



Macomb Matters

Keeping You Connected

January 2016 - Issue 38

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Mark's Message

I can't believe it's 2016, but here we are! I hope you all had a fantastic holiday season and very happy New Year.

I also can't believe it's once again time for the North American International Auto Show. I've been going to the auto show for many years, and one thing I must say is that it has become overwhelmingly clear that Macomb County has well established itself as a premier location for the resurgence of the U.S. automotive industry.

As an example, since 2010 the auto industry has invested more than \$5.3 billion in Macomb County, through 109 separate investments greater than \$1 million. Currently, the "Big Three" employ more than 35,000 individuals here, operating 10 facilities within the county totaling more than 25 million square feet. Altogether in Macomb County, the automotive industry is made up of nearly 500 companies that employ more than 44,000 individuals. This past year, Macomb County was ranked third in the nation for manufacturing job growth

The investments made in Macomb County are substantial. From billion dollar commitments made by Ford, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and General Motors, to the continued rise in advanced manufacturing practices at local suppliers, the industry is opening up economic opportunities across Macomb County. Here is the presence of the "Big Three" in Macomb County:



- o General Motors

- § GM Tech Center

- § Warren Transmission

- o Fiat Chrysler Automobiles

- § Sterling Heights Assembly

- § Warren Truck

- § Sterling Stamping

§ Warren Stamping

o Ford

§ Sterling Axel

§ Van Dyke Transmission Plants

§ Romeo Proving Grounds

§ Romeo Engine Plant

From vehicle assembly plants such as Sterling Heights Assembly Plant and Warren Truck, to leading research and development facilities like the General Motors Tech Center and the Ford Proving Grounds, Macomb County is home to some of the industry's most advanced capabilities. The automotive industry is focused on innovation and creativity. This industry is rethinking the way everything moves – from people, to vehicles and freight. We are exploring the next generation of mobility, and with a world-class cluster of capabilities and assets, Macomb County is perfectly positioned to be a world leader in this transformation.

The auto show is up and running for the rest of this week still, if you'd like to go check it out. To stay tuned in to Macomb County's auto industry, visit www.MacombBusiness.com/NAIAS.



Employee Focus

Derek Wujek – Macomb County Department of Roads

By Sarah Cormier, Macomb County Executive Office

We all know the importance of those who work in the Macomb County Department of Roads (DOR), particularly during the winter months when driving can be treacherous. Without the department's dedication to keeping the roadways clear of snow and ice, getting around Macomb County would be difficult for residents and visitors.

One of those drivers, Derek Wujek, is particularly dedicated to his job.

"Derek is the kind of employee that is the backbone of every organization," said Macomb County DOR Director Bob Hoepfner. "His focus on serving the citizens of Macomb County is an example for us all."

Wujek holds the position of heavy truck driver at the DOR's Shelby Township Service Center. Wujek's main job, along with the rest of the DOR crew, is to make sure that all county roads are cleared of snow and ice in the event of slippery conditions. However, with that work comes other tasks such as prepping before a big storm, equipment maintenance and making sure all shifts are covered since treacherous weather can occur at any time. In the spring and



summer, Wujek is responsible for tree trimming, mowing grass on the side of the highway and repairing the roadways, among many other things.

"I do whatever it takes to keep the roads safe," said Wujek, who has 19 years of experience on the job.

"Derek shows up on a daily basis with a positive attitude and a ready-to-go spirit," said Dino DiCicco, Shelby Township Center foreman and Wujek's supervisor. "By his attendance, Derek is dedicated to coming in and performing his duties. When he completes his snow route, he is the first to offer assistance to any other drivers that have not completed their route to help make the roads safe in a timely manner. Derek is highly regarded amongst his coworkers and is a valuable asset to the DOR."

When he isn't working, Wujek, who is married with two daughters, likes to go up north, camp and "just be outdoors."

The Macomb Township resident says he enjoys living in Macomb County because of the good schools (he said he really enjoyed the Chippewa Valley schools his daughters attended), close proximity to shopping and restaurants and the ample green space.

Wujek said so far this winter has been pretty mild, but knows the season has some time left.

"It has been pleasant, but winter is not over," he said. "We will be ready."



Macomb's Memories Macomb's Undersheriff's By Cynthia Donahue, Macomb County Facilities and Operations

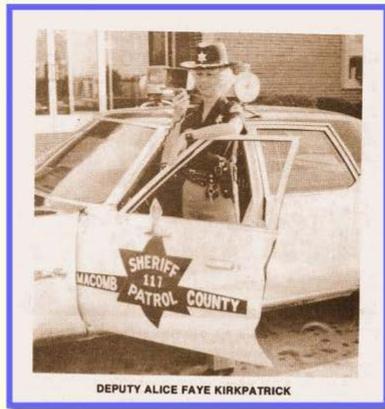
After a 42-year career at the Macomb County Sheriff's Office, Undersheriff Kent Lagerquist announced that he will retire Jan. 16. He began his career in 1974 as a corrections officer and worked in several divisions until he was appointed undersheriff in 2000. He plans on spending one of his final working days in a ride-along in his son's patrol car.

Sheriff Wickersham has appointed Capt. Elizabeth Darga as the new undersheriff and she will have big shoes to fill. Darga began her career as a corrections officer in 1987, moved up the ranks, and was one of the first females promoted to the position of captain.

Historically, Macomb has been a leader in promoting female deputies. In 1921, Sheriff John Spaller hired Jennie Norton, Bessie Hacker (local society woman), and Belle Carney as the first official female deputies in the county. When jail reform began demanding separate facilities for women and juveniles, women became more common in law enforcement where they served as matrons.

Traditionally, the sheriff's wife played an important role in the Sheriff's Office. The sheriff and his family lived in the jail, and his wife automatically assumed the role of matron, turnkey, cook, housekeeper and seamstress for the prisoners. In 1888, when Macomb Sheriff Samuel DeKay died in office, his wife Amelia was kept on to cook and clean for the prisoners, as the undersheriff was a single man.

Ironically, after the placement of the first group of female deputies, it was over 50 years later that the next female deputy was hired; Sheriff Bill Hackel promoted Alice Faye Kirkpatrick from matron to deputy in February of 1977. The position of matron was eliminated in Macomb County in 1989.



DEPUTY ALICE FAYE KIRKPATRICK
Kirkpatrick was promoted from Matron to Deputy Sheriff in 1977 by Sheriff Bill Hackel



1933



Captain Darga

1921

WOMEN SHERIFFS TO TAKE OFFICE JANUARY 1

Mount Clemens, Mich., Dec. 28.—Three women will become deputy sheriffs of Macomb county January 1. It will be the first time in the country's history that women have taken an active part in law enforcement. The new deputies will be Mrs. F. G. Hacker, local society woman, Mrs. Burt Norton and Mrs. Frank Carney. The appointments were announced Sunday by John Spaller, the sheriff-elect.

Macomb County Jail Matron Finds Her Charges Are Usually Well-Behaved



Jail Matron Gladys Burr 1954

For Your Benefit

By Rebekka Parker and Deborah Fortin, Macomb County Human Resources and Labor Relations

As a county employee, you may be eligible to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. This program aims to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs.

Participants may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program student loans after 120 qualifying payments have been made while employed full-time by certain public sector employers.

Full-time Macomb County employees may be eligible to take part in the PSLF if they meet certain criteria.

For more information on the program, criteria and eligibility, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>. To apply by submitting the employer certification, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/public-service-employment-certification-form.pdf> and follow the instructions provided.



CARE January Skill Builder – Business etiquette and professionalism

For the month of January, CARE Worklife Solutions, the county's employee assistance provider, will focus on business etiquette and professionalism. For success in the workplace, it is helpful to identify the traits of professional behavior. Participating employees will examine a wide range of characteristics that can help them to succeed, from accountability and punctuality to respect for others. This Skill Builder will also focus on business etiquette, with an emphasis on effective communication and proper email conduct. Finally, helpful tips will be provided for professional attire at work, as well as what constitutes a professional work attitude.

The objectives for this Skill Builder are to:

- discuss the meaning of professionalism.
- identify elements of professionalism.
- apply the basic rules of communication in the workplace, including email etiquette.
- provide tips for appropriate attire in the business setting.
- discuss professional temperament, work attitude and spirit.

To participate in this month's Skill Builder course:

1. visit the CARE website at <http://www.careofsem.com/employee-assistance/>.
2. click on Employee Assistance Log In.
3. enter the password: macombcounty-wls.
4. scroll down to the Skill Builders box. Click on the plus sign to view the Skill Builder options.
5. Select Business Etiquette and Professionalism.



Healthstyles is kicking off the New Year with several programs for employees

Fast & Fresh Cooking Series

This is a new quarterly cooking demonstration/Lunch & Learn. Nutritionists from the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) will be on-hand to make a healthy recipe and provide samples for employees in attendance to try. Employees that attend are eligible for cook book raffles. Preregistration is required.

- Jan. 21 (noon to 1 p.m., MCHD auditorium)
- Jan. 27 (noon to 1 p.m., Administration Building conference room)

Personal Safety Lunch & Learn: Stalking Awareness

Healthstyles is pleased to bring in Turning Point to discuss stalking awareness at noon on Jan. 22 at the MCHD auditorium. Employees who attend will receive a Healthstyles incentive prize.

Exercise Classes at VerKulien

Healthstyles is pleased to offer employees the opportunity for after-work exercise classes. Three different classes are offered on different days. See the attached flyers for detailed information. Payment is due in full on the first day of class.

Exercise & Walking Club Calendars

All 12 months of the Exercise & Walking Club Calendars are now available. Employees participating that turn in their forms are eligible for gift card drawings. Email healthstyles@macombgov.org for the calendars.

E-mail Healthstyles (healthstyles@macombgov.org) for additional information or to RSVP for any programs.

Visit our Inside Macomb page at <http://insidemacomb.macombgov.org/healthstyles>.

Recipe Corner

Chicken Tortilla Soup in the Slow Cooker

Prep: 15m

Cook: 4h 10m

Ready In: 4h 25m

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into cubes
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 (16 ounce) cans refried beans
- 2 (15 ounce) cans corn, drained
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can chicken broth, or more as needed
- 1 (1 ounce) package taco seasoning
- 1 cup picante sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- shredded cheddar cheese, or as needed



Directions

Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir chicken and onion in hot oil until the chicken is no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, 7 to 10 minutes.

Stir refried beans, corn, chicken broth, taco seasoning, picante sauce and garlic powder together in a slow cooker; add the chicken and onion mixture.

Cook on low until the chicken pulls apart easily with two forks, three to five hours. Shred chicken in the soup with two forks. Continue cooking for one hour more. Ladle into bowls and top with cheddar cheese.

Submitted by: MSU Extension

Source: Allrecipes.com (Recipe By: roxyjez)

Nutrition

Amount per serving (12 total)

- Calories: 242
- Fat 7.4 g
- Carbs: 28.8 g
- Protein: 16.7 g
- Cholesterol: 38 mg
- Sodium: 958 mg (can be reduced by using low sodium taco seasoning)

User menu

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