MARCH 21, 2013

NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a meeting of the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS on Thursday, March 28, 2013, at 7 p.m., on the 9th Floor of the County Administration Building, in the Commissioners’ Board Room, Mount Clemens.

(Invocation this month is by Commissioner Veronica Klinefelt)

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

1. Presentation to Board from Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan

2. Presentation of Proclamations:
   a) K/E Electric – 25th Anniversary (Sabatini and Miller)
   b) Lipari Foods – 50th Anniversary (Sabatini and Sauger)

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
   a) Health & Human Services, March 24 (to be provided)
   b) Infrastructure, March 26 (to be provided)
   c) Finance, March 27 (to be provided)

4. Correspondence from Executive

5. Board Chair’s Report (page 1) (attached)

6. Approve Communication Protocol Agreement (page 30) (attached)

7. Citizen Inquiry Received on 3-20-13 (page 33) (attached)

Corinne Bedard
Committee Reporter

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair
District 4

Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair
District 11

Mike Boyle – Sergeant-At-Arms
District 10

Toni Moceri – District 1

Marvin Sauger – District 2

Veronica Klinefelt – District 3

Robert Mijac - District 5

James Carabelli – District 6

Don Brown – District 7

Kathy Yosburg – District 8

Fred Miller – District 9

Bob Smith – District 12

Joe Sabatini – District 13
RESOLUTION TO receive and file report from Board Chair for March, 2013

INTRODUCED BY: Dave Flynn, Full Board

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

Meetings:

- Several discussions have taken place with the OCE regarding communication, contracts, counsel, building use, Freedom Hill, upcoming Board action.
- GSCI briefing, legislative update.
- CMH
- Jim Jacobs, MCC
- Annmarie Erickson, DIA
- Ops Center Tour
- Interim Chief Judge Foster and Jennifer Phillips, Circuit Court

Office:

- Director of Legislative Affairs position closed March 27th; HR screening process is ongoing
- Broadcast and Floor Plan
- Macomb Township studio

Upcoming Board Events and Activities:

Macomb County Green Schools Program
- Mark your calendar for 9:30am on Tuesday, April 16th for the Awards Celebration; commissioners will receive a list of schools (by district) achieving Official Michigan Green Schools status shortly; a total of 126 schools will earn awards this year. (45 in 2009, 71 in 2010, 101 in 2011, 119 in 2012, 126 in 2013)

Volunteer Recognition
- The Board is now accepting nominations for outstanding volunteers. Notice and nomination forms have been distributed to past nominators. Materials may be found at macombBoC.com. This year, nominators may submit names via the online submission form. Honorees to be recognized at May Board meeting.

Events-Meetings in Macomb:

March is Reading Month – commissioners were guest readers at various schools
Treasurer’s Seminar – March 22 (Commissioners Boyle, Smith, Board Chair Flynn)

Region:

NACo Conference, Washington DC – March 4, 5, 6 (Commissioner Moceri)
MAC Legislative Conference, Lansing – March 18, 19, 20 (Commissioner Moceri, Board Chair Flynn)
Upcoming: Mackinac Policy Conference, May 29-31

Media:

Ted Wahby Show; see attached articles.

BOC – Independent Counsel: Expenditures for Outside Counsel Professional Services

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<th>Litigation Invoice Charges:</th>
<th>Contract Svcs Budget Amount:</th>
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COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE

Full Board 03-28-13
The Macomb Daily (http://www.macombdaily.com), Serving Serving Macomb County, MI.

News »Local »

Property assessments down in south Macomb again, up in the north

By Chad Selweski
chad.selweski@macombdaily.com @cbsnewsman

Friday, March 1, 2013

For the seventh consecutive year, Macomb County’s housing market is struggling and property assessments continue to fall, hitting cities with another revenue loss after they’ve already engaged in layoffs and a series of budget cuts.

The major difference this year is that the declining residential values are largely isolated to the south end of the county, while the northern townships are bouncing back. Overall, the county’s property tax assessments dipped by just a fraction for 2013, down by 0.7 percent.

But the numbers vary widely. They range from a 13 percent decline in Center Line to a 7.9 percent increase in Washington Township.

“The decreases are less than they were, and the market is rebounding. I think we’ll be on the plus said almost across-the-board next year,” said Steve Mellen, county director of property equalization. “Right now, it’s sort of the north vs. the south. But overall, in the county we have bottomed out.”

Communities that have seen healthy increases in values include Shelby, Armada and Macomb townships.

But in the south end, where foreclosures were rampant in 2009-10, cities hit by more bad news include Warren, St. Clair Shores, Eastpointe and Roseville. All will be dealing with another loss of tax revenues.

Clearly, the assessment numbers don’t match the relative good news reported by the housing industry in recent months, with sales and prices rising. Mellen cautioned that news reports trumpeting the largest rise in home prices since the 1990s refer to percentage increases that are significant, but they follow years of significant decline.

“If you have a house in Eastpointe that went from $30,000 a few years ago to $50,000 now, that’s a huge increase. But those houses were in the 100s just six years ago,” he said.

As for the north end, in Macomb Township, they’re building homes again. In Shelby and Washington townships, some homes are selling in the $300,000 to $500,000 range.

The new assessments reflect a lag time because they are based on a 1-year study of home sales from October 2011 to September 2012.
The percentage figures for each municipality are averages, but the numbers can vary substantially from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Taxpayers in blossoming communities will be protected by Proposal A. Under the tax limitation law approved by voters in 1994, no individual homeowner can be hit with a property tax increase above the current inflation rate, or 2.4 percent, regardless of how much their assessed value rose.

The countywide figure of 0.7 percent reduction compares favorably with the reductions experienced in the recent past: 6 percent in 2012, 10 percent in 2011 and 7 percent in 2010.

By Monday, all Macomb County property owners will have received by mail their assessment notices for 2013.

Those who want to appeal their new assessment can do so by calling their city or township hall and make an appointment to appear before the local Board of Review. The Boards of Review will be meeting the week of March 11.

URL: http://www.macombdaily.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130301/NEWS01/130309951&template=printart

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March 1, 2013

**Local community planners learn how to address Michigan’s growing aging population**

**Walkable cities, better transit, affordable housing are priorities**

Ann Arbor — Walkable communities, better public transportation and more affordable housing are ways to target a growing aging population, experts at the Age-Friendly Communities Conference said Thursday.

Those 65 and older are the fastest-growing age group in Michigan, organizers said, and that growth is outpacing the increase nationwide, where one in every five Americans will fall into that sector by 2030.

The AARP Michigan organized the conference at the University of Michigan Palmer Commons to bring together experts in aging who shared ideas with local politicians, city planners and managers, and public health officials on ways to make communities more age-friendly.

"People ask 'how can we do this?'" said Kristin Misner, chief of staff to the deputy mayor for health and human services in New York City. "We can't afford not to."

Misner shared programs New York has implemented, such as offering more activities at senior centers and a Silver Alert system. Similar to Amber Alerts for missing children, Silver Alerts help to mobilize the city when a senior with dementia or Alzheimer's is missing.

She added making a community more age friendly doesn't take millions of dollars. "It is about being forward-thinking. It is not what our government can do, but what we can do for ourselves," she said.

Misner also touched on how younger and older populations can come together to make communities age friendly. At one senior center in New York, Misner said, young artists with little income teach art classes at the center in exchange for studio space on site.

Bridging generations is important since Baby Boomer and Millennial generations are 77 million and 78 million strong, respectively, according to information at the conference by Zimmerman/Volk Associates Inc. of New Jersey.

Both desire walkable communities, dependable transportation and affordable housing, it said.

In Michigan, those 65 and older have a combined annual income of $36 billion, but seniors won't spend that money if it's difficult to navigate their communities, Zimmerman/Volk Associates said.

Barbara Spreitzer Berent, an AARP volunteer who attended the conference, said she was happy to see people take the issue of aging seriously.

Berent studied urban planning and gerontology and said she remembers when interest in learning about issues of aging was minimal.

She said that in 1994 she gave a talk on gerontology that was not well received.
"There were only five people in the audience," she said. "It wasn't a priority then.

"Now, people are seeing the issue of aging touching their own lives or the lives of their parents."

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The Macomb Daily (http://www.macombdaily.com), Serving Macomb County, MI.

News » Local »

County board to hire legislative director

By Chad Selweski
chad.selweski@macombdaily.com @cbsnewsman

Friday, March 1, 2013

Once again the county is creating a new personnel position and officials say the new hire is needed because of the restructuring that has occurred under the county charter.

The Board of Commissioners is looking for a director of legislative affairs to help the 13-member board with research and analysis related to budget items, policies and ordinances. The newly created job has a pay range of $58,000 to nearly $73,000, but funds from a vacant position in the board office will cover the cost.

"This position has evolved. This has been talked about since the charter took effect," said board Chairman Dave Flynn, a Sterling Heights Democrat. "We need this position in order for this board to be serious as a legislative body. We have a budget of over $600 million that is complex. We have a population of more than 840,000 people in this county."

Assistant County Executive Al Lorenzo said the executive’s office has no qualms about the new position, in particular because the cost is already budgeted.

"It’s their choice to make. It’s not for us to second-guess them or question the skill set they need to get the job done," Lorenzo said.

The voter-approved charter divided county government into separate legislative and executive branches and that separation has been a much bigger divide, in practice, than many officials expected. Executive Mark Hackel and the board each have their own independent counsel, in addition to the county attorneys at the Corporation Counsel’s Office.

Hackel’s staff has grown from the five positions outlined in the charter to eight. The executive is in the process of hiring a public relations projects coordinator.

At one point, it appeared that the board and the executive’s office might hire two different lobbyists, but that dispute was resolved.

The legislative affairs director, a job that will continue to be posted until March 7, will expand the board’s staff to six.
Freedom Hill announces three shows for summer schedule

By Mitch Hotts
mitch.hotts@macombdaily.com; @mhotts

Monday, March 4, 2013

Freedom Hill Amphitheatre on Monday announced three more shows of its upcoming summer concert schedule at the resurrected outdoor venue in Sterling Heights.

The entertainers include:
* June 28 - legendary country singer Randy Travis
* June 29 - alternative rockers Cake
* Aug. 15 - a double blues-rock bill featuring George Thorogood & The Destroyers and Buddy Guy

Tickets for all three shows will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday.

Promoters previously announced the country music superstar trio Lady Antebellum will play Freedom Hill on June 13.

The concerts are the first acts at Freedom Hill since the venue on Metropolitan Parkway closed in 2009. The
7,200-seat county-owned facility is now being managed by Funfest Productions, the entertainment company responsible for the Stars & Stripes Festival, the Uncle Sam Jam, and St. Clair Riverfest.

"I think these acts show how diverse our summer lineup is going to be," said Funfest talent buyer Joe Nieporte. "We are excited to have lined up 30-plus shows for this summer covering all different musical genres. We’re going to have some big names coming in."

Nieporte said new shows and festivals will be released every few weeks, with the next additions to be announced March 12.

In the meantime, renovations on the amphitheater will gear up in the next couple of weeks once the spring weather breaks. The venue will undergo $2 million in upgrades prior to the opening including technology and cosmetic improvements.

A “major” cleanup was completed this past October and more renovations will take place in the next two months, Nieporte said.

“It’s going to be extremely clean and friendly,” Nieporte said. “Remember, this place is relatively new. It was only built 12 years ago and they put a new roof on about eight years ago. It’s starting to look really nice again.”

WYCD-FM (99.5) presents Randy Travis, who is known for his baritone voice and list of hits including "Forever and Ever, Amen" and "I Told You So" among many others. The seven-time Grammy Award winner was involved in several highly publicized incidents last year for public intoxication, but now hopes to put his troubles behind him as he returns to the road.

CIMX-FM (88.7) presents Cake, the Sacramento quintet known for their clever and quirky style and hits such as “The Distance."

The pairing of George Thorogood, the boogie guitarist known for “Bad to the Bone” and “Move In On Over,” and the legendary bluesman Buddy Guy -- who has played with everyone from Stevie Ray Vaughan to Bobby “Blue” Bland -- is sure to be a popular one.

Tickets for Cake and Randy Travis are $35, prices for George Thorogood/Buddy Guy run $49-$10.

To order, visit www.freedomhill.net or charge by phone at 1-888-AXS-TIX (1-888-929-7849).
Census finds Macomb County remains a bedroom community

By Chad Selweski
chad.selweski@macombdaily.com @cbsnewsman

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

New U.S. Census figures show that Macomb County remains a bedroom community, with nearly half of county residents commuting to workplaces beyond the Macomb boundaries on a daily basis.

In contrast, neighboring Oakland County is one of the top destinations in America among counties that receive a large influx of commuters from neighboring communities. According to the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, Oakland County receives 262,000 workers daily from surrounding counties.

“It’s amazing the difference between Macomb and Oakland,” said Kurt Metzger, a veteran demographer with Data Driven Detroit. “Macomb County has about 100,000 commuters coming in, which is significant, but about 150,000 leave the county to go to work. Oakland attracts many more commuters because they have more jobs.”

While 42 percent of Macomb’s working-age residents travel outside the county to their jobs, the national average for cross-county commuting is 27 percent.

The top travel destination for Macomb commuters, by far, is Oakland County, with approximately 90,000 heading there for work. Another 56,000 work in Wayne County.

As for commuters coming into the county, 38,000 are from Oakland, 35,000 arrive from Wayne, and nearly 16,000 drive here from St. Clair County.

The new Census Bureau information released Tuesday shows that 87 percent of Macomb County commuters
travel alone in their vehicle for their daily commute. About 8 percent car-pool with co-workers. And less than 1 percent rely upon public transportation.

The Census Bureau survey found one anomaly about Macomb County commuting patterns based on the time people leave for work each day: Midnight to 5 a.m., 4.3 percent; 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., 9.4 percent; 6 a.m. to 7 a.m., 19.2 percent; 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., 23.8 percent; 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., 17; and 9 a.m. to noon, 26.2 percent.

The substantial number of commuters in the mid- to late-morning may signal the large number of workers in the retail and food service industries.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Macomb’s reputation as a bedroom community became entrenched, despite serving as the home of hundreds of factories and major auto industry facilities such as the General Motors Tech Center in Warren.

Today, County Executive Mark Hackel has promoted the county as the “Defense Capital of the Midwest” and emphasized the array of economic activities generated by Lake St. Clair. But it appears that the county’s calling card is firmly cemented in Hackel’s mantra: “Make Macomb Your Home.”

Because Macomb County housing offers a better “bang for the buck” than neighboring Oakland, many people who work in Oakland County have settled into the newly built or recently built homes in Shelby, Washington and Macomb townships.

Metzger said many of these Oakland County transplants enjoy a lower cost of living in Macomb at the same time that M-59 provides a quick commuting route and an extravaganza of shops and restaurants.

“This shows how much of a true region this is and how much we are interconnected,” Metzger said. “I don’t know that it (42 percent outbound commuters) is a positive or a negative. It does show that people want to live in Macomb County, even if they don’t work here.”

URL: http://www.macombdaily.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130306/NEWS01/130309738&template=printart

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Macomb County named among best locales for vets

By Chad Selweski
chad.selweski@macombdaily.com @cbsnewsman

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Macomb County has been named one of the top places in America for the nation’s military veterans to live and work.

The designation was awarded by the United Services Automobile Association, or USAA, which provides a variety of products and services to veterans and their families, particularly insurance policies. They placed the county and surrounding suburban areas as No. 6 on their top 10 list.

The area, USAA said, offers “a strong manufacturing economy rich in managerial and supervisory jobs, defense sector opportunities, and other employment positions seeking military skills.”

USAA, with the assistance of military.com and a research firm, compiled their list. Curiously, USAA did not mention that Macomb County voters have twice approved a small property tax levy to help fund local veterans’ services. Referrals to benefit programs, “red tape” assistance, and basics such as emergency food allotments are all part of the county Department of Veterans Services’ purview.

The association also did not explain on their website that Macomb County has been labeled the “Defense Capital of the Midwest,” with 600 firms that engage in defense work. That represents 21,000 county workers who are tied to the defense industry.

As Macomb lands two-thirds of Michigan’s defense contracts, it has benefited from more than $26 billion in defense work over the past decade.

In addition, Macomb County is home to more than 50 veterans’ halls affiliated with a wide array of organizations comprised of those who have served in a branch of the military.

USAA also failed to mention the special court established recently for veterans by the Macomb County Circuit Court. The Veterans Treatment Court tries to keep out of jail vets who face minor criminal charges due to problems with post-traumatic stress, psychological issues or substance abuse.

Because of a quirky set of parameters — focused on cities, not counties — USAA actually placed Warren at the No. 6 spot, while including an unspecified surrounding metropolitan area of more than 2 million people. Pittsburgh was at the top of the list and another Michigan entry was Ann Arbor, at No. 7.
USAA explained on its website that the top 10 list was designed to help veterans as they transition from the armed forces to civilian life. The list offers the best places for discharged veterans, based on jobs with military-related skills, affordability and quality of life.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel’s administration seized upon the designation for the Warren area to highlight an engineering apprenticeship program for returning vets at Clinton Township-based Prestige Group Company.

Hackel said more employers need to adopt the Prestige method of training and employing vets.

“These (veterans) are people who demonstrate dedication, a great work ethic, discipline,” Hackel said. “I would love to see someone pick that (Prestige approach) up so we don’t have to rely upon the government for the same kind of program.”

Though Macomb County is home to major defense industry factories and military installations – the Army Tank-Automotive Command in Warren, General Dynamics Land Systems headquarters in Sterling Heights and Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township – Prestige Vice President Tom Nichols said he realized that vets returning from Iraq, Afghanistan and other overseas deployments were struggling terribly to land skilled jobs once they were home. In some cases, they settled for fast-food jobs and were living in poverty.

About 18 months ago, Nichols stepped up his efforts and created an unusual partnership with Chrysler to hire vets.

Recognizing the need to fill engineering positions in the auto industry, Prestige worked with area colleges and workforce development agencies to develop the apprenticeship program. The resulting curriculum was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor.

It is believed to be the first and only program of its kind in the nation.

Nichols said that he has found that those making the transition from military service display a commitment to “excellence, courage, honor – things that aren’t taught anymore.”

Chrysler Group LLC was an early supporter of the program. The company agreed to take on participants as interns while they pursue their college degrees. The interns work a minimum of 35 hours per week, working side by side with lead engineering teams, providing a chance to learn the complexities of the industry.

At the same time, program participants must take classes toward a degree using their own financial resources or tuition reimbursement offered through the newest GI Bill.

“Chrysler is excited to be a part of this program and provide our returning veterans with internships that allow them to have a corporate experience while they pursue their degrees,” said Georgette Borrego Dulworth, director of Talent Acquisition & Diversity for Chrysler.

The first veteran to benefit from the apprenticeship program, Troy Smith, who had recently returned from a deployment with the Army Reserves, recalled that he was approaching financial desperation when Prestige offered him an entry-level engineering job.

“Now, I have a house, the bills are getting paid -- and I’m going to school. You really can’t beat that,” Smith
said.

"Through our effort, I think not only have we changed lives, we’ve saved families, saved people, saved houses," said Nichols, whose company has numerous locations, including two in Warren. "Hire one. Hire the right one, but hire a veteran. No one will ever have to tell you anything after that. It will be apparent that it’s the right thing to do."

Macomb Daily file photo by David Dalton

Staff Sgt. Andrea Hines of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township works on maintenance of the A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft.
Sequester hits home

Unpaid furlough days possible for Macomb County defense workers

By Chad Selweski
Chad.selweski@macombdaily.com
@cbsnewsman

Nearly 10,000 Defense Department employees in Macomb County could face once-weekly unpaid furlough days — a 20 percent pay reduction — as a result of the so-called sequester cuts that Congress allowed to take effect on March 1.

At the Tank-Automotive Command in Warren, most or all of 8,000 civilian employees each face a four-day workweek from late April to Sept. 30.

At Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township, approximately 1,150 civilian and uniformed workers will suffer the same fate for a 22-week period.

The $85 billion in across-the-board sequester cuts will chop about $42 billion from the Pentagon for the remaining months of this fiscal year.

Please see Cuts on A5
Cuts

From A1

But the next fiscal cliff faced by lawmakers on Capitol Hill is the expiration of temporary budget allocations — a "continuing resolution" — on March 27, which has generated concerns about a possible government shutdown.

"Most people are focusing on the sequester, but the much bigger problem is the continuing resolution," said Ron Lamparter, who oversees a defense industry center in Sterling Heights.

"Any industry that's as big as the defense industry can absorb significant cuts. But when the Department of Defense is told where they must spend the money and where they cannot spend the money, then you take the prerogative of managers away from them. Then it comes down to politics," said Lamparter, executive director of the Defense Corridor Center for Collaboration and Synergy, or DC3S.

An in-depth Army report completed last month contains some dire economic warnings for Michigan. The state-by-state analysis projects that 7,800 jobs will be affected if the sequester — and the budget fight in Congress over a continuing resolution —

$16.6 million in budget cuts are anticipated. Statewide, the predictions indicate a loss of 950 private-sector jobs among contractors and suppliers.

What's more, those losses only reflect the impact on the Army, not other branches of the service.

At Selfridge, some 650 personnel from the Air National Guard's 127th Wing face furloughs. According to Sgt. Dan Heaton, another 500 people on the base who work for other branches of the military or the Department of Homeland Security will be hit with a lost payday every week.

Heaton said the reduced pay among the 127th Wing personnel alone will remove $6 million from the Macomb County economy.

"We will be doing less with less," said Col. Michael Thomas, 127th Wing commander. "I have no expectation that we'll be able to accomplish 100 percent of our mission."

The so-called "weekend warriors" will see their training cut back and, with the expiration of the continuing resolution approaching, funding for flying hours for the crews of the A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft and the KC-135 Stratotankers will be significantly reduced.

Without sufficient flying hours to train, combat readiness will decrease within 30 days.

"There's nothing worse

127th Wing personnel. "I wish I could tell you what will happen after the March 27 continuing resolution deadline, or Sept. 30 when we enter Fiscal Year 2014, but I can't."

The effect on Macomb County's 600 defense contractors and subcontractors is still not clear.

Whether related to the sequester or not, General Dynamics Land Systems, headquartered in Sterling Heights, announced a corporate shake-up last week. President Mark Roualet is leaving the post he has held at GDLS since 2008. He is moving to the post of vice president and group executive of parent company General Dynamics' Combat Systems Group.

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller points out that Michigan ranks near the bottom among states impacted by the sequester. Contrary to Lamparter's concerns about a lack of flexibility in targeting cutbacks, Miller said that the bill passed by the House Republicans to deal with the continuing resolution gives the Pentagon "maximum flexibility."

"The sequester will have some impact in a lot of places. However, I will tell you this, I have been in Congress for 10 years and this is the first time we have cut federal spending," said Miller, a Harrison Township Republican. "I'm not minimizing that it will be pain-
continues for many months. At TACOM in Warren, also known as the Detroit Arsenal, Thomas said during a recent meeting with

ful in some areas, but at some point we have to recognize that we have a $16 trillion debt.”
Are suburbs now on defense against Detroit?

Could it be that Detroit will start stealing away business from the suburbs based largely on a vibe, a feeling that the city is the place to be?

That's a question that would have drawn hearty laughter from suburbia 20 years ago.
It's a suggestion that would have been dismissed as wishful thinking on the part of Detroit officials 10 years ago.
But it's a real possibility in 2013, so much so that officials in Macomb County and across the suburbs should get ready to play defense.

Campbell Ewald's decision to move back to Detroit from Warren, announced on Wednesday, may mark a sea change in Metro Detroit economic development. The relocation was a bold move for the marquee advertising agency, but it also reveals a new way of thinking among Detroit area business owners and CEOs.
City Hall may be broke but the downtown area is drawing new businesses at a rapid rate because it's the cool place to be.

Bill Ludwig, CEO of the 600-employee ad agency, said that the decision was "a cultural one, not a financial one."
Civic leaders such as multi-billionaire Dan Gilbert of Quicken Loans and Tom Lewand, president of the Detroit Lions, recruited Campbell Ewald, convincing the high-profile firm to settle into the former Hudson's warehouse for "cultural reasons" – that's a phrase that should send shivers down the spines of Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel , Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and dozens of other political leaders on this side of Eight Mile.
Relocating to Detroit is a trendy move, it's a show of support for America's "Comeback City." The intangibles that impact these decisions – creating a new home in a diverse, resurgent downtown or Midtown that offers arts, culture and entertainment – literally disarms suburban officials such as Warren Mayor Jim Fouts.

Fouts eventually admitted last week that he failed in his bid to keep Campbell Ewald in his city after arguing that Warren offers lower taxes, no city income tax, and less crime and blight.
That was the standard sales pitch that the suburbs employed for decades to steal away Detroit businesses and jobs.
But it no longer works.
Crime in the downtown area rates no worse than in many suburban cities. Blight has emerged as a major concern for Fouts and other mayors of aging, "inner ring" communities. The suburbs now struggle with violent street crime, drug trafficking and rat infestations.

And it appears that urban dynamism now trumps tax rates.

This stunning reversal, from suburbs to city, was initiated by Peter Karmanos of Compuware years ago. He broke the ice. Gilbert created a wave.
Gilbert moved his Quicken Loans employees into the city in 2010 and has purchased 18 downtown buildings since then. Other major corporations that have followed suit by choosing to locate or consolidate in the inner city include Blue Cross/Blue Shield, DTE Energy and (soon) Whole Foods.
The result: 10,000 new jobs for downtown since 2010.

Let's face it, they have high-rise apartment buildings, stylish lofts, music festivals, artists, the DIA and other museums and some of Michigan's best concert venues. Based on the votes cast by readers of area publications, they have the "Best of the Best" in restaurants, bars and clubs. They have the new Cobo Center and Greektown and River Walk. They have Campus Martius, street life, Eastern Market and walkable neighborhoods. A new Red Wings arena is on the way and a growing Wayne State University and Detroit Medical Center are key drivers of economic growth for Midtown.

Meanwhile, Campbell Ewald is abandoning a 10-story building on Van Dyke that the firm owns – knowing it may take many years to sell – and is setting up shop in an old warehouse that will be revamped at the cost of a small fortune. Why?
There is an optimism, a synergy about downtown and Midtown, fueled by several national publications, that is alluring. Ludwig talks about creating a "magnetism" that will lure more businesses to the outer edge of downtown near Ford Field.
"We're just thrilled over here by this (move). It's another independent confirmation of the excitement we're all trying to build down here,"

mackombpolitics.blogspot.com/2013/03/are-suburbs-now-on-defense-against.html
said Gilbert, who took Ludwig on several tours of the area to look at available buildings.

What's more, Lewand said he had taken a very selective approach toward finding a tenant for the Hudson's facility, which is situated on the Ford Field property.

"It had to be the right guy," he said. "It's important that we've got the kind of tenants in here that we can not just collect rent from but that we can live with, and Campell Ewald was the right mix for us."

Can you imagine the president of a major company in suburbia saying that?

It's also important to recognize that downtown and Midtown are gaining small businesses and specialty shops that give the area a unique character. Woodward is not about to become Hall Road.

In the latest in a series of New York Times stories about a Detroit revival, readers are introduced to a former New Yorker who opened a clothing shop in Detroit, the Peacock Room, in 2011 which proved so successful that she opened another one, Emerald, last fall. She told the Times that she tripled revenue projections in her first year.

The Detroit media has reported on Skidmore Studio, a graphic design firm that moved from Royal Oak back to downtown in 2011 and has already increased its number of employees from 20 to 28. Business is up 30 percent because the company kept all of its suburban customers and added new downtown clients. And the owner says fear of crime is not an issue with any of his employees.

For years, we've heard tri-county government and civic leaders declare that what's good for Detroit is good for the whole region. But we all know that many suburbanites only believed that when the city's modest gains had no adverse impact on our cities and townships.

The question in 2013 is: Have they snuck past us and now have the upper hand in attracting businesses and jobs and people?

Our suburban officials need to devise a strong defensive strategy -- an attractive counter-offer -- to address this trend.

But, I wonder: Do we have anything that compares to Detroit's charm offensive?

posted by Chad Selweski at 11:42 AM. 

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About Me

Name: Chad Selweski
Location: suburban Detroit

Political reporter for The Macomb Daily, suburban Detroit, home of the Reagan Democrats (pop. 841,000). Also a columnist/blogger with a centrist point of view.

View my complete profile
Water department moves toward becoming regional authority
By John Wisely Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News Metro Detroit Dave Bing Charles Pugh
Mar. 14

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department took a step closer toward becoming a regional authority Wednesday when city and department officials agreed to press ahead with a plan that could net the cash-strapped city $50 million or more each year.

The controversial plan, first reported in the Free Press on Sunday, calls for creating two authorities -- one to hold the assets of the system and another to operate it. The authorities would lease the assets from the city and pay $50 million a year or more in what are known as payments in lieu of taxes.

The city would surrender complete business control of the department -- including purchasing, hiring and rate-setting -- to the operating authority. The plan still faces numerous questions and hurdles before a regional authority is established -- which would mark a historic change for a system that serves more than 4 million Michigan residents every day.

"My administration agrees conceptually with the plan," Mayor Dave Bing said in a statement. "However, there is much work to be done before a final agreement can be reached."

Bing's approval was crucial in securing a unanimous vote of a court-order committee, which also includes Council President Charles Pugh, President Pro-Tem Gary Brown and James Fausone, water board chairman.

The water board voted 6-0 on Wednesday to move ahead with the plan.

Oakland County's representative, J. Bryan Williams, abstained. He cited too many unanswered questions, including financial ones.

Williams said the department faces a $700-million deficit in unrestricted net assets, $6 billion in bonded debt and as much as another $1 billion in liabilities for pension and health care costs for retirees.

"I simply can't agree, in concept, to an approval of a document which, as a predicate, sets forth a minimum number of $50 million without any detailed financial analysis," Williams said. "The number sounds political to me, to be candid. I realize that some of this is to be negotiated, but when you start out with a fixed number, some of it's not negotiated."

Matthew Schenk, the chief operating officer of the department, acknowledged the concerns. But he said much of the deficit was related to one-time charges, including a change in accounting rules, a write-down of the Upper Rouge Tunnel -- which was scrapped -- and losses related to exiting interest-rate swap agreements, which cost more than $400 million.

Department officials next plan to meet with communities and ultimately hope to reach a consensus that can be presented to U.S. District Judge Sean Cox, who oversees the department as part of a pollution lawsuit settlement.

Contact John Wisely: 313-222-6825 or jwisely@freepress.com
State grant to help Macomb-OU INC advance area business, economy

3/13/2013 - Published by Macomb-OU INCubator, (Sterling Heights, MI)

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich., March 13, 2013 — The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the state's leader in marketing and promoting economic growth, has awarded a $500,000 grant to the Macomb-Oakland University INCubator for a second year in a row.

Macomb-OU INC provides entrepreneurial resources, business solutions, capital raise assistance, access to Oakland University resources and student interns, and proactive support to business startups at every stage on their path to success.

This grant will develop and enhance the incubator and its numerous program offerings to small business clients. Among these are:

- the Lunch and Launch series, in which subject matter experts host seminars on various business topics of interest to entrepreneurs;
- Fireside Chats, during which successful entrepreneurs tell their stories;
- monthly Capital Raise Meetups, which focus on pathways to successful funding;
- the Executives-in-Residence program, which includes on-site experts providing their services to clients, and;
- Business Advisory Boards, which include 70+ seasoned business professionals lending advice and counsel to client companies.

While maintaining these programs, the incubator is striving to achieve a number of support milestones, including establishing a Mac-OU INC advisory board, hosting a pitch competition in the upcoming year and providing matching funds for the Adopt-a-Biz corporate-sponsor program.

"The Macomb-OU INCubator is extremely grateful to the MEDC for these important and critical funds to create an entrepreneurial and innovative environment in Macomb County and Southeast Michigan," said Julie Gustafson, Mac-OU INC executive director.

"These funds will allow us to continue to provide exciting and relevant programs that promote high-technology, early-stage business growth that results in job creation, revenue generation and economic growth in the area."

Located within the Technology Advancement SmartZone of Sterling Heights, the Macomb-OU INCubator provides comprehensive development and innovative support to startup and emerging businesses with a focus on the defense, homeland security, advanced manufacturing and technology sectors. For more information, visit the incubator website at oakland.edu/macombouinc (http://www.oakland.edu/macombouinc) or call (586) 884-9320.

Funds for this initiative were provided by the 21st Century Jobs Fund, a Michigan Strategic Fund program designed to accelerate the growth and diversification of Michigan’s economy. The MEDC, a public-private partnership between the state and local communities, provides administrative support for the 21st Century Jobs Fund. The MEDC markets Michigan and provides the tools and environment to drive job creation and investment. For more information on the 21st Century Jobs Fund initiative, visit MichiganAdvantage.org (http://www.michiganadvantage.org/)

Oakland University is a doctoral, research-intensive university located in Oakland County, Michigan. The university has 139 bachelor's degree programs and 127 graduate degree and certificate programs. Dedicated to delivering a distinctive undergraduate experience that is...
complemented by the strength of its graduate offerings and research accomplishments, Oakland University is organized into the College of Arts and Sciences, the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences, Nursing and The Honors College. Visit Oakland University on the Web at oakland.edu
(http://www.oakland.edu/)

Media Contact Information

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Contact E-Mail  racinc@oakland.edu  
Contact Phone   (586) 884-9324
Macomb County continues to gain population

By Chad Selweski
chad.selweski@macombdaily.com @cbsnewsman

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Macomb County remains one of the fastest-growing counties in Michigan, due in large part to a continuing influx of immigrants from overseas, according to new population estimates released on Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Macomb’s population grew by 6,396 people since the 2010 census, maintaining the county’s status as No. 3 in Michigan. The Census Bureau found that the net migration into Macomb County from 2010-12 was approximately 4,000, of which nearly all -- some 3,771 -- consisted of people moving here from other countries, not other U.S. counties.

The rest of the population growth consisted of births outpacing deaths.

Macomb’s 0.5 percent overall growth from 2011-12 puts the county’s new population figure at 847,383 people.

“I think people are coming here because we have affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, and our schools offer quality education. That has a lot to do with it, as well as job opportunities,” said County Executive Mark Hackel, who has embraced the slogan, “Make Macomb Your Home.”

Hackel points out that, from 2000-12, Macomb has gained about 5,000 people annually, despite the long-term economic downturn known as Michigan’s “lost decade.”

While the majority of Michigan counties continue to lose population, Macomb ranks eighth in the state, since the census, in percentage of population gained and third in the raw number of people who have settled here.

Ottawa, Kent, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo and Oakland counties saw the largest percent increases in the state. In terms of raw numbers, Macomb trailed far behind Oakland, which experienced a gain of 18,295, and Kent, with an increase of 11,840.

Overall, Michigan added 6,559 residents -- a .07% increase -- between 2011 and last year.

Ken Darga, a demographer for the state of Michigan, said the state fares poorly in attracting population from other states.
Macomb County, home to what’s believed to be the largest Chaldean and Albanian populations in Michigan, continues to succeed at attracting immigrants from overseas.

Among the Michigan counties that grew from 2010-12, only Oakland saw a larger gain in international migration than Macomb, which saw its population base rise by 0.45 percent solely due to the immigrant flow.

A report funded by the Kresge Foundation and released in December found that in the Utica Community Schools, the second largest school district in Michigan, the number of foreign-born UCS students needing help learning English skyrocketed by 578 percent, to nearly 2,000, from 2000 to 2012.

In UCS alone, 47 different languages are spoken by students. Of those, the New Macomb County report showed that the most frequent languages spoken at home are: Chaldean, 12.6 percent; Arabic, 10 percent; Spanish, 28.3 percent; Albanian, 4.7 percent; Hmong, 15.8 percent; and Bengali, 7 percent.

“People feel welcome here — people of different races and different ethnic backgrounds — they migrate to where they feel comfortable,” Hackel said.
Talent development: The new regional economic imperative

Every time we turn around, regional Detroit has a new story to tell. Just a few years ago, the story was about economic decline. While it may take time before employment reaches pre-recession levels, there are some strong indicators saying we will get there — a positive story to tell.

In fact, there were roughly 303,000 job postings in our region (Genesee, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties) last year. Just under 14 percent of these postings were in manufacturing, 15 percent in IT, and 10 percent in health care. Demand for many other occupations also is booming, including sales/retail, customer service, administration, and more.

The reality is that growth is happening so quickly in some places that legitimate skills gaps are emerging that could impinge success. For example, between 2007 and 2012, demand for advanced manufacturing occupations climbed 99.4 percent. Engineers are in particularly high demand, but according to CareerBuilder, there was 1 job-seeking engineer for every 5 job postings. Skilled trades like machining, welding, and tool & die also face high demand, with a 94% increase in online job postings for these positions since 2007.

Job postings for information technology occupations also have exploded. There were close to 40,000 postings for IT jobs in the region last year. The greatest area of demand is in software/application development, which soared by 114 percent in five years. In this field, .NET development is a top-demand skill set, but according to CareerBuilder, there are only 4 of these job seekers for every 25 postings.

Some of the growth we are seeing in advanced manufacturing and IT is for replacement jobs, positions vacated during the economic downturn. Despite relatively high employment in our area, it has been difficult to move people into some of these positions. Many workers who held these jobs in the past have left the market—moving to new locations, retiring, etc. — transferred fields, or have not kept up with changing skill demands. Others simply do not have the education, training, or experience to fill the need.

The good news is that we have unprecedented demand to meet. In many cases it rivals demand in peer regions around the nation. But if our region is to benefit from the opportunities these occupational clusters offer, we must be able to meet talent demand with talent supply. This will require unprecedented effort to attract, retain, and develop talent where we need it most. Talent development is nothing short of economic development and must emerge more clearly as a central part of our new and improved regional transformation story.

The Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN) is a collaborative effort between eight community
colleges, seven Michigan Works! [LA1] Agencies, and various other academic, economic development, and other partners. Its mission is to help Southeast Michigan businesses find the talent they need for success.
The Macomb Daily (http://www.macombdaily.com), Serving Serving Macomb County, MI.

News » Local »

Hackel names attorney, engineer to Regional Transit Authority

By Chad Selweski
chad.selweski@macombdaily.com @cbsnewsman

Friday, March 15, 2013

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel has named an attorney and an engineer – not elected officials or mass transit experts – to serve as the county’s representatives on the new Regional Transportation Authority.

Hackel’s RTA picks are Julie Gatti, president-elect of the Macomb County Bar Association, and Roy Rose, CEO of the civil engineering company Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick of Shelby Township.

Gatti and Rose will serve alongside two representatives from Wayne, Washtenaw and Oakland counties, one representative from the city of Detroit and the non-voting chair of the authority from the governor’s office.

Creation of the RTA, approved by the state Legislature in December, allowed for a multi-million dollar allocation to Detroit to fund a light-rail system along Woodward in Detroit. The RTA will oversee federal transit funding for the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transit, SMART; the Detroit Department of Transportation, DDOT; and the Ann Arbor Transit Authority, AATA. The authority will also coordinate bus service and develop a regional transit plan that is expected to introduce express buses – essentially small trains on wheels – on Gratiot, M-59, Woodward and Michigan Avenue.

Assistant County Executive Melissa Roy said Hackel embraced the Legislature’s intentions about the RTA board by avoiding the typical appointees with political connections.

“We wanted to make sure the appointees contributed some expertise to the RTA,” said Roy, who became well-versed in transportation issues while working for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. “The RTA will benefit from people with a technical perspective rather than a political perspective.”

Earlier this week, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson chose a former law partner, Steven Potter, and a former SMART board member, Matt Wirgau, to serve as Oakland’s representatives on the transit authority.

Roy said Gatti will be a “shining representative who has great leadership skills.” Roy brings technical and professional expertise as well as leadership experience in community groups, including service as chair of the transportation committee for the former Focus:Macomb group.

Hackel also intends to form a transportation advisory group that will garner feedback from the community. This
group will have broad representation including commuters, schools, businesses, community leaders, members of the special-needs population, seniors and employers.

“it is important that we understand the transit and mobility needs from across the county. There are a number of voices that the new transit plan must reflect and this group can fulfill that need,” Hackel said in a statement. “This will also be a great opportunity to engage the community in good public policy. As policy makers, we need to be directly connected with our constituents.”

URL: http://www.macombdaily.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130315/NEWS01/130319671&template=printart

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Biggest-ever Pure Michigan tourism ad campaign begins

Record $13M Pure Michigan campaign to reach 30 networks

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ  THE DETROIT NEWS  0 COMMENTS

Pure Michigan, the state's award-winning tourism advertising agency, launched its largest-ever national TV ad campaign Monday.

The $13 million campaign, partly funded by cities such as Grand Rapids and destinations such as The Henry Ford in Dearborn, will run through the end of June and will include running TV ads on some 30 networks (for a combined showing of more than 5,000 times a day). The ads focus on the state's scenic beaches and sunsets, along with activities such as fishing and swimming.

"We are excited to be back on airwaves telling people across the country that their perfect summer vacation can be found right here in Michigan," George Zimmermann, vice president of Travel Michigan, said in a release Monday. "With the support of our national partners, we are kicking off Michigan's largest national advertising campaign to date and working to build on our record-breaking year for tourism in 2012."

In addition to Grand Rapids and The Henry Ford, Ann Arbor, Mackinac Island and Traverse City contributed a combined $3 million to the advertising effort. This marks the first time Grand Rapids, Michigan's second largest city, has participated as a partner in the national campaign. Ads featuring the national partners will air beginning April 1.

Michael Bernacchi, a marketing professor at the University of Detroit Mercy, said partnering with cities is a good idea and that the summer season is by far the most important campaign of the year.

"There's nowhere to go but upward and forward with this campaign," Bernacchi said. "It's extraordinary."

The national TV ads will run on nearly 30 networks, including CNN, Food Network, the Outdoor Channel, Oxygen, the Travel Channel, the Weather Channel, A&E, Nick at Nite, Bravo and the Golf Channel — and will include ads specific to each partner.

This follows Pure Michigan's largest-ever regional winter advertising push — $2.24 million — that saw the state's scenic winter landscape described on billboards and commercials in Michigan and nearby states.

Featured ads in the rotation can be viewed on the Pure Michigan YouTube channel and include: A Simple Sunrise, The Potential of Water, 14 Clubs, Tee Times, Perfect Spot, Gone Fishing, Treasure, Fresh, Perfect Summer
Innovation & Job News

Macomb-OU INCubator scores more than $1.2M in grants

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013

Macomb-OU INCubator has landed a couple of large grants this year, totaling to a bit more than $1.2 million in new funding.

The business accelerator based in Sterling Heights has won a $500,000 marketing grant from the state of Michigan to help get the word out about its entrepreneurial efforts. It has also scored a $776,000 federal grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to help get more local companies involved in the defense and homeland security industries.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency grant is meant to help encourage more Metro Detroit companies to engage the growing defense sector in Macomb County. The grant helps pay for educational programs, such as showing them how to clear the federal hurdles to compete for defense contracts. It is also looking to set up a $350,000 matching funds program for companies looking to raise seed capital.

"We want to help some people with some matching awards," says Larry Herriman, director of Michigan's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Matching Funds program. "We want to sweeten the pot."

The Michigan Economic Development Corp also awarded a $500,000 grant to the Macomb-OU INCubator. The money will allow the business accelerator to provide entrepreneurial resources, capital, and provide more assistance and access to Oakland University resources and the student internship program.

It will also beef up program offerings to small business clients, such as the Lunch and Launch series, Fireside Chats (where successful entrepreneurs tell their stories), an Executives-in-Residence program, business advisory boards and a monthly Capital Raise Meetup.

Source: Larry Herriman, director of Michigan's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Matching Funds program
Writer: Jon Zemke

Read more about Metro Detroit's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem at SEMichiganStartup.com.
RESOLUTION NO. _____________  FULL BOARD MEETING DATE: __________

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO approve Communication Protocol agreement.

INTRODUCED BY: Board Chairman Flynn.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFO (IF NEEDED)

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COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL
BETWEEN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

A. **BOC Interaction with Departments**

Commissioners and Board staff may contact department leaders directly in order to obtain information - but not to direct activities or request items that would require time to create. If there is to be anything created by the department, i.e. a report or analysis, that would require time or increase workload, the request will go through the OCE. If the request is for a document that already exists, the department leader may provide a copy with reasonable diligence. If the request is for information that, while not in the form of a document, is easily retrievable without much time or increasing workloads, it may be provided with reasonable diligence as determined by the department leader.

B. **Constituent Issue Resolution**

A Commissioner may contact appropriate departmental leaders to relay details of constituent issues and concerns, and may follow up regarding outcomes. However, no Commissioner can direct any particular action or outcome.

C. **Department Representation Requests**

If departmental representation at meetings is requested, an email memo will be sent to the OCE with the department leader copied outlining the specific purpose of their request. The department leader should confirm attendance directly to BOC Committee Reporter Corinne Bedard via email following whatever internal approval process exists between the OCE and its departments.

D. **Requests for Information or Services**

The process for requests for information or assistance requiring an increase in workload or which will require time to create will be as follows:

1. The BOC will send an email detailing the request and timeline to the appropriate departmental leader, with the OCE copied and concurring with the request.
2. A response approving or disapproving the requested work will be sent to the BOC with reasonable diligence. Should the department leader determine the information
requested is not possible to provide the reasons for denial will be given so that a modified request can be considered.

3. Once approved, further communication regarding the request for assistance may take place directly between the BOC and department leader or designee.

E. Agenda Items

Communication that is required regarding agenda items should be directed via phone call or email between committee chairs and/or committee reporter and appropriate departmental leader. The OCE will be copied on emails or provided with a brief summary in an email if a phone call has taken place. Note: All agenda items originating from departments must continue to flow through OCE to the BOC.

F. Appointment Nomination Information and Requests

Appointments will go through the Government Operations Committee process. As has been past practice, an application and supporting materials will be sent to the BOC by the OCE. So that the BOC may vet nominees in both an informal and formal setting, the OCE will invite appointee candidates to meet with BOC 30 minutes prior to the public meeting.

G. Confirmation of Communication

So that impediments to efficiency and expediency are removed, (i.e. overloaded inboxes and a cumbersome follow-up process), a spreadsheet detailing Requests for Information (RFIs) and other communication will be shared and tracked by both the BOC and OCE through the Google Drive. This will be the document on which receipt of communication is confirmed and action/outcomes/answers are noted.

H. Notification of Communication Protocol

Department leaders will be notified of the above changes and any future changes to communication protocol by the OCE.

I. Definition

“Reasonable diligence” means as soon as reasonably practicable within normal business operations. The longest time reasonable diligence should require is 5 business days. However, the BOC, the OCE and department leaders shall collaborate to make adjustments in response times for unusual circumstances, unavoidably urgent matters, and other reasons for adjusting times for response.
RESOLUTION NO. ______________ FULL BOARD MEETING DATE: ____________

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO refer the Citizen Inquiry form dated 03-20-13 from Denise M. Dilay to the Office of the County Executive.

INTRODUCED BY: Board Chairman Flynn.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFO (IF NEEDED)

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Please complete this form in its entirety and leave it with a member of the Board Office Staff or mail to:

Macomb County Board of Commissioners
Administration Building
One S. Main, 8th Floor
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
586-469-5125

Denise M. Dilay
Please Print Your Name
3-20-13
Today's Date

48187 Lafayette Drive
Street Address

Macomb MI 48044
City State Zip

(586) 263-5157 (586) 822-7342
(Home Phone) (Office Phone)

My specific question to the Macomb County Board of Commissioners is:

(Please Print) I am a member of the Macomb County Professional Deputy Sheriff's Association. Mr. Herppich refuses to give me an answer regarding DROP Retirement. We DROP members need an answer, since a contract could be imposed on us by 4-6-13. We want to know if this will be included in our new contract: "All employees who retire or DROP after November 1, 2013, regardless of their date of hire, will have the same health care coverage as active employees, including any future negotiated changes, until they are Medicare eligible. Subject to the limitation of spouse coverage in Box 1a above. This provision does not apply to employees who retire or DROP prior to November 1, 2013."

Your Signature

For Board Office Use ONLY:

Received By:

Referred To: / Date