending a non-degree program in a corporate environment.



Ahmad Ezzeddine Ph.D.

During his career, Ezzeddine has worked to advance Wayne State University's business-oriented offerings in Macomb County, which include developing programs aimed at addressing the need for an increasingly technology-oriented and skilled workforce. Through global partnerships, community engagement and programs that help keep talented young professionals in the area, Ezzeddine continues to work to drive economic growth in Macomb County and beyond.

**Q** What is mission of your organization?

**A** We will create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive and positively impact local and global communities.

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

**A** As a major research and educational institution, Wayne State University is a great resource. We offer educational programs to residents, prepare the workforce to meet employer's current needs and provide support through research, training and development programs to the business community. We hope that people continue to take advantage of these offerings.

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

**A** Macomb County is an ideal location for us as we serve the needs of the region and state. We have a large number of alumni in the area making an impact in the communities in which they live and work.

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

**A** 20 percent of our students come from Macomb County. The largest number of community college students come to us from Macomb Community College and that has been true for years. **M**

Photos courtesy of Wayne State University

**Left:** Ahmad Ezzeddine Ph.D, associate vice president for Educational Outreach and International Programs at Wayne State University (center) is pictured with Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel (left) and Gov. Rick Snyder.





# BY THE NUMBERS

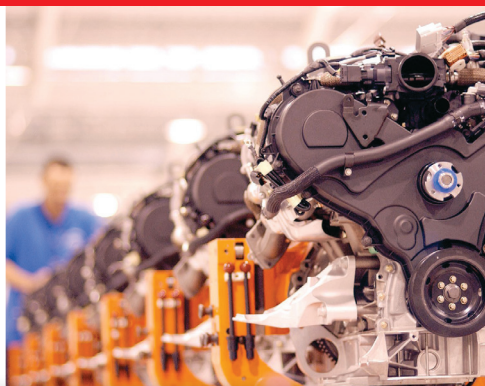
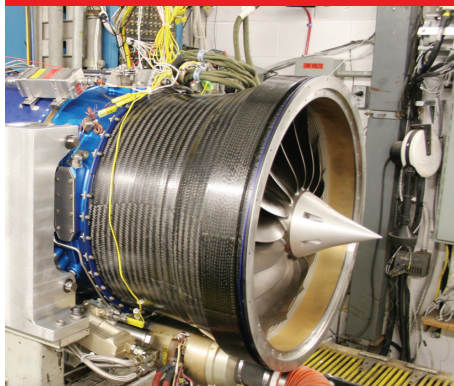
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# Advanced Manufacturing

MACOMB COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

► With more than **1,600 manufacturers** in Macomb County, the industry accounts for more than 1 out of every 4 jobs in Macomb County.



## Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing 497

Machinery Manufacturing 419

Transportation Equipment Manufacturing 150

Miscellaneous Manufacturing 102

Printing and Related Support Activities 72



Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing 63

## Food Manufacturing 47

Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing 45

Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing 37

Primary Metal Manufacturing 33

Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing 28



## Electrical Equipment, Appliance and Component Manufacturing 25

Chemical Manufacturing 24

Textile Product Mills 21

Paper Manufacturing 17

Wood Product Manufacturing 16



## Apparel Manufacturing 13

Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing 8

Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing 3

Textile Mills 3

Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing 2

**\$13 billion**

Annual economic impact

**3rd**

In the nation for growth  
in manufacturing

**285**

Tool and die makers  
in Macomb County

## TOOL & DIE Capital of the World

A critical stage for manufacturing of all types, Michigan has **more toolmakers than any other state.**

Macomb Community College received a federal grant to produce **300 apprentices** in the industry over the next five years.

Statewide, there are **more than 200,000 journeyed skilled tradespeople** in the workforce.



# Next Generation Mobility

## MACOMB COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

► Companies connected to the automotive industry have invested more than **\$6.7 billion in Macomb County** since 2010.

75%

Michigan is No. 1 in automotive R&D where more than **75 percent of nationwide spending occurs** in 370 centers across the state.

10

U.S. automakers FCA, GM and Ford operate **10 facilities in Macomb County** covering more than 25 million square feet and employing nearly 39,000 people.



- Technical Center
- Warren Transmission



- Sterling Heights Assembly Plant
- Warren Truck
- Sterling Stamping
- Warren Stamping



- Sterling Axle
- Van Dyke Transmission
- Romeo Proving Grounds
- Romeo Engine Plant

200,000

19%

Michigan is No. 1 in the nation for **new automotive-related jobs with a growth of more than 200,000** over the past five years.

Michigan builds more cars than any other state with **19 percent of all vehicles produced here.**



(Michigan Automotive & Defense Cyber Assurance Team), **based in Macomb County**, was formed to establish a cybersecurity center of excellence and attract businesses and institutions that support the development, growth and retention of our talent pool.

63

Of the top 100 automotive suppliers to North America, **63 are headquartered in Michigan.**





# Automated Systems & Robotics

MACOMB COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

Macomb County companies  
**design, build and integrate the machinery**  
that makes advanced manufacturing possible.



## INDUSTRY Leaders

- KUKA Robotics
- KUKA Systems
- Fori Automation
- MAG Automotive
- Paslin







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