years of moving forward

Macomb County celebrates two centuries

Proximity: Amazon bringing 1,000 jobs to the area Page 28

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Community:

Page

and the state

ULILIndustry | Innovation | Technology | Opportunity | Community | Diversity

Blue Water Initiative adds to county economy Page 50 **Industry:** Female entrepreneur built stamping plant from her garage Page 60

Uniquely Macomb County, Michigan



"As a single mother working full-time, any free time is a bonus. I wanted to be an example to my daughter and show her that if you want something bad enough and apply yourself, you can do anything."

 Nakisha Scruggs, Bachelor of Science in general management, Class of 2018

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On the cover: Images from 200 years of Macomb County history. (Cover design by Steven Josephson)

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Inspiring Macomb's 'new collar' worker

County Executive Mark A. Hackel shares how the county is preparing today's talent for tomorrow's opportunity

Q We know the terms white-collar and blue-collar worker. What is a "new collar" worker?

A This is the evolution of industry in action. Ginni Rometty, CEO of IBM, coined the phrase in late 2017. A new collar worker has a combination of professional and technical skills. They combine technical skills with a knowledge base rooted in higher education and the roles they fill are in areas like cyberse-curity, data science and artificial intelligence.

Q What do you mean by the evolution of industry? A Industry 4.0, a trend integrating data into manufacturing, is here. Every day we see new technologies being applied in automation, artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles. Businesses are adapting to keep pace, so our workforce needs to as well. It is estimated that 65 percent of today's kindergarteners will have job titles that do not exist today. There is a big shift coming and our young people need to be ready to leave high school career and college ready.

Q How is Macomb County government involved in fueling the talent pipeline?

A The Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development works directly with businesses to help them achieve their goals for growth. It makes sense for us to connect these clients with the school districts where they provide jobs. So our team is bringing these groups together to increase opportunities for students and help them explore career possibilities.

) For instance?

A MCPED Director John Paul Rea and his team are working with the administration of Romeo Community Schools as they achieve a designation as a Ford Next Generation Learning community. The new Academies of Romeo will align learning requirements through the lens of a career theme, such as engineering, healthcare, technology or business. The approach is dependent on interaction with area employers and we are helping to make those connections.

We also coordinate one of the nation's largest celebrations of Manufacturing Day. Together with the MISD, more than 6,500 high school students have visited an area plant to see industry in action. And, we have evidence that this experience has helped to connect kids with careers that they are really passionate about.

Q What does the next generation of our workforce think about these new collar jobs?

A The students that I meet all over Macomb County are excited about learning. They thrive when given a chance for hands-on learning experiences where they can prove that they

are gaining marketable skills in manufacturing, health sciences or information technology. It is an awesome thing to witness and be a part of.

Photo courtesy of Macomb County

CONNECT

For more information about Macomb County's efforts to fuel the talent pipeline: http:// business.macombgov.org/ business-FuelingTalent



Congratulations Macomb County

FCA US LLC is honored to support Macomb County's bicentennial celebration and proud to be part of its manufacturing heritage.



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DOING WHAT'S BEST.

1



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The early years

The county's history up to the end of its first century



1780: First English-speaking landowner

William Tucker is the first English-speaking landowner in what would later become Macomb County (about 3,300 acres in the area that today is Selfridge Air National Guard Base).

1782: Moravian missionaries arrive

Moravian missionaries and Delaware Indian converts arrive in New Gnadenutten near what is now Moxon Drive in Clinton Township.

1818: A county seat

Mount Clemens, which is also celebrating its bicentennial this year, becomes the seat of the yetto-be established county. Sixty-one years later, Romeo would challenge to become the county seat, though Mount Clemens held the distinction.

Jan. 15. 1818: Macomb County formally organized Named in honor of General Alexander Macomb, a highly decorated veteran of the War of 1812, Macomb County was organized as the third county in the Michigan territory. (It was initially much larger geographically. In 1819 and 1820, large

portions were removed to form the counties of Oakland, Lapeer, Genesee and St. Clair.) 1822: An inventor settles here

William Austin Burt, inventor of the solar compass who had the first American patent for the typewriter, settles in Macomb County.

1830: Ever wonder where Groesbeck Highway comes from?

Louis Groesbeck, the first recorded settler, arrives in Warren.

1831: Getting from here to there

The Fort Gratiot Turnpike, linking Detroit to Mount Clemens, is completed. Today it is known as Gratiot Avenue

1838: Big dreams dashed

In 1838, the state of Michigan embarked on an ambitious project, the Clinton Kalamazoo Canal. The project was to enable settlers to cross southern Michigan by boat from Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan. Work started in Mount Clemens and proceeded west. It got as far as Rochester when it ran out of money and was abandoned in 1843.

1843: A new name for township

The township of Orange, one of Macomb's original townships, was changed to Erin Township. Some historians theorize the change came because of the influence of Irish Catholics, who found the name "Orange" distasteful as the Orangemen of Ireland, named after King William of Orange, were traditionally Protestants from Northern Ireland.

1844: School bells ring

The first known county school is established at the home of William Tucker in Harrison Township.

1859: Train comes a rolling

Grand Trunk Railroad's first passenger train steams into Mount Clemens.

1861: First church established

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, built at Utica Junction in Roseville, opens its doors. It would inpsire four other parishes in Roseville and 18 throughout the territory. The iconic church held its final Sunday mass in June 2014.

1870: Ahh. water!

The therapeutic properties of mineral water in Mount Clemens are discovered, eventually spawning a major industry for the city in the coming decades. The city's first bath house, "The Original" would open in 1873, burned a decade later but was rebuilt and put back in operation in 1884.

1884: Here comes 'The Thing'

Working in Macomb County, Thomas Clegg and his father built "The Thing," the first recorded selfpropelled vehicle in Michigan and possibly one of the first in the United States.

1897: 'Halfway' there

In October, the name Halfway was coined for the post office and stagecoach stop established by Herman Hummrich along the Fort Gratiot Turnpike and Nine Mile Road. The village was named that as it was Halfway between Detroit and Mount

Clemens. By 1929 it could become East Detroit by a vote of residents, before changing its name to Eastpointe by a decree of voters in 1992. An earlier effort to change the East Detroit name to Erin Heights failed.

1898: An important rail stop

The Detroit United Railway, which ran from Detroit to Port Huron, sets New Baltimore as one of its stops. Because of its position in between the two port cities, the powerhouse for the trains is built there. At its peak, there were 14 local trains making seven daily round trips and 30 limited trains making 15 daily round trips collectively providing hourly service.

1899: St. Joseph Sanitarium dedicated

St. Joseph Sanitarium was dedicated (women were not allowed to attend the ceremony). Eighty-seven years later, St. Joseph Hospital and Bath House was placed on the Michigan Register of Historical Places. It is the last remaining bath house in Mount Clemens.

1917: Selfridge Field founded

Thirteen years after the Wright Brothers historic flight in North Carolina, aviation had come a long way, including in World War I. A large tract of land on Lake St. Clair was bought by Packard Motor Company. At the urgent of its President, Henry B. Joy, the company began developing aircraft engines.











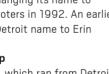
















Macomb County since 1918





















Oct. 26, 1960: Congressman speaks in Macomb Thirteen days before being elected president of the United States, John F. Kennedy's campaign comes to Macomb County with stops at Tech Plaza in Warren and downtown Mount Clemens.

May 8, 1964: Deadly tornado strikes

On a Friday tornado touches down in Chesterfield Township, killing 13, injuring 400 — with 127 hospitalized — and leaving 1,000 homeless. It only lasted 30 seconds at 4:59 p.m. but covered a two mile by three-quarters of a mile area.

1964: Shopping phenomenon comes to Macomb The Macomb Mall in Roseville opens. It is the county's first enclosed mall and only the second of its kind in Michigan.

1971: A new name

Selfridge Field is renamed Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

1998: A new home for county government

The new County Administration Building opens with a dedication held Oct. 29.

2011: A new form of government

After failed past efforts Macomb County adopts an executive form of government. Sheriff Mark Hackel is elected to the post.





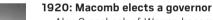












Alex Groesbeck of Warren becomes the 30th governor of Michigan.

1922: Becoming established

Selfrige Field is declared a permanent U.S. military installation under the command of Major Carl "Tooey" Spaatz, who would later become Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

1927: Amusement park fun in the Shores

Jefferson Beach Amusement Park opens on Jefferson Avenue north of Nine Mile Road featuring the country's longest roller coaster at the time.

1928: High flying cars in Shelby

The test track at the Packard Proving Grounds in Shelby Township was inaugurated by race car driver Leon Duray, who drove a record 148.7 mph.

1932: A first for women

Alice Tucker becomes the county's first female elected official, winning the office of Register of Deeds. Eighteen years later, Mildred Stark would be elected as the first female commissioner.

1942: The Arsenal of Democracy

With the United States fighting a world war on two fronts, President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits the Warren Tank Plant, "The Arsenal of Democrary."

1948: The really big screen

The Gratiot Drive-In Theater, one of only two waterfall theaters in the U.S., opens its gates. The





From humble beginnings

How Macomb communities got their start

Bruce Township

Organized in 1833, Bruce Township has retained its rural, agricultural based character. Growth has been steady. Bruce Township's 2010 population of 8,158 residents are serviced by commercial centers in or near the neighboring Village of Romeo. In 1990, sixty-seven percent of the land in the Township was dedicated to agriculture or remained vacant. The Ford Motor Company's Proving Grounds and Test Track comprises more than six square miles in the west-central portion of the Township.

Source: Bruce Township website Village of Armada



Village of Armada was originally known as Burke's Corners after an early settler and was briefly renamed Honeoye after the hometown of several newly-arrived residents from New York. When the village was incorporated in 1867, it received its modern name of Armada. The village was actually founded in 1833 by Elijah Burke, a man of religious fervor and a member of the Temperance movement. He began a Sunday School, which eventually spawned two churches, the

Armada, c1920s

Congregational and the Methodist. Organized in 1867 as an official village, reincorporated in 1885 to include additional territory. Source: *Village of Armada website*

Armada Township

Originally organized in 1832, the township developed as an agricultural area. Today, it embodies a rural character with a mixture of small farms and residential areas, including the Village of Armada. The area is noted for its prominent apple orchards nestled among small hills and the winding turns of Coon Creek which flows through the area.

Source: Armada Township website

Washington Township

A meeting to organize the township was held in April 1827 at the home of Alvin Nye. When it came time to chose a name for the new township, Daniel Thurston, who presided over the meeting, said "I move we name the town in honor of the father of our country." The name Washington was enthusiastically accepted by the group. The township originally included what is today Washington and Bruce townships. Historically, Washington Township has been a productive farming community, with a strong emphasis on orchards. In 1850, the township had 119 farms and by 1874 that number had grown to 196. A significant part of the farming history of this area is related to the beautiful orchards that have been, and are, here. At present, there are four major orchards in Washington Township: Bowerman's Orchard and Greenhouse, Miller's Big Red Apple Orchard, Westview Orchards and Cider Mill of Romeo, and Verellen's Orchards and Cider Mill.

Source: The Greater Washington Area Historical Society website

Village of Romeo



The property that was to become Romeo was inhabited by Chippewa Indians when Jeremiah Allen moved from Canada in 1821 and built a cabin. Romeo was known as Indian Village when a Mr. Hoxie appeared in 1822. He established an Inn on Main Street called The Old Red Tavern which, sadly, was later destroyed by fire. At this point in history, the village was renamed Hoxie's Settlement. Hoxie's Settlement became incorporated and renamed on March 9, 1838. Romeo was the new

Romeo, 1883

name given the village by Mrs. Laura Taylor when the 3 plat owners (Asahel Bailey, N.T. Taylor and Major Larned) failed to choose a suitable name to fit their criteria.

Source: Romeo Historical Society website

Ray Township

Ray Township was established April 12, 1827. It was named Rhea by Noah Webster after a river in Europe. The Indians first had a title to the land which was extinguished by treaty in 1807.

Source: Ray Township Historical Society website

Lenox Township

Founded in 1852 and encompasses the village of New Haven. Today it still maintains its rural character though residential growth continues to occur along the Gratiot Avenue corridor. Source: Macomb Daily staff

Village of New Haven

First settled by French explorers in 1835, the town became a frequent visiting place for the likes of Thomas Edison and, later, famous actors such as Mickey Rooney. . The settlement was originally called "New Baltimore Station" and received its first post office on January 6, 1838, with Charles B. Matthews as the postmaster. The Village of New Haven was incorporated on May 3, 1869 with Benjamin L. Bates elected as the first Village President. *Source: Village of New Haven website*



New Haven, 1917

Richmond

In 1835, Erastus Beebe had a dream. With his two brothers and several men from an English settlement in New York, he was determined to carve a prosperous community out of the wilderness known today as the City of Richmond. It was not until December 1, 1859, that Richmond's success as a community was secured. The Grand Trunk Railway had arrived, providing easy access to the area's lumber and agricultural products; commodities much needed by a young nation in its time of civil war. In the decades that followed, industry flourished and prospered. By 1878, the voters of Beebe's Corners and the two nearest neighboring communities, Ridgeway and Cooper Town, agreed to incorporate as one community. The following year, by an act of the Michigan Legislature, the Village of Richmond was born. On July 1, 1966, Richmond was incorporated as a Michigan home rule city under the council / manager form of government.

Source: City of Richmond website

Richmond Township

The Village of Richmond continued to flourish throughout the early and mid-1900s, and, on July 1, 1966, Richmond was incorporated as a Michigan home rule city under the council / manager form of government. In 1989, the Muttonville area of Lenox Township was annexed into the city, and in 1998 parts of Richmond Township in Macomb County and Casco and Columbus Townships in St. Clair County were also annexed. *Source: City of Richmond website*

Chesterfield Township

The Michigan State Legislature officially created Chesterfield Township in 1842 by Public Act 57. Long before North American Indians lived on the land and rode along the waters as evidenced by the artifacts of arrow heads, clay pots and burial plots.

Source: Chesterfield Township website

New Baltimore

The City of New Baltimore was incorporated as a village in 1867 and as a city in 1931. It is located on the north coastline of Lake St. Clair, along the boundary of Macomb and St. Clair Counties. The town sits on the waterfront and offers a public park, beach, and downtown-shopping district. *Source: City of New Baltimore website*



New Baltimore, c1940s

Macomb Townshin

By the early 1830s, people began settling in the area now known as Macomb Township. Officially, the Township of Macomb, was erected under the authority of the Legislative Council, and approved on March 7, 1834. The flat land and fertile soil brought in by the Clinton River attracted many German farmers, and even now, Macomb Township retains many of its German influences. One of the first people to settle in Macomb Township was Daniel Kniffens, who acquired land on the Middle Branch of the Clinton River. This area was commonly known as the Village of Macomb Corners and is near the corner of present day 25 Mile and Romeo Plank Roads.

Shelby Township

Shelby Township was surveyed and opened for general land sales in 1818. A township government was organized in 1827. The settlement of Disco at the crossroads of 24 Mile Road and Van Dyke, began in the 1830s and was a busy community. The 1928 Packard Proving Grounds, an engineering marvel, graces Van Dyke Avenue.

Source: Shelby Township Historical Committee website



Utica

In May 1817, Nathanial Squire, a revolutionary war veteran and reputedly the first resident of Utica, Michigan moved west along the Clinton River from near Mt. Clemens, until he came to a high point of ground where the river and two Indian trails crossed. The rapidly growing settlement was variously called McDougalville, Hog Hollow and Harlow. The first plat of the area was made in November, 1829, by Joseph Stead, under the preferred name of Harlow. The grant was signed by President James Madison. Yankees

Utica, c1920

from New York State, attracted to this region after the English had relinquished control of the area to the United States, changed the name of the village to Utica, after the name of the city in their home state. Source: City of Utica website

Sterling Heights

The waters of the Clinton River kindled the beginnings of Sterling Township. It was actually surface water and battles over land along the river that helped foster the birth of the city of Sterling Heights. During the mid 1950s, booming manufacturers looked for new opportunities outside of the City of Detroit and ultimately chose the rural lands of Sterling Township to call home. The Ford Motor Company, Chrysler Corporation, LTV Missile Plant and Briggs Manufacturing all followed the "Golden Corridor" up Van Dyke and Mound roads and settled into Sterling Township, as it was known before the city was incorporated in 1968, which the city is celebrating this year. Source: City of Sterling Heights website

Clinton Township

On July 22, 1782, David Zeisberger and his followers founded the first settlement in Clinton Township. In 1827 Clinton Township was much larger than today and encompassed what later became Warren and Erin townships. Clinton Township was named for the Clinton River when it was renamed at the first meeting of the state legislature.

Source: Clinton Township Historical Commission website

Mount Clemens



The founder of the city, Christian Clemens, first came to this area in 1796 as part of a surveying venture. At the time the area was known as "High Banks" or "Big Springs" along the river, then known as the Huron. On January 26, 1837, the little settlement was incorporated as a village, the same date that Michigan became the 26th state admitted to the Union. By 1879, the town had grown to over 3,000 and the people voted for the village to become a city. During the 1870's, a mineral bath industry

Mount Clemens, c1920s

flourished that made Mount Clemens famous throughout the world as a health spa. As the mineral baths were bringing fame to the city, another industry was developing that brought national attention to Mount Clemens. Beginning in 1880, and for two decades after World War I, there were ten major rose growers with over 30 acres under glass. Mount Clemens was once known as the Rose Capital of the United States.

Source: City of Mount Clemens website

Harrison Township

Harrison Township was formed in 1827 and became a charter township government November 13, 1978.

Source: Harrison Township Historical Society website

Fraser

To make travel easier, the Detroit Erin Blank Road Company began to build Utica Plank Road (Utica Road) in 1851 from the Gratiot Turnpike to the City of Utica. This is really the beginning of the crossroads community that became Fraser. In 1894, the Village of Fraser was incorporated by an act of the state legislature. There was some confusion about the spelling of the village's name. When the village was incorporated, the name was listed as Frazer. In 1928, the



Fraser, 1939

residents voted to legally change the spelling to Fraser. In 1956, the population of the village had grown to 3,363. The village could now become a city. In the spring of that year, one square mile of the former Erin Township was annexed to make the present size of the City of Fraser -- four square miles. Source: City of Fraser website

St. Clair Shores

The area was inhabited by French settlers as early as 1710, at which time it was called L'anse Creuse. From 1843 until 1911. St. Clair Shores was a part of Erin Township, parts of which make up today's Eastpointe, the Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores. In 1911 the township's name changed to Lake Township. Prior to the city's incorporation in 1951, St. Clair Shores was recognized as the largest village in the United States.

Source: City of St. Clair Shores website.

Roseville

When Michigan became a state in 1837, a farming community, which is now Roseville, was made part of Orange Township. Because of strong Irish sentiment, the township's name was changed to Erin in 1843. In 1926, Roseville was incorporated as a village. 1958, the village became the City of Roseville and Arthur Waterman was elected the first mayor. Source: City of Roseville website



Roseville, 1875

Eastpointe

The area now known as Eastpointe was founded in the early part of the 19th century by the European immigrants who came to establish homes in the New World. Originally known in 1837 as Orange Township, by 1843 the area was renamed Erin Township, both names indicating that the earliest settlers were Irish. The township form of government lasted until December 8, 1924, when the Village of Halfway was incorporated. The name was changed to the City of East Detroit on Jan. 7, 1929. In 1992, residents voted to rename the city Eastpointe. Source: East Detroit Historical Society

Warren

The first known landowner to actually settle here was Charles Groesbeck in 1830. He was soon followed by his brother Louis and Charles Rivard. Louis. who settled at what became the northwest corner of 12 Mile and Mound, hosted the organization of Hickory Township (later Aba, then Warren) in 1837, when Michigan became a state. Hickory Township became the Village of Warren, which still exists today. Many efforts have been made to restore and maintain the



Warren, 1893

Village area, and these efforts resulted in the designation of the Village area as a State Historic Site. A marker at Chicago and Mound Roads explains this designation. On October 27, 1957 Gov. G. Mennen Williams signed the charter designating Warren as a City.

Source: Warren Historical and Genealogical website

Center Line

First named Hickory in 1837, changed to Aba in 1838, it became Warren Township in 1939. There are several theories regarding the name "Center Line." Some are based on fact, others myth, but all tend to prove that Center Line was aptly named. There were three Indian trails leading from the fort at Detroit to other trading posts in the northern wilderness. The first was the river trail which followed the river and ended at Port Huron; the second was the Saginaw trail and ended at Mackinaw at the Straits of Mackinaw. Through the center of the two trails, the Indians had beaten a trail that followed the "center line" by the French. On July 11, 1925, Governor Alex J. Groesbeck signed the charter that was accepted by the voters on Nov. 9, 1925. The transition from village to city took place in 1936.

Source: City of Center Line website





The city where it happens

How Mt. Clemens became the county seat

Macomb County encompasses 479 square miles, but when it was originally founded large portions of the original territory were removed and became Oakland, Lapeer, Genessee and St. Clair counties.

Named in honor of General Alexander Macomb Jr., a highly decorated veteran of the War of 1812, Macomb became the third county established in the Michigan territories.

In 1818, when Michigan Territorial Governor Louis Cass decreed a settlement known as Mount Clemens would be the county seat, Macomb County was on the map.

It was also quite a victory for the first settler and founder of the city, Christian Clemens, who was also a judge at the time.

He bypassed a committee that had been appointed to decide where the county capitol would be and donated property, money and labor to have his land earn the honor.

"Christian Clemens had established an outpost in the wilderness, it was called High Banks because it was on a rise on the Clinton River, but by 1818 he had plotted the land and named it Mount Clemens," Deborah Larsen, assistant director of the Mount Clemens Public Library and the local history librarian, said. "Then he made sure the courthouse was centrally located in downtown Mount Clemens."

The tale of ingenuity and guile is one Larsen enjoys telling as she shares the history of the city that has played an important role in Macomb County over the years.

The mineral bath industry that thrived in Mount Clemens in the late 1800s is another interesting story from the county's past listed

among Larsen's favorites.

After the Civil War settlers planned to mine salt in the city but they soon found the bry was polluted so they aborted the salt wells but found the salts had an unusually positive affect on ailments, Larsen said.

"In those days, doctors prescribed a three-week course of the salt baths for psoriasis, rheumatism and what we now call arthritis," Larsen said. "People were traveling to the city and staying there for weeks to take just one bath a day to get the so-called cure."

Now putting the county and the city on the world map, Mount Clemens was soon thriving with hotels, bars, restaurants and at one point a roller coaster on the Clinton River, all to keep visitors entertained between baths.

The baths continued to flow into the 1920's and despite prohibition taking hold for more than a dozen years before it was repealed in 1933, Larsen said blind pigs were rampant in the city.

"One story is that there was speak easy next to the police station downtown and they just looked the other way," she said.

The Great Depression followed by WWII halted the popularity of the mineral bath industry.

As most hotels in the city were now more than 50 years old, a steady decline in visitors, looking for more modern conveniences, ended the boom in the city.

- By Barb Pert Templeton

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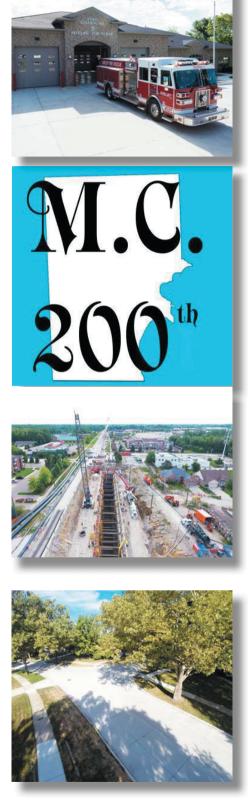
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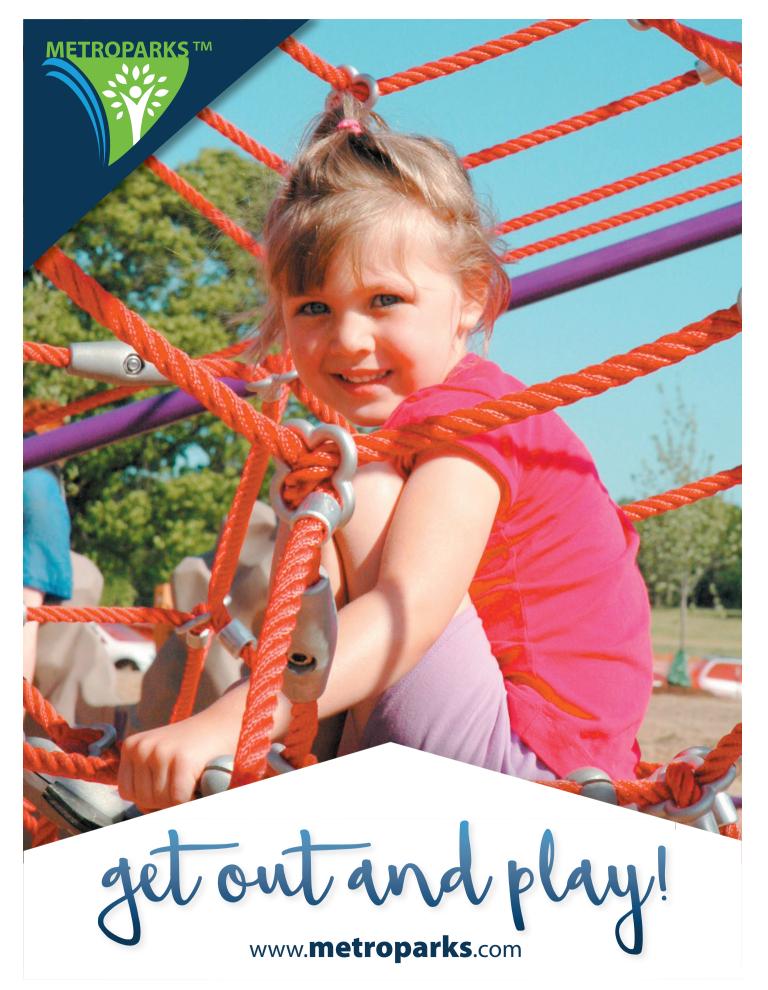
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Named in honor of General Alexander Macomb, a highly decorated veteran of the War of 1812, Macomb County was formally organized on January 15, 1818 as the third county in the Michigan territory.

By 1840, new settlers were moving in to carve out farmland from the deep hardwood forests. Early settlers were from France and England and they were soon joined by individuals from Germany, Belgium and other countries.

During the 1870s, the mineral baths of Mount Clemens put Macomb County on the map, as thousands of visitors came to experience the healing powers of the water.

Between 1920 and 1930, Macomb County doubled in population, rising from 38,103 to 77,146 persons. Two significant developments spurred this growth: the establishment of Selfridge Field in 1917 and the beginning of the urbanization movement northward from the City of Detroit.

During the 1940s and the 1950s, the movement from the central city to the suburbs increased. The largest growth occurred between 1950 and 1970, when over 440,000 people were added to Macomb County's population.

Today Macomb County is the third most populated county in Michigan, with an estimated 871,634 residents. A dynamic network of more than 18,000 businesses fuel the economy. Offering sound infrastructure and a skilled workforce, Macomb County supports growing industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, defense, health care, retail, agriculture, food processing and more.

Macomb County is proud to celebrate our 200th year. To learn more about our stories, upcoming events and more, visit **Macomb200.org**



Mark A. Hackel Macomb County Executive



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Macomb Now Magazine is proud to be a sponsor of Macomb County's Bicentennial. Every issue we share interesting stories about living in Macomb County. And this year we added a new Bicentennial page to our Web site, giving you access to past and current stories on the history of Macomb County. Check it out today. To subscribe today call 855.622.6621 or go online to MacombNowMagazine.com

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For a complete list of torchbearers and photos from the relay VISIT MACOMB200.0RG



Amazon bringing 1,000 jobs to area

Shelby Township site finds new life as distribution center By Jane Peterson

new Amazon distribution center currently under construction is poised to make a substantial impact on the Shelby Township community.

Township, county and state officials have been working with Amazon to remediate the site at 23 Mile and Mound roads and expedite construction to meet the company's expected Labor Day completion date. The 1 million square-foot facility will change the landscape in the area, cleaning up a former industrial plant site and adding 1,000 new, full-time jobs. "We seized the opportunity to build a partnership with Amazon and it's exciting to welcome the world's No. 1 e-commerce retailer to Shelby Township," said Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis.

The site was formerly home to the Visteon Corp. auto parts plant and has sat empty since around 2009. The building contractor has been working with Macomb County, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and an independent, thirdparty environmental consultant to identify environmental hazards and execute a remediation plan.

According to Jeff Schroeder, program manager, Planning and GIS Mapping Services for Macomb County Planning & Economic Development, 85 acres have been split from the master parcel of 207 acres for the Amazon facility. Through a Brownfield Plan, a concrete slab that was the former plant floor was demolished and contaminated soil remediated. Also, a sub-slab depressurization system was installed to mitigate indoor air quality concerns.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds will provide financial

support to the project, he said. The TIF Authority will capture a percentage of the tax increment revenue generated by the property for up to 20 years and use it to reimburse the developer for the cost of eligible activities completed on the property. This is a common funding tool used by communities to encourage re-development of eligible sites.

Glenn Wynn, planning director for Shelby Township, said the project is a complete transformation of the site.

With remediation completed and construction well under way, Stathakis is pleased with the progress and the economic development the project will bring to not only the township, but local small businesses, too. As Amazon employees pick, pack and ship large household items from the center, they are expected to eat and shop at nearby businesses. They will fill up their gas tanks and some will also purchase homes in the area, he added.

Plans also call for improvements to the area, including widening and repaying a portion of Mound Road south of 23 Mile Road to the center's northern entrance as well natural landscaping.

"We're excited to continue growing our team in Michigan with our new facility Shelby Township," said Ryan Wilson, manager, Economic Development at Amazon. "Our ability to add a new fulfillment center in the community is the result of incredible customers, an outstanding workforce and a strong partnership with state and local economic development groups. Amazon is committed to providing great opportunities for employment, offering full benefits starting day 1, and we look forward to partnering with the community for years to come."

Above: The 1 million square-foot Amazon distribution center will change the landscape in the area, cleaning up a former industrial plant site and adding 1,000 new, full-time jobs. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELBY TOWNSHIP

CONNECT



Amazon is expected to begin filling job openings later this summer. To learn more about working at the Shelby Township Amazon fulfillment center, visit AmazonDelivers.jobs.





Growing with the community

St. John Macomb expansion to focus on area's current needs

By Jane Peterson

R xcitement is growing in Macomb County as a multi-million expansion at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital in Warren continues to take shape.

The hospital, one of 15 Ascension hospitals in Michigan, broke ground on the project last November. It will expand the east tower on Hoover Road at 12 Mile from four to seven floors, adding space for 15 more beds. The project also calls for the creation of 75 private rooms and renovations to 42 current private rooms. These moves are designed to better align with the needs of today's patients and their families.

"We will be a 375-bed hospital," said St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital President Terry Hamilton, "and this expansion will allow us to triple the number of private rooms we currently offer."

Hamilton said the greatest benefit of private rooms from a medical standpoint is creating an environment in which patients find it easier to sleep and recuperate in.

"Rest is critical to healing," he said.

Neither patients nor insurance companies will be charged more for a private room. When the hospital went into service in the 1970s, the facility was constructed with an eye toward an efficient use of space, said Hamilton. More than 50 years later, the expectation is now focused on patient comfort.

And what patients want is privacy. They want to make phone calls, watch television and visit with friends and family members without knowing there is a stranger on the other side of the curtain who can't help but overhear what is going on around them.

However, that's not to say that space isn't used efficiently. Private rooms can help eliminate scheduling conflicts and open up beds that had to be previously removed from the schedule due to a variety of reasons, since a patient with an infectious disease can't have a roommate and male and female patients aren't paired together, for example. When complete, the construction project will be the fifth and largest expansion in the history of the hospital. It is also expected to create 25-100 jobs in areas like nursing, patient care and food service. Construction is expected to wrap up by summer 2019, said Hamilton.

The hospital prides itself on being a community partner, adding and adapting services to meet the needs of an ever-changing demographic in the greater Warren area and never turning anyone away in need of medical assistance, he said.

"The hospital is a safety net for the community. It's a hospital for everyone," said Hamilton. \blacksquare

Left: Dignitaries pose with the beam that was used for the topping off that took place in early May. From left to right are: Macomb Country Executive Mark Hackel; Pastor Leon Roman, St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital; Bishop Don Hanchon, Archdiocese of Detroit; Jim Fouts, mayor of Warren; and Terry Hamilton, president of St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital.

Right: A beam is placed during the construction project at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. JOHN'S MACOMB-OAKLAND HOSPITAL

CONNECT



St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital is at 11800 Twelve Mile Road in Warren. It is a faith-based, full-service hospital that offers a variety of medical and

emergency services, including surgery, maternity and rehabilitation. It also has one of the largest osteopathic training programs in the country, training more than 200 residents in 20 different programs annually. For more information, call (586) 573-5000.

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EDUCATION

Chippewa Valley Schools

Student success is paramount at Chippewa Valley Schools. From its innovative community preschool for its youngest learners to its thriving Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs for teens, Chippewa Valley Schools provides a highquality learning environment for its students, giving them the skills to succeed in college and careers.

The school district is the second largest district in Macomb County and the seventh largest in the state. Within a 28 square mile radius, Chippewa Valley serves students from across Clinton and Macomb townships. The district maintains a 95 percent graduation rate -10 points higher than the state average. It employs 840 teachers and its 16,300 students are housed in 21 buildings -12 elementary schools, four middle schools, two ninth-grade centers and three high schools.

Chippewa Valley takes its commitment to excellence seriously. Its CTE programs provide powerful hands-on lessons for high school students. They are designed to challenge students and prep them for post-secondary education opportunities or employment after graduation. The district currently offers 14 CTE fields of study, including: Automotive Technology, Business Management, Accounting and Finance, Information Technology, Construction Trades, Culinary Arts, Design Technology, Family & Consumer Science, Graphic Design, Marketing, Mechatronics and Robotics, Medical Academy, Teacher Cadet and Woodworking and Cabinetmaking.

Students enrolled in the construction trades program build homes through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. To date, students have helped build 11 homes for families in need, said Diane Blain, director of school and community relations.

Its Medical Academy, which was named an exemplary CTE program by the Michigan Department of Education, is a two-year program that allows students to explore their options in healthcare careers while developing critical skills through a





combination of hands-on classroom and hospital-based clinical rotations.

The skills-based medical courses offer medical terminology, anatomy and physiology relating to patient care. During senior year, students spend two hours a day in the hospital, three to four days a week for seven months, rotating through multiple hospital departments. Through their journey, students are empowered to make informed decisions regarding post-secondary options and future career opportunities in healthcare.

Chippewa Valley Schools' Medical Academy graduates are exceptionally well prepared for higher education regardless of the career path they pursue, said Blain.

The first year of high school is a pivotal point in a student's academic career. Chippewa Valley's Ninth Grade Centers offer students a seamless transition to high school by offering an extensive variety of classes and extracurricular opportunities. First-year students take most of their academic classes within the freshman building, located on the main campus of each high school, and travel to the main building for specialized instruction and advanced classes.

All Chippewa Valley classrooms offer 21st century interactive technology and unique hands-on learning opportunities. Elementary students explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) topics while high school students can choose from 15 Advanced Placement (AP) courses as well as dual enrollment and early college.

In addition, Chippewa Valley Schools has been awarded district accreditation by AdvancED, signifying that every school meets the highest quality standards and participates in a rigorous ongoing school improvement process.

To learn more about Chippewa Valley Schools, visit chippewavalleyschools.org or call (586) 723-2000.











from **Macomb County School Districts**

Macomb County's 21 public school districts contribute significantly to the quality of life in Macomb County. A recent survey reported that people move to Macomb County because of quality schools, safe neighborhoods and a positive business environment.

Macomb districts range from the very small to very large, from urban to rural, each looking forward in its own way. To learn more about a specific district, go to www.misd.net and click on **Macomb Schools.**

Anchor Bay Schools Armada Area Schools Center Line Public Schools Chippewa Valley Schools Clintondale Community Schools Eastpointe Community Schools **Fitzgerald Public Schools** Fraser Public Schools Lake Shore Public Schools Lakeview Public Schools L'Anse Creuse Public Schools



Macomb Intermediate School District 44001 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038 586.228.3300

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

For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to WWW.MISD.NET

EDUCATION

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools



L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, the fourth-largest school district in Macomb County, focuses on providing core instruction for students of all ages, while allowing them to explore their unique interests. Over the years, L'Anse Creuse has created an environment based on family and friends, loyalty, opportunity, respect and achievement.

The district continues to serve over 10,000 students from a variety of communities including Harrison Township and portions of Clinton, Chesterfield and Macomb Townships, Mount Clemens and St. Clair Shores. In all, there are two early childhood centers, nine elementary schools, four middle schools, two traditional high schools, an alternative high school, and a career and technical educational center for high school students.

The district also offers many adult education classes designed to help community members continue to build their personal and professional skills. Available classes include GED and high school completion, English Second Language and Civics and various Work Readiness programs in collaboration with the Michigan Works! Agency.

"We believe in life-long learning," said Director for Public and Community Relations Kelly Allen. "We have created a collaborative environment with educational goals tied to global, national, regional and local trends. Our educational support does not stop at a specific age."

Extracurricular activities, sports teams, clubs and more are all examples of what sets the school district apart. Dedicated teachers and staff members take extra time to run these programs, available to children of all ages.

At the elementary level, all students participate in specials classes, outside of the core curriculum, including art, music, physical education and Spanish. The ability to expand personal horizons extends to the middle school level where students can choose from a range of elective classes, sports, activities and clubs, giving them the ability to learn more about what excites them. At the high school level, students participate in several sports, perform in band or choir, enroll in advanced placement classes and compete in Science Olympiad.

L'Anse Creuse celebrated a number of accomplishments this year. The Frederick V. Pankow Center was awarded a \$25,000 trustee designated grant from the Ralph Wilson, Jr. Foundation to be used for furthering Career and Technical Education. In addition, Graham Elementary School was certified and named as a Leader in Me Lighthouse School by Franklin Covey Education.

L'Anse Creuse High School — North teacher Kathleen Reifert was named Michigan's Creative Writing Teacher of the Year. Pankow Center TV and Broadcast Media students won 27 awards at the state and national level.

"Our district is focused on the whole child," Allen said. "We are not just here to teach our students about reading, writing, math and science; we are here to teach them how to discover what they love, become part of a community and believe in themselves."

Call 586-783-6300 or visit www.lc-ps.org to learn more about L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. M

EDUCATION

Warren Consolidated Schools

Warren Consolidated Schools is a blue ribbon district based on a variety of factors, including two innovative programs designed to prepare its students for successful careers in the future.

In addition to having a strong core curriculum, newly renovated facilities and 16 Blue Ribbon Schools, Warren Consolidated offers the Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center (MMSTC) and the Career Preparation Center for qualifying students. Each of these programs allows students to attend classes for roughly two to four hours a day while attending their "home school" for core classes the remainder of the school day.

The MMSTC was started more than 25 years ago and hosts students from throughout Macomb County. It provides them with a half-day of project-based instruction, and is housed at the Butcher Educational Center in Warren. Students must pass a competitive test to qualify. Once they are in the program, they can stay in it through high school graduation.

"This is a very high level of math and science that our students are involved in and their senior projects are really challenging and extraordinarily impressive," said District Superintendent Dr. Robert Livernois.

In recent years the district launched a middle school equivalent to MMSTC that serves as a feeder program for the high schools. Students who excel in the program often have unlimited opportunities in college. In the 2015 graduation class alone, students who were involved with MMSTC amassed nearly \$7 million in scholarships.

The Career Preparation Center (CPC) ensures that all students have the academic background and technical skills essential to lead productive and successful lives as they enter the workforce, continue their education, and assume the civic responsibilities of adulthood. It is designed to highlight potential career pathways where there is a shortage of professionals, and where the ability to make a good living is extensive.

Among careers highlighted through an array of courses are

collision repair, computer-aided design, culinary arts,

gaming, building trades and construction, health sciences, marketing, robotics, plumbing, visual imaging and print technology and more. However many of the projects that CPC students are involved with are more than just in-class courses.

For example, students in the culinary arts program help to run a fully-functional restaurant that is open at various times during the week. Students involved in the building trades and

construction program are involved with building a house in the community. Once the house is completed, it is sold to a private buyer and the proceeds are used to purchase property where a new house is built by future CPC students.

"Those students do just about all the work in building the house, from the plumbing to the electrical, the drywall and the cabinet installation," Livernois said.

A dental science program has taught many aspiring dental hygienists some of the skills they will need for a future career while newer programs available through CPC include emergency medical technician (EMT) and a curriculum being launched this coming fall for cybersecurity. More than 700 students are involved in CPC courses each day while around 300 students are involved in the MMSTC curriculum during the 2017-2018 school year, Livernois said.

Warren Consolidated Schools includes more than 14,000 students and employs roughly 850 teachers and 600 other support staff members, including administration. Students may also be involved in the Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts, which offers targeted courses for students interested in careers in the arts, such as music or acting. All Warren Consolidated Schools are accredited by AdvancED, part of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Northwest Accreditation Commission, and the SACS Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. Visit www.wcskids.net to learn more.









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Center Line

Redeveloping and re-imagining

Center Line is celebrating 83 years of being a part of the metro Detroit community, so it has come a long way since first becoming a city in 1936. A rich history tied together with the



strength of family, community and business has resulted in a fierce pride that is the heartbeat of the city. That pride of place and a sense of togetherness has kept many families and businesses in Center Line for decades.

Center Line is an environmentally conscious community, participating in urban forestry and green infrastructure programs such as tree-planting with ReLeaf Michigan in its parks to grow the existing canopy for future generations and by developing a grant-funded, new green infrastructure parking lot. The city held its first farmers' market last year on Van Dyke at Harding and will continue its relationship with Rising Star Academy to bring fresh, local grown produce to its residents as well as encourage the current community garden already in place.

Center Line is re-developing from the ground up and is poised for future growth with an effort to transform its downtown district from 9 ½ Mile to 11 Mile to be a more walkable, pedestrian friendly community. An ongoing economic strategy to redevelop the downtown district has been created that applies mixed-use concepts through the use of form-based codes. This is one of the many ways that Center Line excels as a unique and progressive city in Macomb County while retaining its core identity as a close-knit, charming community.

The City Center Redevelopment District at Van Dyke and 10 Mie Road is being designed to foster a business friendly climate that will encourage pedestrian use, connect people to the adjacent neighborhoods and strengthen the public right-of-way space. The city's Master Plan will dovetail with the Economic Development Vision to:

• Create a sense of place and identity for Center Line through unique streetscape elements, pedestrian oriented design and attractive architectural and pedestrian spaces.

• Improve the economic development potential of the district by permitting mixed-use development and utilizing place-making strategies to include the ongoing Independence Festival, now in its third year, a new 5K run to benefit the K9 Foundation and the creation of Center Line's own slow roll in the cyCLers Bike Club.

Building entrances and storefronts will be oriented to the street to add visual interest, increase pedestrian traffic and create memorable outdoor spaces where people can safely interact with their environment. The goal to draw small and family owned businesses such as a brew pub, restaurants and more will help to visually distinguish the City Center core at Van Dyke and Ten Mile.



Improvements to the health, safety and welfare of the public will be maintained by improving traffic and reducing the number of traffic hazards and points of contact with car traffic.

As part of the Economic Development Vision and Mission, Center Line strives to be a place of economic opportunity. The city is a fully supportive partner in private efforts to create local prosperity for its residents whether from traditional employment options, or entrepreneurial endeavors and development opportunities. Some of the projects and initiatives that are a crucial part of the success of the Economic Development include:

Three downtown infrastructure projects will be completed over the next six years. Two municipal parking lots will be improved and a segment of Main Street (Van Dyke) will be upgraded. Improvements will include pedestrian amenities, signage, improved lighting and storm water management.

Sustained participation in the Michigan Main Street program will continue, with a goal of reaching the "Master Level."

The city's DDA (Downtown Development Authority) will be funding a new market study to define gaps in retail offering to identify opportunities for new housing. When complete, this study will be used to recruit

businesses and developers.

These projects, along with the implementation and vision of the city of Center Line's Master Plan, will transform the city center and make Center Line a unique and welcoming destination in Macomb County. Learn more by visiting www.centerline.gov.

FAST FACTS

Founded: Settled 1837, incorporated (village) 1925, incorporated (city) 1936

Population (2010 census): 8,257 Square miles: 1.74





FAST FACTS

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

Population (2010 census): 96,796 Square miles: 28.2



Clinton Township 200 years and still going strong

Clinton Township is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year and that bicentennial bash will be celebrated at many township events in the months ahead. The bicentennial is coming just as the township has passed 100,000 residents and is holding more events, and providing more services, to its residents and business owners than ever before. A bictorical first

A historical first

Near the end of 1785, Moravian missionaries and Christianized Delaware Indians began laying a road from their settlement on the river near Mount Clemens to Fort Detroit. When finished, it became known as the Moravian Trail. The nearly 24-mile wagon-way through the bush was Michigan's first interior road. Today, residents can trace the road's course as it runs south from Moravian Road to Schoenherr Road, down to Gratiot and Six Mile Road.

Clinton Township is the most populous township in state of Michigan. Yet despite its size, it offers residents a wealth of tight-knit residential neighborhoods with all the amenities that families require.

An outdoor theme is prevalent in everything throughout Clinton Township. Parks and recreation offerings include a variety of indoor and outdoor activities offered throughout the year. For one, the community has a dedicated Dog Park on the grounds of the Civic Center at 40700 Romeo Plank Road. Also at the Civic Center is the 15,000-square-foot Senior Adult Life Center, which offers arts and crafts, exercise and fitness, and travel programs. Right next door, is the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, one of the largest in Macomb County.

A strong school system

A total of five K-12 school districts serve township residents with programs available for students 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 MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is one of many satellite programs onsite at MCC's University Center. **Healthcare options**

Three full-service hospitals are within a five-mile radius in Clinton Township. Residents have access to Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, McLaren Macomb Hospital and Children's Hospital of Michigan. There are roughly 10 outpatient and urgent care facilities throughout the township and numerous physicians and dentists who have offices in the community. **Events are plentiful**

Each year, the township's downtown development authority hosts the Clinton Township Gratiot Cruise, held this year on August 5, which attracts thousands of classic car fans and brings millions of dollars into the community. An estimated 250,000 people will attend Cruise events, including many visitors from other communities around southeastern Michigan.

The annual Festival of the Senses Art Show is a two-day art festival that features over 100 artists, food vendors, local entertainers and samplings from nearby restaurants.

It will be held this year September 22-23. The annual four-week Summer Concert Series is held some Wednesday evenings in late July and early August. All of these events will include celebrations and references to the bicentennial.

Clinton Township also holds its annual fireworks and concert event each July and several military veteran recognition events, including Veterans Day, Wreaths Across America and Patriot Day in conjunction with Resurrection Cemetery.

As Clinton Township moves into its next 200 years, it will remain a vibrant community providing opportunities for residents, entrepreneurs, visitors and anyone who wants to enjoy a comfortable work/life balance. Learn more at www.clintontownship.com.













Macomb Township Dynamic growth brings new amenities

Macomb Township is now on the cutting edge of urban growth with an estimated population of more than 90,000 residents, new housing being added regularly, infrastructure improvements, a vibrant parks and recreation system and much more.

In recent years, Macomb has been named as one of the fastest growing communities in Macomb County and throughout Michigan. According to SEMCOG, the township was the 17th largest community in the state in 2012. By 2017, it had become the 12th largest community. Among the many reasons are strong industrial/commercial corridor for growth that is balanced with our beautiful residential neighborhoods and wonderful parks.

There were more housing starts in Macomb Township than any other community in Michigan in 2017 (more than 500) according to Township Supervisor Janet Dunn. From the Town Center area that includes homes with a more old-fashioned design, to newer, two and three-level homes, the township offers different types of housing for its residents to choose from on a variety of parcel sizes that allow for optimum space and design.

In addition to single family homes, there are condominiums and apartments available for purchase with different layouts and styles. Dunn estimates that most homes have a current value of at least \$200,000 and that prices have continued to rise quickly in recent years.

"From what we're seeing we have homes that are being sold in a day or two pretty regularly," Dunn said. "It is a desirable (community) right now for new residents."

From an infrastructure standpoint, Macomb Township's growth has caused a few challenges with traffic flow and road conditions but steps are being taken to right-size that infrastructure. One example is the 23 Mile Road expansion starting at the eastern boundary line of Macomb Township to Romeo Plank. This multi-phase project will result in a five-lane, continuous road from Van Dyke Avenue to the border of Chesterfield Township.

"We recognize that with growth we have to take a look at our roads and we are working with the county on planning for future updates," Dunn said.

Located at 20699 Macomb Street, the township's Recreation Center could be considered the envy of other communities throughout southeastern Michigan. The Macomb Township Recreation Center is a 92,000 square foot facility providing both residents and non-residents with a wide array of recreational activities and amenities. The state of the art Recreation Center facilitates a fitness center, two gymnasiums, three birthday party rooms, two aerobics rooms, an indoor playground, meeting space, a feature pool, an activity pool, a lazy river, water slide and a hot tub.

There are classes held throughout the year from swimming to personal training and everything in between. The classes are available for youth, teens, adults and seniors. Residents can become members or pay small daily fees to use the facility throughout the week.

Other parks around Macomb Township are also well received and used on a regular basis. Waldenburg Park offers a variety of children's equipment while Macomb Corners Park houses a sports-oriented collection of fields for football, baseball and soccer. A 40-acre parcel of township-owned property at 24 Mile and Foss will likely to be turned into another park in the future although Dunn does want to maintain much of the natural vegetation.

A variety of development options are being considered, including picnic areas, a dog park and more for that space. The township is working with an engineering firm to develop that plan. Additionally a new township library is being planned right across from the township's main offices for a 2020 open. That will replace the existing "north" library that is a converted office building at 24 Mile and Romeo Plank. Macomb Township will continue to partner with Clinton Township for its library system services.

Finally Macomb Township holds many events, often in conjunction with its parks and

recreation department, throughout the year. Events like Tons of Trucks, Halloween Hoopla and Music in the Park Summer Concert Series attract residents and guests to the community.

Visit www.macomb-mi.gov to learn more. **M**

FAST FACTS

Founded: 1834 Population (2010 census): 79,580 Square miles: 36.3



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@shelbytwp.org

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



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 enthusiast 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



New Baltimore

A hidden gem on Lake St. Clair

New Baltimore is one of the hidden aems of Macomb County. Located directly on the north shore of Anchor Bay on Lake St. Clair, the city offers a traditional downtown with many locally owned businesses. Located just 30 minutes from Detroit and with easy access to I-94 and other area highways, the city is easily accessible, yet remains tucked away just far enough off the beaten path to offer that smalltown charm with large city services.

Perhaps best known for its scenic views along the waterfront, New Baltimore offers a public beach and convenient downtown shopping





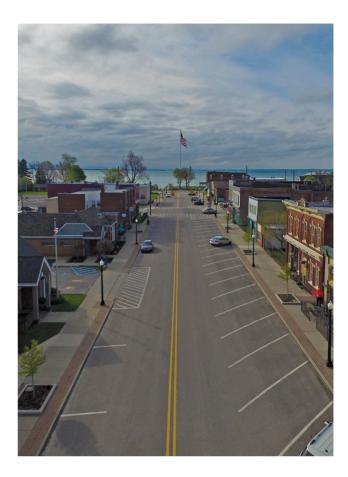
district. It is known for its many parks and robust fishing opportunities and an active parks system that also includes a sledding hill in the winter, modern play structures for children, a skateboard park and hiking paths. New Baltimore as named one of the "100 Safest Cities in America" by the SafeWise Report in 2015 and nearly 83 percent of its residents are homeowners.

Over time, a large part of New Baltimore's 4.6 square miles of land, especially the downtown area, is becoming more of a walkable community. Long-term strategic planning designed to help brand the city as one that becomes even more of a destination place, not just for its over 13,000 residents, but for visits from around the area.

Earlier this year the New Baltimore City Council agreed to sell two adjacent parcels in the historic downtown to a local developer which will lead to a new mixed-use development that includes parking, landscaping and other modifications. The twostory building is expected to include three retail spaces on the first floor and three loft spaces on the second floor.

That is one of many private/public partnerships currently being pursued. Another is a formerly condemned building in downtown New Baltimore that will also be developed for mixed-use. In addition the city is in the process of sending out and reviewing requests for proposals for a 1.2-acre area on the waterfront near downtown New Baltimore along Front and Washington streets. This will also be a three-story, multi-use development that includes retail on the ground floor along with residential units.

"Our goal is really to make our downtown area a place where businesses can thrive and people will want to visit," said New Baltimore Mayor John Dupray. "We are focused on making it a



walkable destination and are always looking to develop additional partnerships to support this cause."

Growth has been "manageable but steady" according to Dupray and home value have been rising over time as a result. The median list price of a home for sale in New Baltimore was \$234,000 in July 2017. Most children in the community attend one of the 10 schools in the award-winning Anchor Bay School District. High school students can take advantage of the 16 career and technical (CTE) educational courses that are offered.

Additionally, Anchor Bay High School was one of just 23 Michigan school districts among 433 nationally honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. It was the only school in Macomb County to achieve that honor.

The New Baltimore community has an active parks and recreation department that offers a number of youth and adult sports and fitness programs. This summer there will be adult kickball and dodge ball leagues, a drop-in pickleball for just \$2

per session at the Cricklewood Recreation Building or outdoor at Maynard Park, a run club, women's fitness classes and tai chi courses. But a full array of programs are available all 12 months. Many different youth sports leagues are hosted in New Baltimore as well.

Learn more by visiting www. cityofnewbaltimore.org.

FAST FACTS

Founded: Settled in 1796, organized in 1867 and incorporated in 1931

Population (2010 census): 12,084 Square miles: 6.73 (4.61

land, 2.12 water)



Roseville

A city full of hidden gems

Roseville turns 60 this year — and its birthday is significant in that the city is experiencing constant change for the better for its nearly 50,000 residents and those who work and play within its borders.

Perhaps one of the best words to describe Roseville is diversity. It offers diversity with its employers, its retail offerings, and perhaps most importantly with its neighborhoods and residents. City Manager Scott Adkins said many visitors to the city might be surprised with the vast array of housing options for residents that cements Roseville's growing reputation of versatility and variety.

"We have starter homes and new construction, traditional neighborhoods with bungalows and ranches, but mixed-use homes too," Adkins said. "We have benefited from some of these newer developments that also include townhouses and duplexes and have many housing options. We're a bedroom community but that doesn't mean we don't have variety."

Roseville's location also adds to its versatility. It is

within one hour from around four million residents in Southeastern Michigan. That 60-minute one-way drive extends to such communities as Ann Arbor, Flint, Port Huron and near the Ohio border. It is within an hour of various ports in Detroit, Port Huron and Monroe and has easy access to the Canadian border. There are four airports within a close driving distance and modern freeways and roads that allow for quick transportation options, particularly when I-696's repaving is completed later this year.

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, with a variety of urban paths and trails that encourage residents to hike, bike, walk their pets and exercise any way they like. They include Veterans Memorial, Rotary, Dooley Park and more.

The Recreation Authority of Roseville-Eastpointe is known for its variety of programs and activities. The neighboring communities have partnered to



provide a well-rounded selection of opportunities for local residents, with an emphasis on family. The Recreation Authority building also houses the Senior Center, and its collaborative programs.

A wide range of employers in Roseville attract some of the area's most talented professionals. Automotive suppliers RCO Engineering, Global Rollforming Systems, Atlas Tool and more call Roseville home. Other industrial companies located on Groesbeck Highway have attracted engineers, machinists, fabrication experts and more. And Roseville is home to the global headquarters of National Coney Island.

Residents and guests can experience a variety of retailers from locally owned family businesses to national retailers along Gratiot Avenue and

FAST FACTS

Founded: Established in 1840 and incorporated in 1926

Population (2010 census): 47,299 Square miles: 9.86

Groesbeck Highway. Many are in walkable areas, Adkins said. "If you pass by Roseville along the freeway or service drive you will see some of the bigbox retailers available to serve our residents, but we also have a lot of locally-owned, family businesses outside of the main (thoroughfares) that you might not know about," Adkins said. "There are hidden gems throughout the city. We're trying to think outside of the box as we look to provide services to all (stakeholders)."

Learn more by visiting www.roseville-mi.gov.

From one side to the other

Portion of Iron Belle Trail to highlight the beauty of Macomb County

By Jane Peterson

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, county officials and local community leaders have been working diligently since 2012 to create a 2,019-mile trail that traverses the entire state from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula. A portion of this trail is slated to cut through Macomb County.

"It will enter on VanDyke from the south then weave through Center Line and Warren toward Freedom Hill and near Sterling Heights before heading to Utica and then Rochester in Oakland County," said Dakota Hewlett, Iron Belle Trail assistant coordinator, Parks and Recreation Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The Iron Belle Trail includes two routes: One for biking and another for walking, hiking and other uses. In all, the trail, which makes use of existing and newly developed trails, is nearly 70 percent completed. Once finished, it will touch hundreds of communities as it crosses through 48 counties.

In Macomb County, 17 miles of the Iron Belle Trail are planned. It includes portions of the Clinton River Trail and existing trails at Riverbends Park. MDNR officials are in talks with Warren and Center Line leaders to create trails in their communities that will connect the Iron Belle Trail.

This portion of the Iron Belle Trail, nestled among schools, parks and grocery stores, will be a fantastic representation of an urban trail, said Hewlett. Benches and restrooms are planned for the comfort and convenience of travelers and interpretative signs will showcase fun facts and unique features in the area.

"It will be an asset to local residents as well as those who want to travel the statewide trail," he said.

Statewide, the Iron Belle Trail was designed to utilize as many existing trails, bike paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, networks and biking routes as possible, including the more than 1,000 mile North Country Scenic Trail in the Upper Peninsula. As the project has progressed, the MDNR continues to work with community leaders throughout Michigan to fill in gaps along the route. Just last year, a portion of the Macomb Orchard Trail to the Gene Shepherd Park trail in Shelby Township was covered in asphalt to create a new connecting path.

Warren and Center Line representatives are supportive of the trail, said Hewlett. MDNR officials have met with Macomb



County representatives to discuss the type of trail that will be constructed and how to implement the plans. The county has been targeted to receive a future \$120,000 Challenge Grant, he said, that will be used for planning and a preliminary study to determine the best trail route when considering traffic, parks and other amenities. The results of the study, along with various other funding sources, will be used to guide construction.

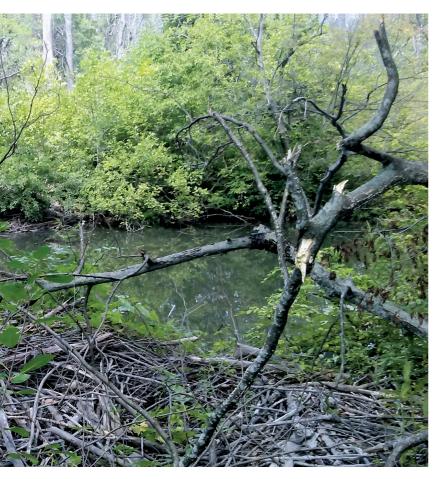
Since the vision for the Iron Belle Trail was announced in 2012, \$68 million – more than \$40 million in federal grants, \$25 million in state grants and over \$3 million in local funds – has gone toward a variety of projects to build connections along the trail. Significant funding for the trail has been provided by the Transportation Alternatives Program, administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation, according to a news release.

"Quality outdoor recreation resources and opportunities mean a lot to the people who use and value them, and to the communities they serve," DNR Director Keith Creagh said in a news release. "The Iron Belle Trail offers so many beautiful places where people make memories, improve their health, and recharge their energy. The state and our many partners are on an ambitious timeline to get the remainder of these connected miles in place."

CONNECT



Learn more about the Iron Belle Trail by visiting Michigan.gov/ironbelle. Visitors to the website will be able to click on an interactive trail map and review commonly asked questions about the project.





Top left: A view of a Beaver Lodge at Belle Isle State Park, near one end of the trail. ${\tt COURTESY}$ OF STEVEN JOSEPHSON

Bottom left: In Macomb County, 17 miles of the Iron Belle Trail are planned. COURTESY OFMICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Top right: A view from the Iron Belle Trail in Manistee during peak autumn color. COURTESY OFMICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bottom right: Hikes take a break to enjoy the scenic view at Fallasburg Park along the Iron Belle Trail. COURTESY OFMICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES







Champions

Macomb ISD advocates for students with disabilities and their families

By Jane Peterson

ore than 19,000 students in Macomb County have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). That's 19,000 students who often require extra support, special equipment and/or creative learning methods to achieve personal success in school and prepare for life after graduation.

The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) is responsive to their needs. The MISD's special education staff advocates for families, works with community partners and are enthusiastic champions for all students.

"We have a strong team, a caring team that helps families as much as they can," said Justin Michalak, assistant superintendent for Special Education and Students Services.

A disability can include autism, deafness, blindness, learning disabilities, developmental delays, emotional disturbances, chronic health conditions, physical disabilities, speech or language impairments and more. Michalak reports the diagnosis of autism affects one of 48 male children born today.

There is also an increase in the children born prematurely that may also need services from the MISD, he said.

"We provide the best possible experience for students wherever they are at in the learning process," he said.

In collaboration with Macomb County's 21 local school districts, charter schools and private/parochial schools, the MISD supports instructional programs at the local level and coordinates schools and programs county-wide including transportation for special needs students.

Programs and services start from birth and run up to age 26. The earlier a child is assessed for an emotional, cognitive, developmental or physical disability, the sooner early intervention services can implement learning strategies, provide assistive technology and offer parental support that will provide a strong foundation during the formative years.

From an early age, MISD teachers celebrate diversity within the classroom and provide students with a variety of activities typical of the school experience. Peer to peer programs promote mutual understanding by highlighting the unique contributions of all students.

Throughout a child's academic career, the MISD is there to provide support to students based on their unique needs. A student may read a book to a furry friend, for example, to practice not only reading, but also language and social skills. It



is often these types of connections that make learning fun, provide positive reinforcement and keep students excited about going to school.

Regular reviews of Individual Education Plans help families establish future goals. The MISD often puts families in touch with community resources that can assist them with various needs.

A connection to the community is key for families, said Michalak. Parents and caregivers need to know that they are not alone and they don't have to struggle in silence.

"It's critical to provide support for families, he said. "We hold programs that can help them with situations they are currently dealing with and with planning for the future. We connect them with community resources that can improve their quality of life."

That close-knit community is where Macomb County shines as local leaders and businesses support the MISD's efforts in a variety of ways.

Participants in the Students Transitioning Effectively Post High School (STEP) program, designed for those individuals ages 18-26 with mild to moderate impairments who have not earned a high school diploma may be invited to tour a local business to explore career paths, for example. Or, local cities and townships may build inclusive playgrounds with equipment for children of all abilities.

In addition to providing academic support, the MISD is charged with handling administrative services, which includes working with the Michigan Department of Education, collecting assessment data, staff training, coordinating grants, investigating compliance and making connections with area agencies.

Opposite page: Students had a fun time visiting with Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel at Glen Peters School.

Above: Above: Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel and MISD students have some fun on a sunny day.

Below, left: A Lutz School for Work Experience student visits a worksite. **Below, right**: A Lutz School for Work Experience student is ready to head to a worksite.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MACOMB INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

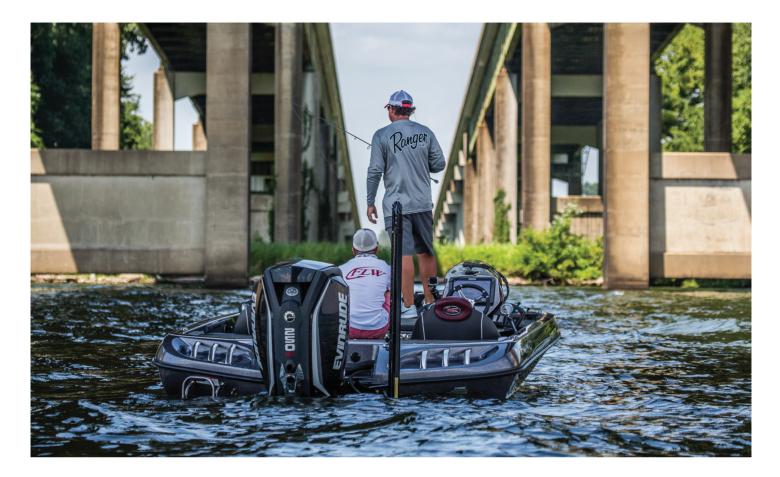




CONNECT

Macomb Intermediate School District

The Macomb Intermediate School District offers a wealth of information about special education assessments, planning efforts and educational programs on its website, MISD. net.



On clear blue seas

Blue Water Initiative brings extra green to Macomb County's economy

By Jane Peterson

ake St. Clair is one of the many reasons people choose to "Make Macomb Their Home."

Its scenic views, excellent fishing and miles of beaches make it one of the most popular lakes in southeastern Michigan. Of its coastline, 32 miles fall in Macomb County, attracting residents, visitors and businesses to its shore.

"Macomb County officials have embraced the Blue Ways initiative and are continually working to improve the accessibility and recreational opportunities in and around Macomb County," said Jeremy Miller, director of operations for Simple Adventures, one of the largest watersport rental companies in Michigan.

Simple Adventures operates at 10 locations in central and southeast Michigan. Miller said all but one location are directly connected to Lake St Clair and its watershed. They offer kayak, stand-up paddleboards (SUP), canoes and Sea-Doo rentals, as well as guided trips and lessons.

Others visit Lake St. Clair to relax on a boat or go fishing. Bird watching is another favorite pastime as Miller said Lake St. Clair

is along a major migratory path for waterfowl and song birds.

Rebecca Quinn founded Simple Pleasures with little more than two kayaks, a pick-up and the belief that enjoyment of watersports should be accessible to everyone. She grew up on the lake saw a need and a limitless ceiling of potential growth.

Other companies geared toward those who enjoy active outdoor lifestyles are also investing in Macomb County. Cabela's opened a store in Chesterfield Township last year, for example.

The lake is also a destination for vacations, a popular spot for corporate events and home to the most competitive tour fishing tournament in professional bass-fishing, The FLW Tour presented by Mercury Marine.

Hosted by the Detroit Sports Commission, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority, the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Macomb County, the tour returns to the water June 28-July 1. It will feature 368 of the world's best bass-fishing professionals and co-anglers casting for top awards of up to \$125,000 cash in the pro division and up to \$25,000 cash in the



co-angler division.

According to Joe Opager, FLW director of public relations, the FLW Tour has visited the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair six times before in its 22-year history. It returns because of the worldclass bass fishing and the fans.

He described Lake St. Clair as one of the greatest smallmouth fisheries in the world.

"Lake St. Clair has a ton of 6-pounders in it now, and though they're hard to catch we will definitely see a few of them. A 6-pound smallmouth is a sight to behold, and with any luck fans will have the opportunity to see some," he said.

Opager said the fishing community in Michigan is extremely passionate and supportive of the FLW anglers, tournaments and conservation efforts.

"We've traditionally drawn fantastic crowds to our events when we visit and we expect this event to be the biggest one yet," he said.

All of this activity creates pumps money into the local economy and improves the overall quality of life for Macomb County residents.

"The FLW Tour event will certainly have an extremely positive impact on Macomb County," said Opager said in an email. "Estimates for 2018 indicate that an FLW tournament of the magnitude of the upcoming FLW Tour event at Lake St. Clair can inject \$1.5-\$2 million into the host area's local economy. At least 350 anglers spend about a week in the community, and they spend a lot of money while they are there, staying in hotels and rental properties, eating at restaurants, shopping at stores, buying gas."

Couple that with the 50 or so FLW staff members on site and the thousands of fans that will visit the area and there will definitely be a noticeable positive economic impact, he added.

The lake can have an impact even on businesses that aren't connected to Lake St. Clair. Today, employees want a place they can call home, a community where they can work and play. Lake St. Clair makes Macomb County's cities, villages and townships an appealing option for talented, skilled employees the area's automotive, defense and aerospace industries are trying to attract.

"By being a Blue Water Community and increasing access to cleaner waterways, Macomb County is becoming a place where people want to live and work," said Miller. "It's really quite simple the current and future generations of post grads look at quality of life as much if not more than income level. It's great to make a big salary, but good does it do if you can't enjoy the time away from your desk?"



Opposite page: The FLW Tour has traditionally drawn fantastic crowds to Lake St. Clair when it visits. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLW - PHOTO BY PATTERSON LETH

Top: The fishing community in Michigan is extremely passionate and supportive of FLW anglers, tournaments and conservation efforts. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLW — PHOTO BY PATTERSON LETH

Bottom right: Kayaks are the most popular rental at Simple Adventures, which operates along Lake St. Clair. PHOTO COURTESY OF SIMPLE ADVENTURES

CONNECT



For more information, visit SimpleAdventures.net.

For details on the upcoming FLW Tour on Lake St. Clair, visit Flwfishing.com.

Learn more about Cabela's at Cabelas.com.

From auto to aerospace

Macomb County continues to diversify, innovate

By Jane Peterson

A fter being recognized mainly for only their work in the automotive industry for decades, Macomb County manufacturers and suppliers are diversifying and carving out new niches in other industries. Aerospace is one of them.

"There are many similarities between the two," said Jeff Simek, general manager – operations for RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace. "The same qualities that have served us well in automotive, such as discipline, speed to market and supply chain, can be applied to aerospace."

The need is there. The knowledge and ability to make it happen is in Macomb County.

"We know automotive," he said, "but we are working to remove the typecast of being just automotive. There is a huge space in aerospace and a lot of good companies in Macomb County."

Ascent Aerospace is one of the largest aerospace companies in Macomb County. With more than 600 employees statewide - 350 workers in Macomb County alone - and 240,000 square feet of manufacturing space, it brings a diverse engineering background to the area.

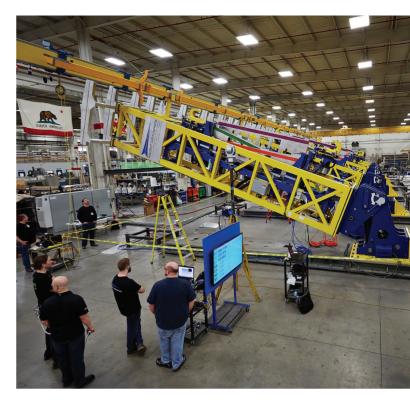
Beginning in 2012, it diversified into a single supplier by acquiring companies that were respected leaders in their area of expertise: Global Tooling Systems, Odyssey Industries and Brown Aerospace to name a few. Today it offers creative turn-key solutions through assembly line integration, automation systems and tooling.

"We are an innovative, vertically integrated company that has a very strong footprint here and around the world," said CEO Michael Mahfet. "This region has opportunities to grow and we believe in investing in the future."

According to the 2017 Aerospace Manufacturing Attractiveness Rankings, Michigan ranked second for aerospace attractiveness, boosted by its strong performance in economy, infrastructure and cost categories. Macomb County companies are making the most of their research, development and manufacturing roles, in part due to its automotive heritage.

"The skills and talent of the labor pool is strong. From auto, some of these skills transfer to aerospace well," said Mahfet.

In May, Global Tooling Systems, which provides intelligent assembly systems for aircraft manufacturing, was named by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics as an Elite top performing supplier for tooling and support provided for the F-35 Lightning II, including assembly jigs, work stands and other production tools for manu-



Ascent provided the wing skin panel rotation tool to Boeing's 777X Composite Wing Center in Everett, Washington. The tool, pictured here during testing in Macomb, rotates each 110-foot wing skin from a horizontal to a vertical position, covers 11,000 square feet of shop floor in Everett and is the "first of its kind" wing skin rotation tool. PHOTO COURTESY OF ASCENT AEROSPACE

facturing the stealth multirole fighter jet. Global Tooling Systems has been recognized three of the last four years, previously earning top supplier honors for work delivered in 2016 and 2014, according to a news release. Ascent is among the 23 suppliers, representing the top two percent of LMCO's 1,400 suppliers, who achieved at least 98 percent quality and 98 percent delivery in 2017.

Ascent Aerospace is hiring and expects to add more resources by the end of the year. It also operates a facility 25 miles away in Lake Orion and the two facilities often share resources.

Leaders have built a carefully crafted business-friendly culture in Macomb County and that not only attracts businesses willing to invest, but it makes the region appealing to skilled talent. Partnerships with local colleges and high schools provide quality education and training. This makes them a natural fit to work within the strict requirements of the aerospace industry, he said.

Macomb County's efforts are supported by organizations such as the Aerospace Industry Association of Michigan (AIAM), a group of aerospace leaders that work toward the common goal of bolstering growth of the industry through investment and talent.

Simek is a AIAM board member who sees potential for growth for RCO with autonomous and connected vehicles, jet manufacturing and the addition of a FAA-certified 3D printing process for production of aerospace components.

RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace transitioned into aerospace in 2008 during a time when diversification was on the mind of nearly every business hit hard by the downturn of the auto industry. The company was founded in Roseville in 1973 by Paul Carollo, Sr. and it had seen hard time before in the





1970s, 80s and 90s.

Already skilled in design, engineering, creating prototypes, manufacturing and testing seats and seating components for cars, RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace applied its knowledge to aerospace with tremendous success.

"I see in the near future it being 50-50 between automotive and aerospace," said Paul M. Carollo Jr., corporate sales manager for RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace.

As the company worked to diversify its offerings, it had to get many of its suppliers on board and encourage them to research the needs practices and processes of aerospace.

For its efforts, RCO Engineering, Inc. was honored with the 2018 Macomb County Business Award for Diversification Leader. This award is given to a business that generates new business by expanding products/services provided or tapping new markets.

Top left: According to the 2017 Aerospace Manufacturing Attractiveness Rankings, Michigan ranked second for aerospace attractiveness.

Bottom row: RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace thrives in the automotive, aerospace and defense industries. RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace applied its knowledge to aerospace with tremendous success. RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace thrives in the automotive, aerospace and defense industries.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RCO ENGINEERING & RCO AEROSPACE





CONNECT





 Ascent Aerospace is located at 51327 Quadrate Drive in Macomb. For more information, call 586-726-0500 or visit Ascent Aerospace.com.

 RCO Engineering & RCO Aerospace is located at 29200 Calahan Road in Roseville. For more information, call (586) 771-8400 or visit Rcoeng.com.

For details about the Aerospace Industry Association of Michigan, visit Aiamnow.com.

Partners in education

Fraser Schools students reap benefit from community collaboration

By Jane Peterson

R raser Public Schools leaders know that students are capable of great success when they are given a chance to spread their wings and find their purpose in life. A new collaborative effort between Macomb County businesses, SME Education Foundation and the Michigan Manufacturers Association will equip Fraser students with training and mentoring opportunities designed to give them a head start their future goals.

SME's Partnership Response In Manufacturing Education (PRIME) initiative will develop and launch an advanced manufacturing education program at Fraser beginning in the 2018-19 academic year. The move will bring additional training modules with certification programs into Fraser High School's dynamic Career & Technical Education (CTE) program.

Fraser CTE Director Brent Brasure is excited about the increased opportunities.

"Our Fraser PRIME program will facilitate a submersion in professional expectations for young people," he said. "It will make the most of the educational experience and create a culture of success. We've worked hard to create a coalition of industry support representing the automotive, automation, aerospace and defense industries that allow our region to thrive."

Manufacturing continues to be Michigan's largest sector. However, as the industry has diversified and grown, finding talented workers has been a challenge for some employers. Macomb County has a strong base of skilled employees thanks to the region's huge manufacturing presence. Officials want to continue making the county attractive to potential investment by supporting the industry with the skilled employees they need.

This means raising awareness among students and their families to various post-secondary choices, including good paying, technology-driven manufacturing positions that are a part of today's workforce reality.

It all starts in the schools. PRIME builds a collaborative network of students, educators and industry professionals to provide high school students with advanced manufacturing career pathways, inspiring and informing their interest and awareness in manufacturing. The national program provides students with practical experience, knowledge and skills using state-of-the-art technology and equipment, while allowing companies to support the career direction of youth through mentoring, internships and job shadowing.

For Fraser, this means reaching out to students and making connections to future career paths early on. Afterschool en-



gagements through Makerspaces, pre-apprenticeship programs and parent-run robotics clubs can help young children learn the building blocks of manufacturing concepts, said Brasure.

In middle school, children can explore various classes to see what they like and don't like so they can dive into what they love in high school, where CTE programs provide hands-on learning and training that mimic the workforce.

Students will move through the program at their own pace as part of the Competency Based Education framework, said Brasure. When they demonstrate competency, they move forward. They do not have to wait for the rest of the class to catch up before they can challenge themselves on the next task.

"It started with one phone call: I wanted our schools to be a part of the opportunities the SME Education Foundation PRIME schools initiative provides," said David M. Richards, PhD, superintendent of Fraser Public Schools. "The support we've received from our business community, county government and the state in this quest has been phenomenal; our students and community will benefit as a direct result."

Macomb County companies collaborating through SME's Fraser PRIME initiative include: Dominion Technologies Group, I.F. Metalworks, Fori Automation, General Motors, Oakley Industries and Superior Heat Treat LLC.

CONNECT



Fraser Public Schools serves nearly 5,000 students in nine schools and one early childhood center. The district encompasses the entire city of Fraser and portions of Clinton Township and Roseville. For more information, visit Fraser.k12.mi.us or call (586) 439-7000.



Above: Fraser High School students participate in a certified welding program.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRASER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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30 years of building

Anton, Sowerby & Associates continues work in Mt. Clemens

By Jane Peterson

familiar fixture in Mt. Clemens, it comes as no surprise to many that Anton, Sowerby & Associates is celebrating its 30th anniversary in business at its downtown location. For Gebran (Gabe) Anton, known to many as "Mr. Mt. Clemens," Macomb County has been the perfect place to close deals, raise a family and enjoy life's small pleasures. Through their commercial real estate brokerage, Anton and his partner, Joe Sowerby, changed the landscape of Mt. Clemens and helped to improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

For Anton, running a business was in his blood. His parents owned a shoe store that he developed into a chain of nine menswear stores in the Detroit area. It was through working there that he learned about honesty, sincerity, integrity and how important reputation is in business.

If he saw a re-development need in the community, he started working on it, so when a business associate asked him about starting a commercial real estate brokerage in 1988, it was a natural fit. "They discussed a vision, crafted a plan and hung a sign," said Employee Gloria Vettese, who has been with the company for four years.

Sowerby joined the brokerage in 1990. He had a background in car sales and in managing, developing and selling commercial and investment properties, apartments and businesses. A licensed Realtor since 1981, he said sales is not for the faint of heart.

"You have to work at it every day," he said. "I am fortunate to have a great partner, my wonderful wife Kata and a great staff that empowers me to do what I do."

In addition to the two partners, Anton, Sowerby & Associates has eight brokers and three administrative support staff members. It has always been located in the same building downtown, which Vettese said is part of one of Anton's original menswear stores. "It's a beautiful, historic building," she said. "Sometimes when it is quiet, I can hear the voices and feel the action from all the years before I got here."

A deep love for their community has helped Anton, Sowerby & Associates thrive for 30 years. Anton and Stuart Frankel made a generous donation that established the 25,000 square foot Anton/ Frankel Center in Mt. Clemens. The building is used by Oakland University to expand its bachelor's and master's degree programs in Macomb County. According to the university's website, this is OU's first and only full-owned educational site outside its main campus in Rochester.

The Anton Art Center is also named after his family thanks to



their support of art and local artists. A donation from the Gebran S. and Suzanne P. Anton Foundation in 1997 kicked off Art in Public Places, a five-year project that showcased artwork in the Mt. Clemens community. In 2006, the historic 1904 Carnegie Library building that houses the art center constructed an addition that added gallery space, classrooms and a gift shop. Anton spearheaded the \$1.6 million fundraising effort for this project that allowed the center to increase its offerings to the community.

Anton has mentored many throughout the years, sharing his business philosophies and commitment to Mt. Clemens. The area has been very good for business with Macomb County in general attracting many new manufacturers, industries and retailers.

Sowerby said it is a source of pride knowing that they helped put some of those moving parts together to make things happen for the community. He said there is great satisfaction in not only closing a deal, but positively growing the community for future generations.

With all his success, Sowerby said his greatest accomplishments involve his love for animals. He is proud to have founded Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo and Pet-A-Palooza, two of the largest animal adoption events for homeless animals in the country. "You can't be so busy making a living that you forget to make a life," he said. "Some of life's best deals aren't about money."

Top: The original Anton's Menswear store back in 1959, where Anton, Sowerby & Associates is located today.

Bottom: Gabe Anton, Joe Sowerby and the staff at Anton, Sowerby & Associates.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANTON, SOWERBY & ASSOCIATES

CONNECT



Anton, Sowerby & Associates is located at 79 Macomb Place in Mt. Clemens. The real estate brokerage handles all types of commercial transactions, including industrial, investment properties, office space, business opportunities and built-to-suit properties. For more information, visit AntonSowerby. com or call (586) 469–8888.



50 years in, and still a favorite

Mr. Paul's Chophouse continues to be a Roseville institution

By Jane Peterson

S ince 1968, Mr. Paul's Chophouse has been a staple in Roseville. Located squarely in the center of an automotive industrial area, the steakhouse is a testament to how fresh, made-to-order food, great service and a passion for feeding hungry customers can keep a family business growing and thriving during the ups and downs of a turbulent economy.

The restaurant is known for its Caesar salads served tableside, hand cut steaks and pan sautéed Lake Erie perch that have been on the menu since the business was founded by brothers Paul and Peter Gogo. Paul immediately saw the value of the Roseville location, envisioning a steakhouse as the perfect fit for business lunches during the day and entertaining clients in the evening.

His business sense proved correct. Profits soared during the heyday of automotive through the early 80s, waned a bit and then came back strong in the mid-90s, said Chris Gogo, who runs Mr. Paul's Chophouse today with his brothers Paul and Peter. Not many people could have predicted the devastation of the industry in the early 2000s, a heart-wrenching time when many companies dependent on automotive business shuttered their doors.

"We just had to wait it out and cut back where we could with expenses like lighting, gas and electricity," said Chris. "What we didn't do was change our recipes or limit the size of our steaks. We stayed focused on quality. Our quality is what we are known for."

The appeal of Mr. Paul's Chophouse is easy to spot. There is a single television and it is tuned to a low volume. Lights are dimmed so diners can enjoy a pleasurable meal free from the daily stresses of everyday life. Wait staff chat with customers instead of reciting a pre-prepared spiel. Paul, Chris and Peter greet new customers and catch up with loyal ones. In addition to business lunches and dinners, guests celebrate special occasions and couples enjoy a pleasant weekday meal. It is a dining room filled with life and laughter.

And don't forget about the food. The restaurant features premium steaks, like porterhouse, Black Angus rib eye, sliced London broil and filet mignon. While a traditional steakhouse, Mr. Paul's Chophouse offers a full range of entrees from center cut pork chops and chicken to veal and pasta.

Regular customers have their favorite menu items. They know that they will likely be greeted by Sharon, a hostess for 31 years and taken care of by one of the wait staff who has been with Mr. Paul's for more than a decade.

Left: Mr. Paul's Chophouse offers a variety of beer, wine and cocktails. **Top right:** Mr. Paul's Chophouse features premium steaks that are hand cut and seasoned to perfection.

Bottom right: The steamed mussels appetizer is served with white wine, garlic and lemon.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MR. PAUL'S CHOP HOUSE

CONNECT



Mr. Paul's Chophouse is located at 29850 Groesbeck in Roseville. For more information, visit Mrpaulschophouse. com or call (586) 777-7770.





The power of growth

Grupo Antolin continues to expand its Macomb County workforce

By Jane Peterson

Township instantly created more than 450 new jobs when it opened in November 2017.

Since then, Antolin Shelby has continued to expand its Macomb County workforce, adding another 300 jobs that range from hourly line workers to salaried administration positions – and Joe McCluskey, general manager of Antolin Shelby, expects that number to continue to rise.

"We're still not done growing yet," he said. "We are looking to fill positions in Quality, Maintenance and off-shift Assemblers."

Antolin Shelby, an automotive supplier that produces, assembles and sequences door panels and overhead systems for the 2019 RAM truck, values the hard work of its employees, said Mc-Cluskey. Macomb County has a talented workforce, he added, and the company offers competitive wages and a generous benefits package to attract the most qualified and accomplished candidates.

To support its efforts, Grupo Antolin partnered with the Macomb Technical Education Center (M-TEC), a training center in Warren operated by Macomb Community College. The center offers education and training in advanced integrated manufacturing, automated systems and robotics.

The company received Michigan Business Development Program grants totaling more than \$4 million to create the new jobs.

Grupo Antolin has 15 production centers and a workforce of more than 4,500 people in USA. In addition to its Shelby township plant, it has plants in Warren and St. Clair and its North American headquarters is in Auburn Hills, to name a few.

The location to its customer, along with access to the Van Dyke and Mound corridor and the skilled workforce, is what attracted Grupo Antolin to the Shelby Township site, said McCluskey. The company broke ground on its \$64 million Shelby Township facility in March 2017 and just eight short months later it opened its doors. It is the single largest investment the company has made in North America.

"We pulled off the impossible," said McCluskey. "We worked with a great team, everyone from our building contractor to Macomb County, Shelby Township and state officials worked hard to make this happen."

The plant is especially exciting for McCluskey, who grew up in Shelby Township. He said it means a lot to be able to give back to his hometown.

"When Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel says to 'Make Macomb your Home,' that is a meaningful statement," he said. "This region is a beautiful place to live and a great place to work."

Left: Antolin Shelby is an automotive supplier that produces, assembles and sequences door panels and overhead systems for the 2019 RAM truck.

Right: Antolin Shelby created more than 450 new jobs when it opened in November 2017 and it isn't done growing yet.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANTOLIN SHELBY

CONNECT



Antolin Shelby is located at 52888 Shelby Parkway in the Cherry Creek Industrial Park in Shelby Township. For more information, visit GrupoAntolin. com. Interested candidates can submit a resume to shelby.hr@ grupoantolin.com.



Cybersecurity solutions

MADCAT provides solutions to modern security chalenges

By Jane Peterson

acomb County has taken a regional approach to addressing cybersecurity issues and the challenges businesses face when hiring technology professionals that specialize in preventing cyberattacks.

Leveraging the knowledge of its business community and university partners, the county developed the Michigan Automotive and Defense Cyber Awareness Team, or MADCAT, a cybersecurity ecosystem that supports and advances technology innovation.

The joint intelligence organization is a natural fit for Macomb County, home to the Arsenal of Democracy and many defense, automotive and aerospace-related businesses that require top-level security. With projects like connected and autonomous automobiles being developed and tested here, there is a growing demand for engineering and cybersecurity jobs, said Vicky Rad, deputy director of Macomb County Planning & Economic Development and MADCAT chairperson.

"We need to meet the demand of a workforce that wasn't in place five years ago. Businesses are having trouble finding cybersecurity engineers," she said, describing the frustration of local companies losing specialized professionals to competitors.

MADCAT's solution was to design a strategy that positions Macomb as a leader in cybersecurity.

"We pulled in key stakeholders and talked with corporations about what they need and what information students need to have," she said. "We are establishing articulation agreements with Wayne State University, Macomb Community College and other



local schools to develop programs where students can earn an associate's degree while still in high school. The goal is to develop talent early on and retain it here in Macomb County."

According to MADCAT's research, cybersecurity jobs have been growing by 155 percent in Macomb County since 2010. That is compared to the national average of only 21 percent.

Sequris Group, an information security management company, for example, recently relocated its headquarters to Sterling Heights in the Velocity Center. According to the county, overall more than 550 companies make up Macomb County's network of IT and cybersecurity businesses. In total, they employ more than 10,000 workers.

Often these high-paying cybersecurity positions have a direct impact on the county's economy, creating on average at least two more jobs for each cybersecurity job. While helping companies fill open positions, MADCAT also designed a platform for information sharing within the business community. By educating business leaders about threats to their internal processes that can compromise sensitive information, MADCAT evolved into an epi-center for cybersecurity information.

The organization regularly hosts quarterly meetings that feature guest speakers.

"This space is so new and dynamically changing," said Rad. "It is important to bring people together to discuss these complex issues and build an ecosystem that retains workforce talent."

Above: Gov. Rick Snyder attended the Cybersecurity Career Pathway Project Stakeholder meeting.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADCAT

CONNECT

MADCAT meetings are open to the public and those interested in learning more about the organization are encouraged to attend. Details about upcoming meetings and events are listed at MADCAT.org. Consider attending the 2nd Billington Automotive Cybersecurity Summit on Aug. 3 at Cobo Center in Detroit. Daniel Ammann, president of General Motors, will deliver the opening keynote on the summit theme "Cybersecurity: The Cornerstone of Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Safety."

Grown out of her garage Motor City Stamping an integral part of the Chesterfield community

By Jane Peterson

S ince she established her business in the garage of her Shelby Township home, Judy Kucway has overcome challenges, juggled family responsibilities and celebrated successes. Growing her businesses hasn't always been easy, but it has been extremely rewarding — and Kucway wouldn't dream of doing anything else.



When she, her husband Roger and her brother Richard founded Motor City Stamping years ago, there weren't many women working in manufacturing or even automotive for that matter. However, these are the two areas that attracted Kucway the most, having grown up with her dad the owner of a tool and die shop.

Being around parts and processes most of her life, Kucway charted her career path and

in 1969, she got her first opportunity to break

Kucway

into the business when General Motors needed parts for its Vega engine that was built in Buffalo, NY. She borrowed \$5,000 and filled the order in that garage, but it wasn't long before she realized that she would need to move into another building.

In the beginning, Motor City Stamping produced only three parts. Today the company manufactures and ships a comprehensive slate of small to medium stamping and welded assemblies. It also specializes in progressive die technology.

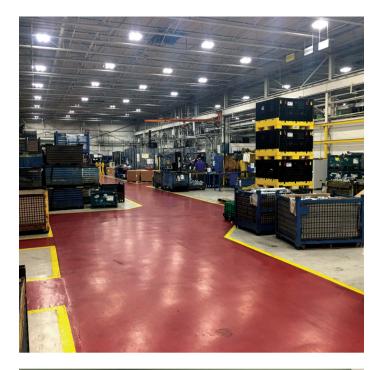
Those early years, said Kucway, she was very naïve. Roger continued working full-time at Ford until 1984 and while she loved the work she was doing, she didn't realize just how competitive and demanding the industry could be.

"When I started in the 1980s and I walked into a room, no one would talk to me. I just wasn't accepted," she said.

Over the years, she developed business relationships and grew Motor City Stamping in a multimillion dollar company. It is a Certified Women's Business Enterprise.

"I just love what I do," she said. "The auto industry has always played a big role in my life."

Macomb County is the perfect place for her business, she says, because location is everything. Motor City Stamping benefits from being close to Detroit, Flint, Lansing and shipping hubs that can transports their parts across the United States and around the world.





The secret to her success: Listening to what other people have to day. "I never stopped learning," she said. "People ask me what success is and I tell them that you have to determine what success means to you."

Today Motor City Stamping employs 325 people. Kucway enjoys being a part of the local community, saying that Chesterfield supports small businesses and wants to help them be as successful as possible. In turn, Motor City Stamping and the Kucways get involved with events and activities in town.

"We hire people from the area and support activities within our community," said Kucway.

Along with her husband, they support Austin Catholic High School. The Kucways raised four children and although as a working mother, sacrifices were made on the family's time together, Judy said she always made the effort to be there for sporting events, musical concerts and parent-teacher conferences.

"With all the success of MCS my family has always been my main success and priority," she said.

Today, Motor City Stamping is a joint venture. Son Patrick and daughter Mary are involved in day-to-day operations and have been instrumental in the business' success, said Kucway. In addition to their four children, the Kucways have 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Top left: Motor City Stamping manufactures and ships a comprehensive slate of small to medium stamping and welded assemblies.

Bottom left: Mary Arnold (right) is a graduate of the University of Michigan. Instrumental to the success of Motor City Stamping, she heads up the company's engineering department.

Top right: Motor City Stamping is a multimillion dollar company and a Certified Women's Business Enterprise.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOTOR CITY STAMPING

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Motor City Stamping, Inc. is located at 47783N Gratiot Ave. in Chesterfield. For more information, call (586) 949-8420 or visit MCStamp.com.

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Small steps to big energy savings

DTE tops in nation for energy-efficiency programs

By Jane Peterson

TE Energy is tied for the top spot in the country for the number of energy efficiency programs it offers, but educating residents and business owners about the steps they can take to become more energy efficient never ends.

Since the inception of DTE's Energy Efficiency program, more than 2.4 million electric customers and 1.6 million gas customers have directly participated in DTE's energy efficiency programs.

DTE Energy is a major electric service provider in Macomb County. Since 2009, more than 114,000 residential participants benefited from its energy efficiency programs and rebates, and more than 8,300 businesses participants have benefited.

"This total participation has saved more than 438 million net kilowatt hours. This savings resulted in removing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 69,000 passenger vehicles driving for one year and removing carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to 357 million pounds of coal. Furthermore, Macomb residents and businesses participants have received more than \$37 million in energy efficiency incentives," said Julie Maher, program management, Energy Waste Reduction, for DTE Energy.

For most people, energy efficiency means turning off the lights when they are not in the room or running the dishwasher only when it's full, but being energy efficient means using energy without waste and it goes much farther than just conserving a few kilowatts here and there.

Being energy efficient means having updated appliances that operate and use energy at a performance level that has been certified to achieve energy savings specifications established by the Environmental Protection Agency. These products can be identified by their ENERGY STAR label, said Maher.

People also typically need to modify their behavior to reduce the amount of energy used, she added.

"Being energy efficient doesn't have to be expensive," said Maher. "There are many low-cost, no-cost ways to save energy. We have many of these tips on our DTE Energy website at Dteenergy. com/saveenergy."

There are numerous benefits to decreasing energy usage. Businesses often receive positive attention when they operate a "green" facility as customers like knowing that they are environmentally friendly. Both residential and business customers can also save some green by using less natural gas or electricity.

Maher shared a few tips for residents:

- Cook outside in the summer to avoid heating up the house
- Wait to do laundry until evening when outside air is cooler



• Close blinds to block out sunlight that can boost temperatures inside

• Install a programmable thermostat and keep it set at 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in winter

A big step toward saving money is by looking at the structure of your home, said Maher. Be sure you have adequate insulation and seal air leaks around windows and doors to keep the cold or hot air from coming in the home and the heat or cooled air going out of the home.

"Weatherizing your home this way is one of the most cost effective ways to improve energy efficiency and comfort and can save you \$200 annually," she said.

Like residential customers, businesses should also purchase ENERGY STAR appliances and office equipment. In addition, turn energy-consuming items off when not in use. However, they should also consider the following:

• Tuning up the HVAC equipment. This includes ensuring the coils are clean and free of debris; changing a dirty air filter to improve air flow and reduce system stress; and cleaning, sealing and insulating ductwork

• Insulating or improving insulation for their boiler

• Using occupancy sensors for lighting to reduce energy and maintenance costs

- Closing off warehouse space that isn't being used
- Setting temperatures based on operational hours

"Talk to DTE and share what you have learned with your employees at a staff meeting," she said. "Have employees take an active role in reducing energy costs."

DTE Energy representatives suggest installing a programmable thermostat and keeping it set at 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in winter.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DTE ENERGY

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Ξ

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Vicky Rad

Planning Macomb County's future one project at a time

By Jane Peterson

hile computer programming spoke to Vicky Rad's logical mindset, it was in planning and development where she found her passion.

"I don't stop, she said. "It lives with me. I am always thinking about where we will be in five or 10 years in Macomb County. I embrace the vision."

Rad has been with Macomb County for five years. She first joined the county as a senior economic development specialist for business attraction in January 2013.

"I spent my time encouraging businesses to consider Macomb County as a place to invest, grow and put down roots," she said.

Today, Rad serves as deputy director for the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development. She described her work in this position as more strategic, with a wider planning view.

"I meet with CEOs, with county partners like chamber of commerces and colleges and work on strategic planning," she said.

The goal is to attract and retain businesses in order to grow the economy and enhance the quality of life for county residents. She works to achieve this in four distinct areas:

Economic development to spur investment in Macomb County communities

Planning and mapping services to determine the best use of land

Land and water. The county includes numerous trails as well as the Clinton River and 32 miles of Lake St. Clair

Outreach and communications, helping to market the county to those across the state and country

Rad formerly worked for the Detroit Regional Chamber and the Lear Corporation. It was with the Macomb Regional Procurement Technical Assistance Center where she said she gained the experience working with companies who wanted to diversify to other industries beyond automotive, providing her with a unique perspective as deputy director for the Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Rad earned a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and a bachelor's from Baker College. She also holds a master's certificate in Government Contracting Administration from George Washington University.

\mathbf{c} What does the future look like for Macomb County?

A I see a lot of potential for Macomb County. We are working with connected and autonomous cars to create a smart county where vehicles are linked to infrastructure and smart phones use their technology to connect the community. We are

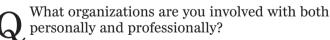


Vicky Rad

making leaps and bounds with technology.

What does the future look like for you and your family?

A I was raised in Warren and graduated from Chippewa Valley High School. My dad worked more than 30 years at Sterling Heights Assembly Plant which was Chrysler back then. I choose to live in Macomb County. My family is here and it is a great place to raise children. This is my home. Everything fell into place for me to be able to stay here.



With my children, Ava, 13 and Aydin, 11, I have been a Science Olympiad coach and been involved with other school activities. I am also active with Leadership Macomb and I volunteer as president for Women in Defense Michigan Chapter. I think it is important to cultivate women in leadership roles in the defense industry and across all sectors.

Above: As deputy director for the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development, Vicky Rad works to attract and retain businesses in order to grow the economy and enhance the quality of life for county residents.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACOMB COUNTY

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STERLING HEIGHTS

SHELBY TOWNSHIP

Shell Jones

Inspiring children with autism through the power of play

By Jane Peterson

t wasn't until her son, Duane, was diagnosed with autism that Shell Jones learned the true power of play. Like most children his age, Duane just wanted to play and explore the world around him. However, it seemed like just about every time they left the house, it was to a destination not too fun by Duane's standards. "Between doctor's appointments, therapy visits and school, he

was tired of not having time to play. He was already withdrawn and the lack of play time didn't help," she said.

She set out to do something about that, but when she couldn't find an appropriate play place where she felt supported and



Duane felt accepted, the mother of two decided to create her own. The result was Play Place for Autistic Children, a 25,000 square foot facility where the combination of play and learning experiences energizes children and thoughtful touches refreshes their caregivers.

Jones

A graduate of Wayne State University, Jones founded a dynamic and playful center that features various areas where children can let their imagination soar, practice work/life skills and engage with other children. There is a computer café fully equipped with Ap-

ple iPads and loaded with applications designed to assist with language and communication, fine motor development, eye and hand coordination and other skills. An art studio encourages interactive play, a carousel stimulates the senses, a Lego castle promotes problem solving and a laser light chalk room to stir creativity.

There is also a room with different types of swings, a parent bistro, a cinema and a haircut hut. A calming room is available to assist with meltdowns, too.

What is the mission of your business? A Every situation is different for families with a child on the autism spectrum. We want to help families by providing a safe, supportive and most importantly fun place to go where they know they are not alone.

 \mathbf{Q} How does your business benefit from its location in Macomb County?

A God aligned me with the right people here and I am blessed to have listened to their stories. We opened 20 months ago and 90 percent of construction funds were donated. That was a real motivating factor to keep moving forward. It's amazing how things fell into place.



Macomb County is ideal for my business because of its central location. The Play Place is located in Sterling Heights and there is nothing like we offer here. Plus, Macomb County is my home. This is such a hard-working area with people so appreciative of the opportunities they have been given. This is a great place to raise a child.

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

A We want to be a jewel in Macomb County. With our unique combination of a learning facility and entertainment complex, the Play Place is destination for families from all around southeastern Michigan. We also have lots of school districts that visit from all over the region — Oakland County, Genesee County, Wayne County and more.

 ${\boldsymbol{Q}}$ What does the future hold for your organization in Macomb County?

A We want to further develop the Play Place campus by adding a pool, classrooms and spaces for independent living. Coming soon is an expansion of the Bistro Connection with a full dinner menu offering specialty diet options.

 \mathbf{Q} What organizations are you involved in personally and professionally?

A I am a board member of the Utica-Shelby Kiwanis Club and a new member of 100+ Women of Macomb.

Above: Drum class is one way the combination of play and learning experiences energizes children at Play Place for Autistic Children.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAY PLACE FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

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Brent Brasure

Giving back to a community that gave so much to him

By Jane Peterson

B rent Brasure described himself a non-conventional student back in high school. He said traditional classroom learning just wasn't all that appealing to him, but working in the engineering and auto program felt more comfortable. It was a place where he could work with his hands and explore concepts instead of just reading about them. After graduation from Fraser High School in 1998, he went to have a successful career doing what he loved at Dominion Technologies Group in Roseville. He earned an associate's degree in automated machine design from Macomb Community College, a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and was on a successful career path when he took a step back and decided to change course.

"My wallet was full, but my heart was empty," he said.

So Brasure headed back to high school – his alma mater, in fact – to begin giving back to a community that gave him so much to be thankful for in life.

He accepted a position as Career & Technical Education teacher at Fraser High School and began tackling the task of building a certified welding program. He said the program has made significant gains since implemented in 2005.

Today, as Fraser High School CTE director, Brasure said 97.7 percent of Fraser students who completed a Career & Technical Education (CTE) program graduated and 98.5 percent have moved on to successful careers in their area of interest.

$\mathbf{Q}^{\mathrm{What}}$ is the mission of your business?

A Career & Technical Education is centered around building positive work ethic, which is universally applicable in the workforce, and developing technical skills related to the current needs of industry. Our work-based learning program is essential in connecting learning with the workplace. Students complete hands-on learning in the classroom and work with a network of industry leaders in the community through activities like job shadowing, company tours and co-op placements for seniors. We get students in the industry to see what they like and what they don't like so they can better align their class choices with a future career path early on.

Personally, I want to create a safe space for kids like me when I was growing up. I want to create an inviting space for kids to thrive while they explore technical skills. I want them to learn and build positive work ethic in context to their desired career path. Most importantly, I hope to inspire our students to embrace their unique creative spirit and connect it with a career path that will prove fulfilling for themselves and their families.



Brent Brasure

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

A Macomb County has the power to get things done, particularly in the manufacturing market. We have collaborative, forward-thinking leaders who are engaged with schools on an ongoing basis, not just once a year on Manufacturing Day. The teachers at Fraser High School are a close-knit group, with many of them Fraser graduates like me. We consider ourselves members of the Fraser Family.

We also have solid communities to raise families. Many parents are appreciative of the CTE programs we have put into place and like the fact that they are technology savvy just like in the workplace. The Fraser community takes pride and wears proudly its blue collar heritage. Our blue collar roots are how we brought prosperity to the region.

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

A We are training the next generation of the workforce and connecting students with industry leaders, most of which will happily sponsor their college education. The work we put into CTE programs now will pay off for future generations.

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

A We are working on a re-design of our industrial technology program so it more accurately mimics a professional working environment and we are restructuring programs to provide professional certifications for program completers. We're also focusing on training kids for "new collar" careers where technical skills are married with modern technology to build programmers and cybersecurity professionals to fill the growing local need. We expect this to be implemented this fall.

Q What organizations are you involved in personally and professionally?

A I am a member of the American Welding Society; the Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE); SME, a non-profit manufacturing association in southeast Michigan; and the Manufacturing Day planning committee in addition to numerous other advisory roles.

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