



Macomb County Board of Commissioners

Dave Flynn – Board Chair Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms

District 1 – Andrey Duzyj District 2 – Marv Sauger District 3 – Veronica Klinefelt District 5 – Rob Mijac District 6 – Jim Carabelli
District 7 – Don Brown District 8 – Kathy Vosburg District 9 – Fred Miller District 12 – Bob Smith District 13 – Joe Sabatini

FINAL AGENDA

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, July 20, 2016, immediately following 9:00 a.m. Finance Committee

COMMITTEE: Full Board

COMMITTEE CHAIR/VICE CHAIR: Board Chair Flynn/Vice-Chair Tocco

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Committee of the Whole

LOCATION: Room 126, Oakland University/Anton Frankel Center, 20 S. Main Street Mount Clemens, MI

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Commissioner Kathy Vosburg**
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes dated July 14, 2016 **(on website)**
7. Public Participation
(5 minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson, related only to issues on the agenda)
8. Correspondence from Executive
 - a. 07-08-16 E-mail RE: Invitation to Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Parking Deck **(page 1)**
 - b. 07-12-16 Memo RE: Opening of New Parking Deck **(page 2)**
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Infrastructure/Economic Development, July 19 **(none)**
 - b. Finance, July 20 **(page 3)**
10. Board Chair’s Report **(page 7)**
11. New Business
12. Public Participation (5 minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)
13. Roll Call
14. Adjournment

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Cormier** <cormier@macombgov.org>

Date: Fri, Jul 8, 2016 at 12:59 PM

Subject: You're invited!!! Ribbon cutting for new parking structure July 20

To: Sarah Cormier <cormier@macombgov.org>



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Sarah Cormier
Communications Specialist
Macomb County Executive Office

1 South Main, 8th Floor
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Direct Phone: (586) 469-6345
Main Phone: (586) 469-7001
Fax: (586) 469-7257

Email: Cormier@MacombGov.org

Website: www.MacombGov.org



Macomb County Executive

Mark A. Hackel

Mark F. Deldin
Chief Deputy County Executive

July 12, 2016

TO: Elected Officials and All Staff (Circuit Court/Administration Building)

FROM: Mark F. Deldin, Chief Deputy County Executive *Mark*

RE: Opening of New Parking Deck

The first full day of operation for the new parking deck will be on Thursday, July 21, 2016.

The electronic equipment (swipe card access) to "raise the arm" will not be installed in the new deck until mid-August. Employees can enter/exit parking without having to use an access card until the new equipment is installed. At that time all Court and Administration building employees will be issued a new card to gain entry and further correspondence will be sent outlining instructions for all card holders.

There will not be reserved parking in the new deck and there will be no monthly charge to employees (Administration underground parking excluded). We have added more handicap spaces than required by law and they will not be reserved for individuals. There will be a dedicated employee entrance on the south side of the deck, entering from Terry Street. As an alternative, staff can also enter from the main drive on South Main.

A separate memo will be sent to all elected officials and appointees who previously had access to the administration underground parking outlining the changes. The reopening of the underground parking will occur in the next few weeks.

The old parking structure will remain open until approximately the first week in August. Official notice will be sent prior to closing it down for demolition.

Thank you for your support and patience as our work continues in the downtown county/court buildings. Change is never easy but I'm certain you will be anxious to see the improvements being made that will enhance our work environment and better serve the public.

Please forward questions to our office at Executive@Macombgov.org.

MFD/smf

cc: Mark Hackel



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DATE: Wednesday, July 20, 2016

COMMITTEE: Finance

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT FOR FULL BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD: Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Motion to adopt: Miller

Supported by: Brown

At a meeting of the committee held as specified above, the following recommendations were made and are being forwarded to the Full Board meeting for approval.

1. Committee Recommendation (Motion) (see attached)

A motion was made by Vosburg, supported by Sabatini, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners to approve a \$49,500 budget amendment under Department of Planning and Economic Development Planning Grants (Fund 361) for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners’ action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

2. Committee Recommendation (Motion) (see attached)

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Marino, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners to approve a 3-year contract with Nickel & Saph Inc., to provide Property and Casualty Brokerage and Consulting Services for contract term from August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2019; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners’ action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Committee Recommendation (Motion) (see attached)

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Flynn, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners to approve the emergency replacement of the Mount Vernon Bridge at a cost of \$202,000; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners’ action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
Approve a \$49,500 budget amendment under Planning Grants - Fund 361 for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program.

Introduced By:
James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Co-Chairs, Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>The County has been awarded grant monies in the amount of \$20,000 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Forest Resources Division to administer an Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. The project will total \$49,500 with In-Kind Wages of \$29,500.</p> <p>On the revenue side State-Grants will be increased by \$20,000 and In-Kind Revenue will be increased by \$29,500. On the expense side CS-Other will be increased by \$20,000 and In-Kind Wages will be increased by \$29,500.</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Infrastructure/Economic Development	7-19-16
Finance	7-20-16
Full Board	7-20-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve a 3-year contract with Nickel & Saph Inc., to provide Property and Casualty Brokerage and Consulting Services. The term of this contract is August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2019. The Cost is commission based and it is estimated to be \$203,100 for the 3-years (\$67,700 per year based on current premiums).

Introduced By:

Fred Miller, Chair, Finance Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

This contract provides full-service Property and Casualty Brokerage/Consulting Services. The Purchasing Department solicited competitive bids on the MITN website in June, 2016. The review panel determined the Nickel & Saph's bid was overall the most qualified, experienced and advantageous to the County amongst the five respondents. Nickel & Saph has been the County's Property and Casualty Broker/Consultant for the past six years. Additionally, Nickel & Saph has provided excellent service to the Department of Roads (Formerly Macomb County Road Commission) for the past 20+ years.

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance	07/20/2016
Full Board	7-20-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Introduced By:

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

Committee

Meeting Date



Macomb County Board of Commissioners

Dave Flynn – Board Chair Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms

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DATE: 07-20-16
COMMITTEE MEETING: Full Board

RESOLUTION SHEET

Resolution to: Receive and file report from Board Chair for July 2016

Introduced by: Board Chairman Dave Flynn

The following is a report on activities within the Board Office which do not usually appear on committee agendas.

Current Issues

- Transit
- Veterans
- Zoo
- MTB

Office

- Laura and Jarrod Murphy had their baby, Gemma Rowan, on Tuesday, July 5, 2016. Mom Laura, baby Gemma and the whole family are doing very well. Laura’s leave extends through September 28.
- The Legislative Assistant position (formerly Committee Reporter) has been filled; Mike Keys will transition from Special Projects Coordinator to his new role on August 1st. We are excited for Mike to assume the new duties.
- The Special Projects Coordinator position (part-time) will be posted shortly.
- Andrew Kim, BOC Director of Legislative Affairs for the past 3+ years will be leaving next month to pursue new opportunities in Seattle, WA. Best of luck to Andrew and his wife Rachel on their new adventures!
- BOC renovations are still underway with a completion date estimated of mid-August.
- Staff members are working with the BoardSync agenda management system in a test environment and expect to run the manual and automated system simultaneously in August with phased-in implementation starting in September.

Upcoming Items

- Budget Reviews
- Ethics Ordinance

Correspondence

- Resolution(s) shared by other counties/entities
- Media Clips and articles

BOC Independent Counsel Invoice Totals

<u>Month</u>	<u>Invoice Totals</u>	<u>CS – Legal \$120,400</u>	<u>%Utilized</u>
January	\$ 3,828.70	\$116,571.30	
February	<u>5,684.00</u>	\$110,887.30	
	\$ 9,512.70		.079
March	<u>4,887.00</u>	\$106,000.30	
	\$14,399.70		.119
April	<u>6,400.00</u>	\$ 99,600.30	
	\$20,799.70		.173
May	<u>2,000.00</u>	\$ 97,600.30	
	\$ 22,799.70		.189

OPPOSITION TO TAXING LOCAL GOVERNMENT/RESIDENTS FOR THE RTA MILLAGE

At the regular meeting of the Addison Township Board of Trustees (Township) held at the Township Offices on the 20th day of June, 2016 at 6:00 pm

The following resolution was offered Trustee Gierak and supported by Trustee Boehmer

Whereas; the Township of Addison (Township) opposes the RTA 1.2 mill, 20 year property tax increase to create a mass transit system that does not connect or benefit Addison Township.

Whereas; the Township opposes the RTA Master Plan because it only benefits a few select communities in Oakland County; and

Whereas; the Township opposes the RTA because the "authority "was created by the State Legislature without a vote of the people or vote of the local governments impacted and/or involved; and

Whereas; the Township currently operates jointly, with other cooperating communities, a transit system for its residents known as North Oakland Transportation Authority (NOTA); and

Whereas; the Township is opposed to the RTA because impacted communities cannot opt out and, therefore, the Township may be taxed for two transportation authorities; and

Whereas; the Township currently budgets \$16,000 per year together with the 2016 taxable value collecting a millage of .25 for an estimated \$82,270.38 for a total of an estimated \$98,270.38, per year to fund the current NOTA transit system; and

Whereas; the Township based on 2016 taxable value at 1.2 mills, estimated tax is \$394,897.81 per year or based 2016 taxable value, for a 20 year millage proposal, an estimated \$7,897,940 to the RTA. The average home owner in Addison Township property tax increase estimated at the 2016 taxable value is \$120 per year; and

Whereas; the Township opposes the RTA based on the budgetary figures as the tax is an estimated 300% millage increase to the Township above NOTA's estimated millage to operate a system that does not provide local service; and

Whereas; the Township encourages the use of the current transportation authority known as Smart or the D-dot buses for services the RTA proposes; and

Whereas; the township proposes that RTA fiscally improve the current transportation systems prior to initiating new or increased millages for a new system; or

Whereas; the majority of Township residents mode of transportation will remain their individual cars along with the individual costs, including taxes, for our transportation; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the township passed the resolution in opposition to a County wide millage for RTA and directs the Clerk to forward a certified copy of this resolution to our elected County Representative, State Representatives, and to the Chair of the County's proposed in the RTA.

The Supervisor requested a roll call vote:


Ayes: Supervisor Pearson, Clerk Bennett, Treasurer Fisher, Trustee Brakefield, Trustee Gierak, Trustee Boehmer and Trustee Senft

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

I, Pauline Bennett the duly elected and acting Clerk of Township of Addison, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board by a roll call vote at a regular meeting of the Board held on June 20, 2016, at which meeting a quorum was present; and that this resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.


Pauline Bennett, Addison Township Clerk

THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY

ADDISON TOWNSHIP CLERK



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Trending Airborne car crashes into house — Shelby Township

CLINTON TOWNSHIP

Twp. offers shuttle service during construction

By Nick Mordowanec

Posted July 6, 2016

CLINTON TOWNSHIP — Construction season is upon us.

In the case of Clinton Township, it's not just heavily-traversed main roads that will be rehabilitated.

The long-awaited Civic Center parking lot project is set to commence soon, and officials are notifying members of the community how they can get to and from the township epicenter.

On June 6, officials held a meeting to discuss proactive ways to combat the construction, in terms of safe and efficient transportation methods. In response, Supervisor Bob Cannon and Public Services Director Mary Bednar secured the south and east ends of the St. Paul of Tarsus Catholic Church parking lot, located across Canal Road near the main branch of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

Treasurer Bill Sowerby secured an additional SMART bus at no charge to the township.

At the June 27 Board of Trustees meeting, Bednar said about 70 parking spots will be available for "quick township business" at any given time during the construction period — all for the general public. Available parking will allow for residents to pay tax bills, attain passports or turn in absentee ballots for the upcoming August primary.

The shuttle is meant for those who plan to stay awhile on Civic Center grounds.

"It's mainly for people who are coming for a long term, maybe to play bingo or some kind of senior activity, or if they're going to be there for a period of time," Bednar said.

Trustee Paul Gielegem said he appreciated the clarification, as he wasn't sure if the shuttle was meant for all residents or if a predetermined amount of parking spaces would still be available.



(Photo by Donna Agust)

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"We're going to do our best," Bednar said. "We're not going to have any parking attendants asking, 'What is your business?'"

Construction is expected to commence July 7, the day after the township's annual fireworks extravaganza. Contractors will start removing pavement in the parking lot and driveway.

The first phase also involves shutting down the Civic Center's Romeo Plank Road entrance, forcing visitors to use the Canal Road entrance. Signage will direct drivers.

The mailbox for absentee ballots will be located near the Clinton Township Senior Center. It will allow for traffic to flow easily in and out, almost like a drive-up service.

Those operating the shuttles to and from the church will be temporary part-time employees who, per SMART requirement, have a valid CDL license.

Bednar said retirees and those seeking a second job will be operating the shuttles. The drivers are working in conjunction with the Senior Center and Civil Service Department.

The shuttle is slated to run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays for no more than 90 days.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nick Mordowanec covers Fraser, Clinton Township, Fraser Public Schools, Clintondale Community Schools and Baker College for the Fraser-Clinton Chronicle. Nick, a graduate of Michigan State University, has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2013 and has won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists Detroit Chapter and the Michigan Press Association. He has slight obsessions with "Seinfeld" and Led Zeppelin.

Full bio and more articles by this reporter

For more local news coverage, see the following newspaper:

Fraser - Clinton Township Chronicle

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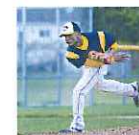
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The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

New county parking garage to open week of July 18

Garage to open week of July 18, precedes many other changes

By Jameson Cook, *The Macomb Daily*

Tuesday, July 5, 2016



The new parking garage in downtown Mount Clemens will open later this month, representing the first tile to fall in a domino effect of structural changes in county government facilities.

Mark Deldin, Macomb County chief deputy county executive, said the 604-space structure will open the week of July 18, slightly later than the expected date due to delays in completing work on the entrance area from the structure to the adjoining 9-story Administration Building.

“It’s on budget, but they needed some extra time for the welcoming center,” Deldin said, adding that the price tag is \$9.5 million.

[Construction began 13 months ago.](#)

The opening on the north side of downtown will precede the closing and demolition of the existing 575-space parking garage on the opposite end of downtown. Following a couple-week transition period, the old garage property “will be cordoned” off and demolished in August and September at an estimated cost of no more than \$1 million, Deldin said. Requests for proposals for the job are now being requested, he said.

That 2.3 acre site will be seeded for grass and held for potential future use or turned into a park or parking lot, Deldin said.

“We’re not going to determine what to do with that property until everything is flowing (in 2017),” Deldin said. “We may keep it for additional service parking. You never know. We might need it for future growth. It is contiguous with our other properties, so it would be silly to sell it.

“Once you turn it into a green space, it’s not so easy (to change its function). People become pretty attached to it.”

A summary of results of a county-endorsed survey about downtown Mount Clemens needs that drew 923 responses indicated “respondents desire a more improved downtown aesthetic and environment” because they want “safety, walkability, green spaces, and lighting.”

Meanwhile, restoration of the 1930’s-era Old County Building will wrap up by September.

“It’s going to be like musical chairs for a while,” Deldin said.

Several county offices will begin moving into the 13-story Old County Building, located between the Administration Building and the county courthouse. That will allow for extensive renovations to begin in the court building to make room for three new courtrooms and circuit court judges on the fifth floor.

Friend of Court, the Law Library and some court operations all on the courthouse's fifth floor will move to the Old County Building, and Juvenile Court and Probate Court will move from locations on North Rose to the renovated structure. Other court operations will move to the sixth floor of the courthouse. The Probate Court building will be demolished, and Juvenile Court building will be held for potential future growth.

The jury room on the fifth floor will move to the courthouse's first-floor while vital records and non-court functions of the Clerk's Office will move to the Tallmer Building, located on downtown's northern edge. The Register of Deeds, now located in the Clemens Center near the Tallmer Building, also will move to Tallmer.

The projects are being financed by a \$65 million bond issue.

The project's necessity was heightened following a fire at the Old County Building in spring 2013.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/government-and-politics/20160705/new-county-parking-garage-to-open-week-of-july-18>

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CENTER LINE

Community garden continues to grow in Center Line

Beautification members thank sponsors and volunteers for their support

By Brian Louwers

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Kaitlyn Beattie, 12, of Eastpointe, volunteered to plant pumpkins at Center Line's community garden on June 23. (Photo by Brian Louwers)

Posted June 28, 2016

CENTER LINE — Veggies, flowers and now even a pumpkin patch are taking root in Center Line at a community garden site that has weathered five full years as of this summer.

"Every year, we get new people. We lose some people; we gain some new people. This year, we've gained six new members," said Bernadette Helkowski, a member of the Center Line Beautification Commission, a master gardener and a community liaison for the garden. "We have 19 members with 23 plots, because some people have more than one plot. And then we have donation gardens and an herb garden.



From left, Kaleigh Squier, 14, of St. Clair Shores, Audrey Houle, 11, of Warren, Mia Rose, 11, of Warren, Kaitlyn Beattie, 12, of Eastpointe, Ivy Houle, 11, of Warren, and Owen Houle, 13, of Warren, took part in pumpkin plantings and garden maintenance.

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"For the most part, our garden runs very well," Helkowski said. "We go from year to year, doing everything we need to do and



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having successful crops.”

She said it wouldn't be that way without those who tend the garden, or without the sponsors that help keep it going.

Helkowski thanked Home Depot, Lowe's, Grecko's Nursery, Beste's Lawn & Patio Supply, Ace Hardware, Binson's Home Health Care Centers, Van Dyke Cleaners, Kilburn's Equipment Rental, Singing Tree LLC and Rudy Funeral Home for their support at the garden this year.



“This year, we found ourselves in a bit of a quandary, money-wise,” Helkowski said. “We are very, very appreciative,” she said of the donations. “That gave us the ability to update the beds and the plots and also to add soil to the beds. Also, some of our new members were very instrumental in creating a pumpkin patch.”

Barbara Rose said she's enjoying her first year at the Center Line garden this year, and that they've been working hard to add a patch of pumpkins and gourds.

“We're trying to involve the children. We kind of were a little too ambitious,” Rose said. “We didn't have enough material to actually do the whole pumpkin patch. It's quite big. We decided to do a small part, about a third, and do a children's project this year.”

The pumpkin patch plantings this year include about two dozen pumpkin plants and gourds. When it comes time to harvest, Rose plans to use them to do creative crafts with the kids.

Work to get the patch ready for planting this year was labor intensive because of the initial transition from grass to amended soil suitable for growing pumpkins.

Rose said she'd like to get more kids involved next year.

“For the next year, we'd like to kind of put the word out sooner so we can have multiple different ages involved,” Rose said.

The 70-by-70-foot site for the Center Line Community Garden on Dale, east of Van Dyke, began as a joint effort between the city and the Metropolitan Church of the Nazarene. Members of the church, on Frazho in Roseville, originally approached Center Line officials about building a garden, and the city-owned site was selected in 2010.

Years ago, the land was the site of an outdoor ice skating rink.

To inquire about plots at the garden or volunteer opportunities, call Center Line City Hall at (586) 757-6800.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Brian Louwers covers the cities of Warren and Center Line. He has worked for C & G Newspapers since 1998 and is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In his free time, he participates in the Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program and conducts interviews with military veterans for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress.

[Full bio and more articles by this reporter](#)

For more local news coverage, see the following newspaper:

Warren Weekly

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Center Line celebrates 80th birthday



WARREN
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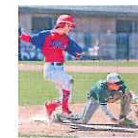
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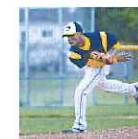
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MACOMB COUNTY
MAC honors baseball standouts

The Voice (voicenews.com)

Life

Program in Richmond outlines services for area seniors

Thursday, June 30, 2016

By Barb Pert Templeton
For The Voice

The Macomb County Office of Senior Services will present a program this month outlining various services available to area seniors.

The event, set for 7 p.m. July 14, will also include information about how individuals and businesses can partner with Macomb Community Action's Meals on Wheels program.

There will be light refreshments and plenty of opportunities for people in the audience to pose questions and obtain additional information.

Jill Albin, director of the Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber is hosting the event to support the Macomb County Office of Senior Services' efforts to get some services for seniors established in the northern part of the county.

"They are looking to get people involved using creative ways," Albin said. "There are even business incentives where a business can adopt a Meals on Wheels route and share the duty between four or five employees."

Albin said the idea is to inform seniors about the programs that are available to them because many simply don't take advantage of them.

Elise Cretcher, the volunteer coordinator with Macomb Community Action Office of Senior Services, will present the upcoming program. She said they are always looking for more drivers and volunteers to deliver meals.

She plans to introduce services available to residents in Macomb County through Macomb Community Action, as well as additional information for both businesses and individuals to consider adopting a Meals on Wheels route.

"We want to reach out to business people to share a program where they can donate their lunch hour to service homebound seniors," Cretcher said. "And also talk about all the services offered throughout the county."

The new approach utilizing Meals on Wheels and businesses is something the county is test marketing to see if local merchants want to consider it as a way to give back.

Cretcher said Meals on Wheels of America is launching a major national campaign in mid-July to recruit volunteers through businesses, and Macomb Community Action already had it on their work plan.

The county's Meals on Wheels program used to have a core group of volunteers, but the numbers have been dropping due to people's work schedules, retirees moving out of town and older volunteers simply reaching a point where it is no longer comfortable for them to deliver the meals.

"We need a new source of volunteers, so we are reaching out to civic-minded working organizations to help out," Cretcher said.

The way the program works is that volunteers are only called upon once a week or once every two weeks to take a delivery route. So, if a team of four or five employees wants to share a route, they would only be giving up one lunch hour per month.

The delivery locations are set up to accommodate the volunteers, keeping them in the area where they live or work. They are given a route sheet, delivery directions and a set number of lunches to take to residents. Completing the route takes about an hour to an hour and a half.

"They are only expected to spend a couple minutes at each house, and it is kind of wellness check because they might be the only one the senior sees that day but they aren't expected to stay long," Cretcher said, noting some volunteers get to know their clients and enjoy seeing them while delivering meals.

Macomb County Meals on Wheels are delivered to homebound persons 60 years or older, or adults with disabilities, who are unable to shop or prepare meals for themselves. This can include persons who are ill, recently hospitalized or disabled.

One well-balanced meal is delivered daily, Monday through Friday, at midday, and service can begin within a few days of application. The minimum service is one week, which includes five days.

The Richmond Community Center is located at 36164 Festival Drive. For more information about the upcoming program, call the Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce at (586) 727-3266.

For more information about the Meals on Wheels program in Macomb County, visit michigan.gov/mdhhs. For more information about the national Meals on Wheels program, go to mealsonwheelsamerica.org.

Barb Pert Templeton is a freelance reporter. She can be contacted at

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Originally Published: June 27, 2016 5:00 PM Modified: June 27, 2016 5:58 PM

State allows construction plans to be filed electronically for permit review

By **Lindsay VanHulle**



Photo by Courtesy photo The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is allowing developers, architects and others involved in building construction to file documents electronically, a move intended to reduce paper submissions and expedite the permitting process.

LANSING — Developers and architects now can submit construction plans for building projects to the state online through a software program meant to simplify the permitting process.

The technology will allow contractors and others involved in the building process to submit all construction documents electronically to the state's **Bureau of Construction Codes**, housed within the **Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs**.

LARA said developers will be able to submit all plans for new construction or renovation projects through a single web portal to the construction codes bureau and other regulatory agencies, including the **Bureau of Fire Services** and the **Bureau of Community and Health Systems**.

Electronic submission is optional, so developers will continue to be allowed to file paper copies if they prefer that method.

The state earlier this year launched e-PlanCheck, a software program made by Los Angeles-based **e-PlanSoft** and integrated with San Ramon, Calif.-based **Accela Inc.**, which sells cloud-based software to government customers.

The e-PlanCheck software cost \$163,000 to launch, with an annual user fee of less than \$10,000, LARA spokesman Jason Moon said, adding that savings are expected to come from reduced staff time to process documents and permits.

The new program will allow construction plans to be filed, reviewed and changed by multiple agencies online, and construction applicants will be able to monitor their application status, LARA said.

The state construction codes bureau is responsible for issuing construction permits and licenses and is the state's regulatory agency in charge of building, boiler, electrical, elevator, mechanical systems and plumbing laws.

"Under this innovative electronic plan review process, our bureaus can work more cohesively with each

other and with our customers," LARA Director Shelly Edgerton said in a statement.

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ST. CLAIR SHORES

Senior center site plan approved

Expansion construction could start as soon as October

By Kristyne E. Demske

1



The site plan for the Senior Activities Center includes a new vestibule with an overhang for members to walk through to enter. (Rendering provided by Partners in Architecture)

Posted June 27, 2016

ST. CLAIR SHORES — With a fitness center expansion, new paint, new ceilings, new kitchen equipment and more, City Council approved the site plan for the Senior Activities Center expansion and renovation June 20.

Mike Malone, with Partners in Architecture, told council members that they're adding a 2,800-square-foot fitness center, a small vestibule and a covered entrance canopy, and improving the remaining interior of the center in accordance with the wishes of the Senior Center Committee, made up of members of the center and City Council, and advised by city administrators.

The office area will be relocated to the back of the facility, Malone said, and



The 2,800-square-foot addition to the facility will hold a fitness center. (Rendering provided by Partners in Architecture)

advertisement

Advertisement for Pine Ridge of Garfield Senior Living. Text: 'An easy place to CALL HOME', 'Rest easy, you can try us and see how much you love it.', 'One bedroom now available - \$500 off move-in fee!', 'Pine Ridge of Garfield SENIOR LIVING', 'PineRidgeGarfield.com', 'A SPECTRUM RETIREMENT COMMUNITY'.

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brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“The multipurpose room ... is primarily the same room you have now. The kitchen gets some improvements. There’s a fitness center addition (that) accommodates 20-30 new (pieces of) equipment,” Malone said. “This layout is based on the equipment that they have selected.”

There will also be two spaces dedicated for healing arts and a new conference room in the renovated center, and new restrooms and lockers in the new fitness center.

“We went through several different iterations” of the site plan, said Councilman John Caron, a member of the committee. “Looking at different combinations of where the fitness center could go ... so we can try to fit in as many of the needs as we could. We can’t meet every criteria, (but) I think we got a good compromise here.”

Everything will be refreshed, with the exception of the existing bathrooms, which were recently remodeled, he said. If all goes according to plan, construction could begin in late October.

The committee was unanimous in support of the design.

But not everyone on council agreed.

“I’m a little taken aback by this,” said Councilman Ron Frederick. “Just seeing this, we’re spending \$1.7 million for a 2,800-square-foot addition. That just seems odd to me. We get one shot to do this right.”

He said he wanted to see a breakdown of what everything was proposed to cost because he couldn’t believe that such a small addition was all that was being paid for with the money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mayor Kip Walby, however, pointed out that the construction costs are closer to \$1.2 million, with contingencies and fees making up the difference. And Malone pointed out that construction costs are going up.

Frederick said he didn’t realize the HUD loan would be used for things like replacing the senior center roof.

“That’s probably out of the scope of what I would have thought that we would use that money for,” he said. “I’m just disappointed because this was supposed to be a huge expansion.

“We’re now cutting the expansion size to fund other things. We’re trying to attract more (people) to use this, and we’re basically adding something that’s basically the size of the current multipurpose room.”

Councilman Peter Rubino said he could sympathize with Frederick’s feelings on the matter. Rubino also served on the committee.

“I was shocked at what that amount of money was getting us,” he said. “I go back and forth on whether it’s even wise to spend any money in the financial situation (St. Clair Shores is in).

“The key is, we had to get ADA-compliant on the building. There are a lot of changes inside and it was the seniors, really, who had to make the tough decisions on what they wanted to give up or not give up, or make a compromise on, because the funds are limited.”

Caron said that the plan before council is what they can afford with the money they have.



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"I'm actually happy we could hold a project together that (brought together) all different types of needs," he said. "There were tough discussions on what we could do, what we could not do."

The site plan was unanimously approved by City Council June 20.

Malone said they hope to be done with the construction drawings in August and put the project out to bid, with construction hopefully beginning in October.

1



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Kristyne E. Demske covers St. Clair Shores and the Lake Shore, Lakeview and South Lake public schools for the Sentinel. Kristyne has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2004 and attended Michigan State University and Chippewa Valley High School.

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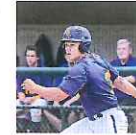
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Family resource center opens in old Mt. Clemens school

Christina Hall, Detroit Free Press 6:07 p.m. EDT June 24, 2016

The center will offer a variety of services, including a client food pantry and utility, rental assistance.



(Photo: Christina Hall, Detroit Free Press)

Macomb County's newest family resource center in Mt. Clemens is within walking distance of Ashley Alsheleh's apartment. That's important to her since she doesn't have a car.

"The building is open? Every day?" Alsheleh asked a county employee at the future home of an expansion of the Macomb Food Program Client Choice Pantry.

"This place seems cool," Alsheleh later said.

She could be one of the thousands of people who officials hope will be helped at the new center in the former George Washington School that had been mothballed by the school district. The center, like one in Warren, will offer a variety of services, including a food pantry, recreation activities and assistance with bills.

The county entered into an eight-year lease of the former school at 196 North Rose near Groesbeck for \$120,000 a year with renewable options to help a community in need with services, said Rhonda Powell, Macomb Community Action director. She said grants and budget funds helped cover the cost of renovations.

Some services are to include community development and the Central Action Center which offers emergency utility and rent/mortgage help, supplemental food program registration, water bill assistance and weatherization program registration.

For Monica Bihar-Natzke of Chesterfield Township, the center offers the Detroit Arsenal Youth Recreation -- sports and fitness programs that her six children, who range from an infant to a 13-year-old, could enjoy for minimal cost.

It also will offer a financial empowerment program and the center will house community partners, including MorningStar Learning Center for children, Good Shepherd Coalition, Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals' Cooking Matters and Diabetes Prevention programs, in addition to the Community Housing Network, which has programs to help the homeless and those with disabilities.

"I think this is a really good thing. It's gonna be able to help out people a lot more," said Susan Todd, a housing specialist coordinator with Community Housing Network, which is based in Oakland County but helped about 750 people in Macomb County last year and whose call center received more than 4,000 calls.

Discussions about the family resource center started in late 2014, Powell said, just a short time before the county's first family resource center at the Thompson Community Center in Warren fully opened in February 2015.

Buy Photo



People tour the new Macomb County Family Resource Center at the former George Washington School in Mt. Clemens on June 24, 2016. (Photo: Christina Hall, Detroit Free Press)

Steve Gold, the county's health and community services director, said the Warren location, also in a former mothballed school, has 10,000 to 12,000 visits a year and will receive a grant to renovate the kitchen so food grown at the location can be prepared there.

"It's an asset instead of moldering away," Gold said of the idea to rehab the schools into useful centers.

He and Powell said there may be efforts to create more family resource centers in other parts of the county, having just Thursday received a call from Utica Community Schools.

County Executive Mark Hackel said schools have always seemed to be a resource center for education and activities in a community. He said people in communities today still need those schools.

"Not for handouts, not for giveaways, but to make life services readily available to them. True support to help them become less dependent," he said, adding that clients won't have to be sent to another location for help or given a phone number when something else they may need may be right down the hall.

Mt. Clemens Community Schools Interim Superintendent William Pearson called the idea "a great partnership" and said it will be good to have the building with children again.

The center generally will be open 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, with possibly expanded hours into the evenings or weekends in the future, county officials said.

Contact Christina Hall: chall99@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter: [@challreporter](https://twitter.com/challreporter).

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Census: Minority population grows in Oakland, Macomb



Christine MacDonald, The Detroit News 12:40 p.m. EDT June 23, 2016



(Photo: Gary Malerba / Detroit News file)

Suburban Oakland and Macomb counties continued to see growth in minority populations last year, according to U.S. Census population estimates released Thursday.

Macomb County's black population was 11.2 percent in 2015, a gain of 3,624 residents, reflecting the continued movement of black Detroiters to the suburbs, experts say. In 2010, blacks made up 8.6 percent of the county's residents.

The county's gains were smaller than in previous years, experts say primarily because Detroit is stemming its population losses and there is less affordable housing in the suburbs as the real estate market recovers.

"African-American movement out of Wayne continues — primarily to Macomb — but the numbers have slowed," Kurt Metzger, a demographer and director emeritus of Data Driven Detroit, said.

Detroit's population was 677,116 as of last summer, a loss of 3,107 residents from the previous year. It was the smallest decline in decades, but it was enough to drop the city to 21st in the nation, surpassed by Seattle, Denver and El Paso, Texas.

Oakland County saw a small decrease in blacks but gains in Asian and Hispanics last year, according to the census report. Asians make up 6.9 percent of Oakland County residents, a gain of 2,745, and Hispanics are 3.9 percent of the population, a gain of 1,193.

"That sort of matches what we know about Michigan," said state Demographer Eric Guthrie, citing similar gains in Asians and Hispanics.

Guthrie said the top two home countries of foreign-born residents are Mexico and India, which would fall under the Hispanic and Asian categories in the census data.

County makeup

U.S. Census data released Thursday on the racial composition of states and counties shows Macomb and Oakland attracting more minorities.

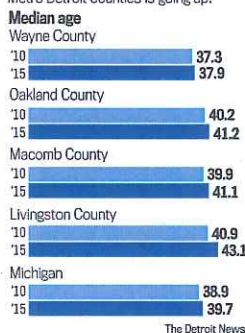
County	White			Black		
	2010	2015	Change	2010	2015	Change
Wayne	903,958	878,961	-2.8%	734,748	679,755	-7.5%
Oakland	904,708	906,060	0.1	162,865	176,004	8.1
Macomb	706,656	693,534	-1.9	72,275	96,815	34.0
Livingston	172,645	177,141	2.6	788	1,116	41.6
State	7,579,545	7,498,342	-1.1	1,388,149	1,378,855	-0.7

County	Hispanic			Asian		
	2010	2015	Change	2010	2015	Change
Wayne	95,260	101,015	6%	46,354	55,318	19.3%
Oakland	41,920	47,882	14.2	68,395	84,311	23.3
Macomb	19,095	21,865	14.5	25,250	32,051	26.9
Livingston	3,460	4,330	25.1	1,429	1,678	17.4
State	436,358	485,974	11.4	239,724	293,834	22.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Aging state

The median age statewide and in Metro Detroit counties is going up.



In Michigan last year, blacks made up 14 percent of the population, a loss of 2,188 from 2014; Hispanics made up 4.9 percent, a gain of 9,085, and Asians were 3 percent, a gain of 11,016.

Livingston saw gains in blacks, Hispanics and Asians last year but their numbers are much smaller than in the other Metro Detroit counties. Livingston saw a gain of 70 blacks, 166 Hispanics and 61 Asians, according to the estimates.

Whites are on the decrease in Macomb, a loss of 2,751, Oakland, a decrease of 1,934 and Wayne, a drop of 4,913.

Macomb County has formed a group called One Macomb aimed at making the county more inclusive, offering everything from diversity summits to adding signs in other languages.

"I think it's a multitude of reasons that people are moving to Macomb ... public safety, public education, affordable housing ... a lower tax rate," County Executive Mark Hackel said.

The effort to welcome new residents is important, said Ruthie Stevenson, past president of the Macomb County Branch of the NAACP.

"Macomb County has become a large multicultural county," she said. "A lot of people don't know how to deal with that. You have to deal with what you don't know. We have to get past our biases."

Data released Thursday also shows Michigan is an aging state where the median age is 39.7 years compared to the national median age of 37.8 years. In 2010, Michigan's median age was 38.9 years, according to the census.

Two Michigan counties ranked in the top five nationally with the oldest median age. Alcona, on the state's northeast side, was the fourth oldest with a median age of 57.9 years and Ontonagon, in the Upper Peninsula, was fifth at 57.3 years.

An increasing number of counties with median ages above 50 years their viabilities into question going forward, Metzger said.

"When half your population is over 50 years of age, the demographic (continued population loss) and economic (limited business opportunities) are in doubt," the director emeritus said.

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Macomb to ask voters for more money for vets

Nicquel Terry, The Detroit News 7:45 p.m. EDT June 19, 2016



(Photo: Todd McInturf)

Voters in Macomb County will be asked in August whether to support a property tax hike that would benefit thousands of local veterans, many of whom are homeless or in need of health care.

The county is asking for a 0.04-mill renewal and a 0.029-mill increase of the Macomb County veterans millage which has levied funding for veterans since 2008, county officials say.

The county Board of Commissioners approved the veterans millage proposal for the August primary election ballot after conducting a study on how veterans could receive benefits faster through the Veterans Services Department, board chairman David Flynn said.

The proposal would levy the revised total of 0.069 mills for 2017 and 2018 and be renewed at the same rate from 2019-22.

"This extremely small increase will allow our vets to streamline the process to receive 100 percent of the benefits they qualify for from their service time," Flynn said.

If the millage passes, a taxpayer with a home valued at \$100,000 would pay \$3.45 annually.

"Just about everybody has somebody in their family, whether it's a parent or grandparent, who has served," said Laura Rios, director of the Veterans Services Department. "It's about taking care of those who have taken care of us."

County officials say there are an estimated 53,000 veterans living in the county — many of whom suffer physical and mental disabilities from combat, are unemployed and need transportation.

In addition to more services, the millage would allow shorter wait times for veterans to receive benefits, officials say.

The veterans millage would raise \$1.7 million in its first calendar year.

Rios said the proposal would fund transportation services for the veterans in wheelchairs or with oxygen tanks; a boot camp to help veterans get jobs; a treatment court for veterans who get arrested; and wage increases for employees that help veterans.

More than 23,000 veterans have visited the Veterans Services Department for help in the past three years, she said. The department works to maximize benefits for veterans and their families, including education, home loans, burials, disability and rent assistance.

Brian Bobek, president of Vietnam Veterans of America in Clinton Township, said the county's veterans services are essential since so many veterans are homeless or returning home from serving in the Middle East. Bobek recently encountered a veteran and his family who were living out of a car, he said.

"They are out there putting their life on the line for the continued freedoms we enjoy in this country," Bobek said of men and women in the military.

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June 16, 2016 5:00 PM

Amended bill may open door for upgrade of A-10 aircraft wings

By **Chad Halcom**



A-10 Thunderbolt jets at the Selfridge base were deployed to southwest Asia to support anti-ISIS efforts for much of 2015.

Defense contractors could submit bids by next week on a new contract to supply more than 100 sets of new A-10 aircraft wings, with help from a new \$100 million that cleared the House on Thursday.

An amended version of the **U.S. Department of Defense** appropriations bill for fiscal 2017 passed the House 282-138, largely along party lines, with a new appropriation to supply wing upgrades to the A-10 fleet at **Selfridge Air National Guard Base** in Harrison Township and elsewhere.

Proposals are due Monday from contractor businesses interested in a **possible five-year U.S. Air Force contract** to supply up to 10-25 new sets of A-10 wings per year for its A-10 fleet.

Chicago-based **Boeing Co.** has had a re-winging contract since December 2007 for the Air Force and Air National Guard to supply replacement wing assemblies for at least 173 of the roughly 300 A-10s still in service by 2017. The new contract under consideration presumably supplements the Boeing wing production.

A recent amendment to the new appropriations bill adds funding to maintain and upgrade A-10s, including \$100 million for wing upgrades. The bill now advances to the Senate.

"The A-10, without question, provides the best close air support in combat throughout the world," U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, vice-chair of the Committee on Homeland Security and a co-sponsor of the amendment with wing funding.

"(A) a vote for this critical defense funding legislation is a vote to give the brave heroes who put themselves in harm's way for our freedom and liberty the support they and their families have more than earned."

Selfridge's 107th Fighter Squadron has now completed two combat deployments since it began flying the A-10 in 2008, including last year against ISIS in Southwest Asia.

The new bill also includes a provision freezing any use of defense funds from divesting or retiring the A-10 fleet, which members of Congress have added annually in recent years — but Defense Secretary Ash Carter said **earlier this year** he expects the Pentagon to keep flying the aircraft through 2022.

Selfridge hosts 21 A-10s in Macomb County, and the Michigan Air National Guard has said the aircraft directly supports about 180 full-time jobs and almost 300 part-time jobs at the base.

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Pure Michigan could see \$1 million budget increase in 2017

Budget awaits Gov. Rick Snyder's signature

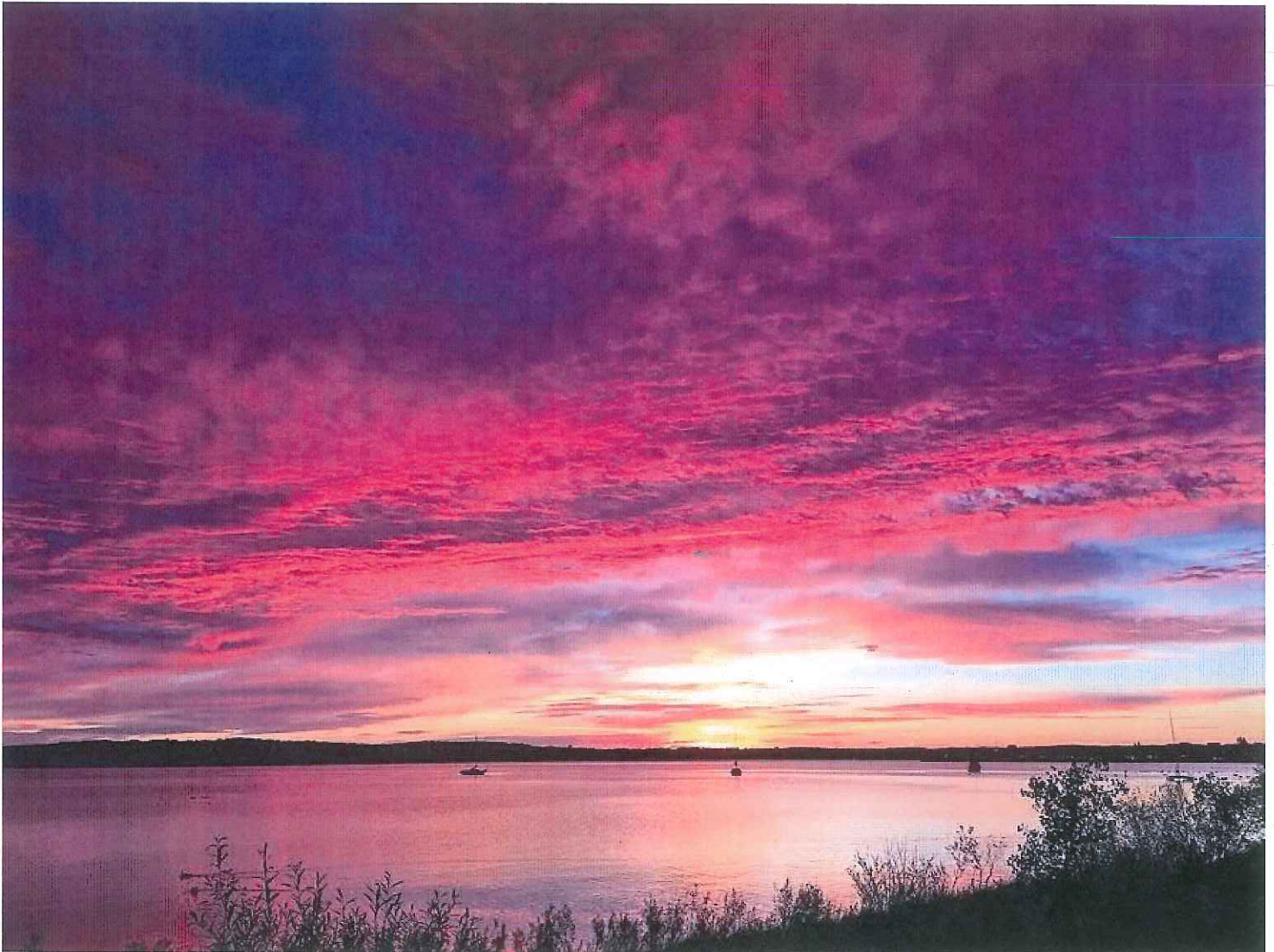


Photo by Alison Goss/Travel Michigan A Pure Michigan moment: the sun rising over Traverse City's Grand Traverse Bay.

The 10-year-old state tourism campaign's funding would rise to \$34 million in the 2017 fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

By [Lindsay VanHulle](#)

The Pure Michigan marketing campaign appears poised for a slight funding boost under a budget approved by lawmakers. The 10-year-old state tourism campaign, housed within **Travel Michigan** and the **Michigan Economic Development Corp.**, would receive an additional \$1 million in state funding under a budget proposal approved by a legislative conference committee. That would bring Pure Michigan funding to \$34 million in the 2017 fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. The budget awaits Gov. Rick Snyder's signature.

State tourism leaders this year have focused Pure Michigan efforts on Detroit's post-bankruptcy rebound, as well as on so-called "passion" marketing areas as craft beer and farm-to-table food. The fall tourism campaign will focus on scenic routes, though more specific details have not yet been released.

The summer campaign is focused on promoting state lakes.

Metro Detroit Ranks Third In Nation For Walkability Development, Says Study

By *Ardelia Lee* - Jun 20, 2016



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Detroit's urban landscape is changing, and it's becoming more walkable as a result. [Foot Traffic Ahead](#), a study published by the George Washington University School of Business, ranked metro Detroit third out of 30 of the largest U.S. cities for walkability development momentum.

The study notes that the potential walkable development in the Detroit region is promising.

"[Detroit] has also experienced some of the fastest GDP and job growth of all 30 metros. Much of this growth has occurred in revived WalkUPs like downtown and Midtown Detroit, as well as in urbanizing suburbs like Ann Arbor, Birmingham, and Royal Oak."

The area's choice to encourage a more walkable environment is beneficial in more ways than one. The study found that cities with the highest levels of walkable urban development also rank highest on measures of social equality. They're also more likely to have higher GDPs and more educated residents.

Metro Detroit could do better to improve its education statistics. Right now, only 30 percent of people 25 and older have a bachelor's degree. That statistic puts the region in 20th place, tied with several other cities like Houston, Sacramento, and Orlando.

While the area ranks highly in terms of walkability development – meaning where the region is headed – it doesn't do so well when it comes to current walkable urbanism. Metro Detroit ranks 21st overall for walkable urbanism, but its development momentum will likely help it move up the list in the future. The region is grouped with others like Cleveland, Kansas City, and Baltimore, all of which are in the lower-middle walkable urban section.

"Much of this lag is due to a historic lack of rail transit infrastructure, though all now have rail systems in early stages of development. They are also handicapped by local consumer perceptions that walkable urbanism, especially rail-based, transit-oriented development, is not compatible with their traditions."

However, with the new M-1 RAIL opening in Detroit in 2017 and [Bus Rapid Transit plans in the works](#), it'll be interesting to see if new projects may continue to go more towards walkable development.

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MCC hires firm for presidential search

Wednesday, June 22, 2016



The Macomb Community College Board of Trustees has selected R.H. Perry & Associates to assist it in the search process for the next president.

The board announced its decision Tuesday at its regular monthly meeting.

According to its website, R.H. Perry & Associates is headquartered in Washington, DC, and its consultants maintain offices in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, New York, Rhode Island and Virginia.

The website says RHPA offers excellent credentials and experience in academic executive search, having successfully completed more than 1,000 searches in its 40-year history. The firm's higher education practice consists of senior-level executives with a well-balanced mix

of college and university presidential experience and executive search expertise. RHPA conducts its search practice with two-consultant teams supported by its communications and due diligence specialists.

Jesse Thompson will serve as the lead consultant, with Liz Rocklin also working on the search. Thompson earned a master's degree in education from the University of Michigan and a second master's degree in human resources and labor relations administration from Central Michigan University.

No timeline has been set for the search, MCC representative Jeanne Nichol said Wednesday.

"The college's board will be working with the firm in the near term to flesh out the specifics of the search, including timelines," she said.

Jacobs' contract with MCC runs through June, 2017. [He announced in January](#) that he asked it not be renewed for the following academic year. This will be his 50th year with the school, which has campuses in Warren and Clinton Township, and has been president since 2008.

--Don Gardner

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/social-affairs/20160622/mcc-hires-firm-for-presidential-search>

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Report: Michigan Ranks as Most Improved State for Business, Reaches Top Ten

BY EMMA KLUG



Michigan was cited as this year's most improved state for business, and ranked seventh overall, up from 22nd place in 2015, according to a new national report by CNBC.

According to CNBC's analysis, Michigan "was considered all but hopeless" when it began ranking states a decade ago. "Michigan owes much of its improvement to a resurgent economy," the report states. "Economic growth ranks in the top 20 percent of the country, and jobs are coming back after a long period of decline.

"While Michigan is not as reliant on the auto industry as it once was, the comeback shows just how powerful the state can be when that industry is doing well. That's because the industry doesn't just generate manufacturing jobs — it is also a magnet for innovation. State officials like to point out that Michigan has the nation's largest concentration of engineers, and the state averages one automotive patent every day.

"That helps the state come in sixth in our technology and innovation category. And in a development that's sure to warm the heart of Gov. Rick Snyder, a former venture capitalist, Michigan finishes fourth for access to capital."

The report scored all 50 states on more than 60 measures of competitiveness that were then separated into 10 categories, which were weighted on how frequently each is used as a selling point in the state's marketing materials for economic development.

The state also saw improvements from 2015 in the cost of doing business, quality of life, technology and innovation, education, and business friendliness categories, while it saw a slight drop in the workforce, infrastructure, and cost of living categories.

"It seems to me as though the major in change in Michigan is in the economy, and what drives the economy more than anything else is the auto industry," says Allen Goodman, professor of economics at Wayne State University in Detroit. "In 2015, we were coming out of this mess in Detroit, and in 2016 there's a little more of a buzz. That could be what the report is capturing."

Utah, Texas, and Colorado took first, second, and third place, respectively, in this year's report. For the report, economic sources included the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federation of Tax

Administrators, American Petroleum Institute, Moody's Investor Service, and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

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Oakland County Commissions Survey on Autonomous Vehicle Industry Employment

BY EMMA KLUG



Oakland County has authorized a regional survey that will ask autonomous vehicle industry employers what skills, knowledge, and abilities they require of potential employees.

"Rather than just jump into the fray, we are attempting with this survey to find out from the prospective employers what skills they are looking for in this highly technical field," says Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "Instead of guessing what they want, why not ask them what they need?"

The connected/autonomous vehicle Skills Needs Assessment Project, which will survey equipment manufacturer, supplier, and information technology companies, is expected to begin this month with results available by the end of the year.

Oakland County is home to hundreds of R&D facilities, many of which are global companies active in the autonomous vehicle space including Autoliv, Continental, Denso, Delphi, Google, Lear, Nissan, P3, and Valeo.

"The technology and the workforce for the autonomous vehicles are all right here," says Irene Spanos, director of economic development for the county. "The study results will help shape K-12, college, and university curriculum and content, giving real-time employer-driven information to students and parents to help them make career decisions and have a real chance for success."

The survey, which is the fourth in a series of employer job surveys commissioned by Oakland County, will be conducted by EdEn Inc., a Rochester-based research firm.