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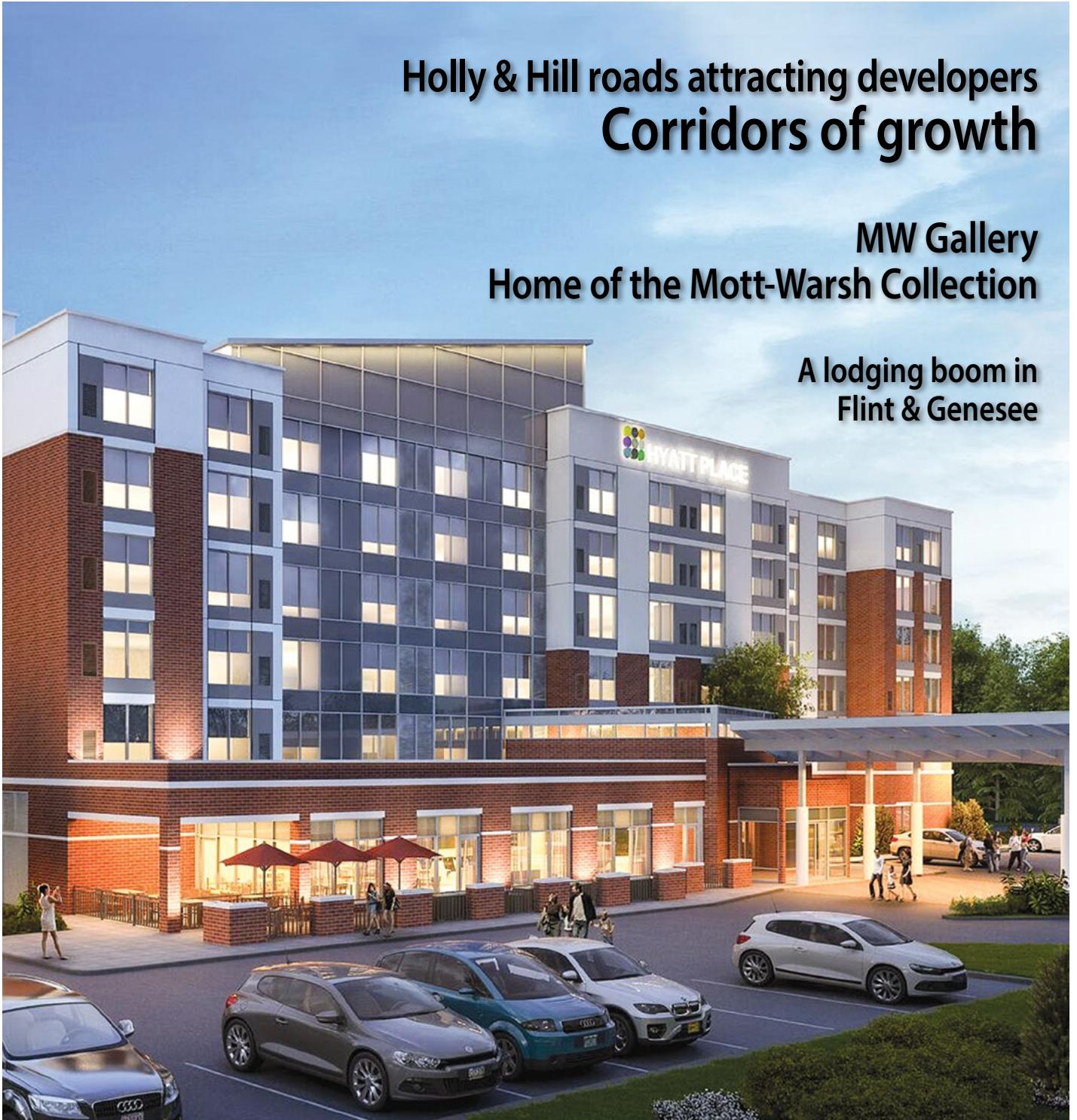
Covering Business
in Flint & Genesee

July/August 2018

Holly & Hill roads attracting developers Corridors of growth

MW Gallery
Home of the Mott-Warsh Collection

A lodging boom in
Flint & Genesee



A publication of the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce

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JULY

13 | Chamber Luncheon

\$10 members | \$20 future members

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre

5 | Professional Development

Reasonable Accommodations for Employees with Disabilities

Noon – 1 p.m.

Baker College, 1050 W. Bristol Rd.

10 | Professional Development

Legal Basics for Business

Noon – 1 p.m.

Girl Scouts of SE Michigan, 111 E. Court St.

19 | Professional Development

Intellectual Property & Employment Law

Noon – 1 p.m.

Girl Scouts of SE Michigan, 111 E. Court St.

25 | Professional Development

Should I Start a Nonprofit?

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts of SE Michigan, 111 E. Court St.

26 | After Hours Wine Down

Sponsor – Huntington Bank

5 – 7 p.m.

Huntington Bank, 328 S. Saginaw St.

AUGUST

2 | INSPIRE Leadership Series

Speaker: Rafael Turner, Ruth Mott Foundation

Noon – 1 p.m.

Location: IINN, 4800 Saginaw St.

8 | Chamber Luncheon

\$10 members | \$20 future members

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre

14 | Professional Development

Achieving Peak Performance

Noon – 1 p.m.

Hampton Inn & Suites, 6060 Rashelle Dr.

16 | Hot Dogs & Hot Rods Annual Member Appreciation Cookout

5 – 9 p.m.

University of Michigan-Flint Pavilion Outdoor Rink,

303 E. Kearsley St.

22 | Professional Development

What to Expect When Joining a Board

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

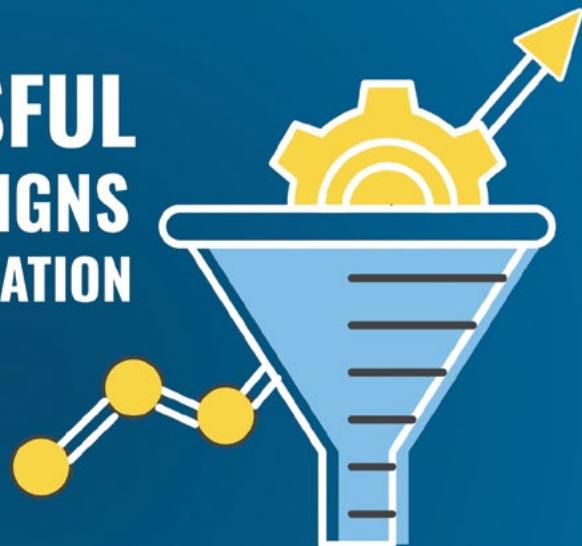
Girl Scouts of SE Michigan, 111 E. Court St.

28 | Certified Tourism Ambassador Class

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: TBD

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From the CEO

Signs of recovery and economic diversification



There is undeniable evidence that Flint & Genesee is making great strides forward and transforming our local economy.

Starting first with our business environment. Lear's new \$29 million automotive seating plant is nearly complete. It will be the first automotive supplier manufacturing facility constructed in Flint in 30 years. General Motors recently announced that it would build a new \$65 million parts processing center in Burton. Magna Electronics is investing \$50 million to expand its operations into a 229,500 square-foot facility in Grand Blanc Township. There's also a cluster of automotive mobility companies coming together to advance self-driving research and technologies.

It's great to see the automotive footprint expand in the Flint area – making our region part of the industry's rich history and future – but there are also other exciting developments.

In this issue of AND you'll read about two corridors that are experiencing growth – Holly Road in the Grand Blanc area and Hill Road in Mundy Township, including a 90-acre park that has a very special purpose. There's also a great read on the growth in local lodging, such as the new Fairfield Inn & Suites and the new Hyatt Place. Along with these new builds, several existing hotels have recently been upgraded or are planning major renovations to ensure their properties are meeting customers' needs and ensuring high-quality service experiences.

Our writers also take you into the local arts scene. While the Flint area is known for being home to a world-class cultural center, what's not as well-known is that art enthusiasts can also achieve a rich, yet different experience in downtown Flint on South Saginaw Street – starting with a visit to the Mott-Warsh Gallery, which is featured in this issue's Member Spotlight.

I hope you will take some time to flip through the pages. After all it's summer. Add this to the list of titles you are planning to read on the beach or at the cottage. I guarantee you will learn something new about Flint and Genesee County. While we have our challenges, there are many signals pointing to a recovery and the diversification of our economy.

Tim Herman
CEO

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“It's great to see the automotive footprint expand in the Flint area – making our region part of the industry's rich history and future – but there are also other exciting developments.”



Clockwise from top left: Magna site under construction; McLaren Health Care corporate headquarters; Assenmacher's Bicycle Company; Metro Police Authority headquarters; panoramic view of Holly Road near I-75; rendering of Hyatt Place hotel.

Corridors of growth:

Holly Road and Hill Road attracting a mix of developments

By Melissa Burden | Photos Eric Dutro

Anearly \$50 million Magna Electronics expansion, new hotels, new businesses and plans for a 90-acre park slated to include a baseball field for disabled children are driving economic growth in the southern half of Genesee County.

Two areas in particular are flourishing including along Holly Road in Grand Blanc Township and Hill Road in Mundy Township.

Both corridors offer highway access and include a mix of retail and commercial properties that help attract other businesses. The Hill Road corridor is close to Bishop International Airport, while the Holly Road thoroughfare includes major employer Genesys Regional Medical Center and is just miles from neighboring Oakland County.

And a planned 1.4-mile extension of Dort Highway from Interstate 75 to Baldwin Road also will help traffic flow in the busy area.

In Grand Blanc Township, the Holly Road area has grown tremendously over the past several years, adding many new

businesses, such as headquarters sites for both McLaren Health Care and Dort Federal Credit Union. It's also home to a new Grand Blanc Nissan dealership.

"The Holly Road corridor is not only a natural gateway into the greater Grand Blanc area, but it has available land, sewer and water capacity and the township has provided appropriate zoning districts to encourage development," said Dennis R. Liimatta, superintendent of Grand Blanc Township. "When you combine those features with our comparatively low taxes, low cost of development and an elected board that is highly supportive of investors coming to our community it is easy to see why Grand Blanc Township continues to grow."

Growth has been smaller, though substantial, along Hill Road. A new \$16-million Hyatt Place hotel is going up along Hill 23 Drive near the new \$900,000 Metro Police Authority of Genesee County office. The Mundy Township and Swartz Creek police departments joined forces last year.

Another hotel, a SpringHill Suites, is in the planning stages on Hill 23 Drive

South and Assenmacher's Bicycle Company has a \$350,000 expansion underway at its W. Hill Road store.

The Mundy Township board in 2015 adopted a master plan for parks that includes developing a township-owned site along Hill Road behind the Home Depot. It's slated to include a two-mile walking trail, athletic fields, tennis and basketball courts, amphitheater and a Miracle League baseball field and accessible playground.

"It is proposed to have ... lit baseball diamonds so we can attract tournament trade because we have such an abundant amount of hotels within Mundy Township," Mundy Township Supervisor Dave Guigear said. "It's an ideal location for sporting events, softball, baseball, soccer and my goal is to have lighted fields."

Expansion along Holly Road

Magna Electronics is an example of the booming growth along Holly Road. The manufacturer of automotive cameras is investing nearly \$50 million into a new 229,500-square-foot building on Holly Road south of Baldwin Road.

The new building under construction will replace three plants totaling 196,000 square feet that Magna leases across Holly Road from the building site, said Scott Worden, a Magna spokesman.

business successful. Our people are the main driver of our success.... Being able to maintain the location in Grand Blanc Township provides no interruption or alteration in their lives.”

Quality Inn. A new Home2 Suites hotel also is in the planning stages near the two hotels, among other entities.

And Genesys Regional Medical Center, a 410-bed hospital that opened near Holly Road and I-75 in 1997 and serves as a Holly Road anchor property, could spur more growth.

“They’ve already gotten some plans developed with what they’re going to do with their out-lots,” Liimatta said. “They’re looking for some retail opportunities as well as restaurants.”

There’s even talk of a boutique hotel on the site. And along Holly and East Baldwin roads, Good Will Co. Inc., (Meijer Inc.), has owned more than 95 acres for several years, hinting a store could come in the future.

“The Holly Road corridor is not only a natural gateway into the greater Grand Blanc area, but it has available land, sewer and water capacity and the township has provided appropriate zoning districts to encourage development.”

Dennis R. Liimatta, superintendent of Grand Blanc Township

“It is a chance for us to consolidate,” he said, adding having one facility aids collaboration and provides building efficiencies.

Magna, with a presence in the township since 2005, employs about 600 people at its three sites. The new building is expected to be completed by June 2019 and Magna could expand up to 400,000 square feet, if needed.

Township officials said Grand Blanc Township was competing with China for the project.

“Grand Blanc Township has been very supportive of Magna’s growth over the past several years seeing the business grow from one facility to the current three,” Worden said. “It takes cooperation of an entire community to make a

McLaren invested \$25 million into its new 65,000-square-foot headquarters. The new building houses 175 employees who came from seven buildings in and around Flint, said Kevin Tompkins, McLaren’s senior vice president of marketing.

Tompkins said when scouting for a headquarters the owner of 14 hospitals wanted to stay in Genesee County where McLaren started.

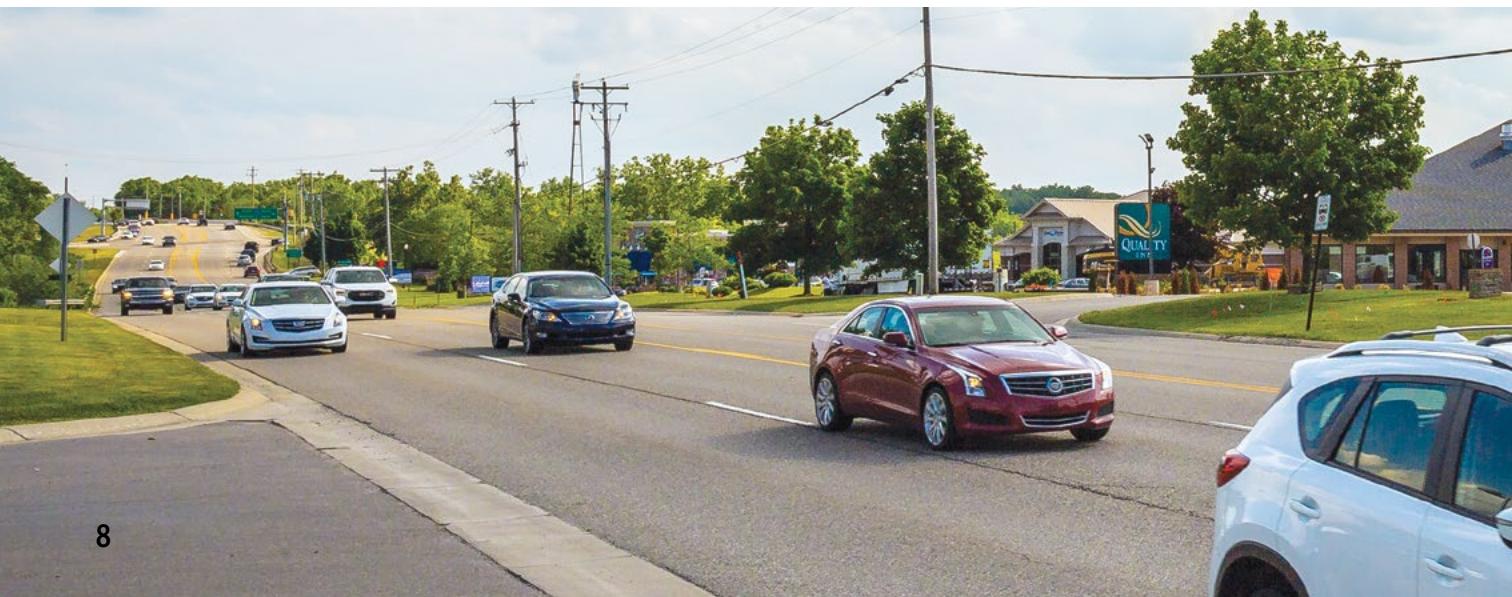
“The actual site was the best available that offered the acreage and accessibility (right next to I-75) that we were looking for and that would support the site development plan,” he said.

Several other sites also are under development along Holly Road, including a more than \$8 million Fairfield Inn & Suites under construction near the

Technology Village and Downtown Development Authority

Grand Blanc Township has been working to attract technology-based companies. It’s had recent success with CNXMotion, a joint venture between Continental and Nexteer Automotive that is designing motion control systems for self-driving cars, and Laird, which created a connected vehicle research center, Grand Blanc Township Supervisor Scott Bennett said.

The township also is working to market 200 acres — a triangle of land bordered by I-75, Saginaw Street and Baldwin Road — as a mixed-use development aimed to attract tech- and knowledge-based jobs, retail and housing. The



concept was created in 2007 but was shelved during the recession. An updated proposal estimates creating as many as 800 jobs in the zone that could be developed in about eight years.

“It’s really unique in that in that it has residential units, traditional office/medical, R&D and then some village center or retail establishments with loft living,” Liimatta said. “It’s really creating a downtown for Grand Blanc Township.”

Part of the vision includes creating a Downtown Development Authority, Liimatta said. A public hearing was slated in June on the district which would include Tech Village and other areas. Liimatta said a DDA would help create a tax increment financing district to capture new growth to fund infrastructure improvements in the area.

“We really feel that this could be an economic development change maker for this entire area,” he said.

Dort Highway Extension

The extension of Dort Highway also could aid economic development. It aims to “alleviate some of the congestion we have in the southern part of the county,” said Fred F. Peivandi, acting co-managing director of the Genesee County Road Commission.

The \$13-million project could begin construction next spring and be completed by November 2019, Peivandi said.

Peivandi said the two-lane road is being designed and right of ways need to be acquired. Genesys has donated 19 acres for the project.

Hill Road Park and Recreational Facility and Miracle League

Mundy Township plans to issue bonds this summer of about \$1.3 million to pay to put a road, parking and utilities in for the park, Guigear said. Work could start late this summer or fall.

Total cost of the park is expected at more than \$7 million and will be built over time, he said.

Plans include a Miracle League field near the entrance. “We want that to be the focal point when people arrive,” Guigear said.

Mundy Township joined forces with Grand Blanc Township resident Brain Caine, 17, who had applied and secured a Miracle League charter for the Flint area a few years ago — just before Guigear tried to get one for Mundy Township.

Caine, director of the nonprofit Miracle League of Greater Flint, said he is working to raise \$400,000 needed for the Miracle League field. About \$70,000 has been raised through fundraisers, grants and business donations, said Caine, a Grand Blanc High School graduate who will attend Central Michigan University.

The Flint area joins more than 300 Miracle Leagues in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Australia. There are eight charters in Michigan, though not all have fields, said Stephanie Davis, vice president of national programs for The Miracle League National Association.

Caine, who has played baseball since age 4 and has worked with special needs children since the fourth grade, learned about Miracle League through his aunt

Vicki Caine who’s involved with a charter in the Lansing area.

“I just thought it would be a great project and something that I needed to do,” Caine said.

About 10,000 children with disabilities in the area could benefit from a Miracle League field, Caine said.

“We’re hoping that we can open and have our opening day ceremonies next year, whether that be spring, summer or fall, we don’t know,” he said. “But we’re hoping these kids will be able to play next year.”

Caine hopes Miracle League of Greater Flint can raise an additional \$400,000 to build an inclusive playground, plus another nearly \$1 million for a sustainability endowment.

Hill Road Corridor Improvement Authority

Mundy Township established a Hill Road Corridor Improvement Authority in 2013 that runs from Fenton Road to near Jennings Road.

Earlier this spring, the township board voted to restate the corridor’s tax increment financing district and reset its taxable value. The move, Guigear said, will capture taxable growth dollars to go back to the district to be used for improvements.

It’s just one of several ways Mundy Township is taking steps to ensure Hill Road grows in an appropriate way, Guigear said.

“We want to take the bull by the horns. We don’t want it just to develop willy-nilly,” he said. “We want to have a design and a purpose.” 





MW Gallery: A showcase of the African diaspora

By Melissa Burden

MW Gallery, which opened two years ago in downtown Flint, showcases museum-quality African diaspora art from the large Mott-Warsh Collection. The gallery is free and open to the public.

Maryanne Mott, daughter of Charles Stewart Mott, and her late husband Herman Warsh established the collection in 2001. It focuses on work from post-World War II.

Mott and Warsh created the collection because they noticed a decline in arts education in public schools nationally and hoped to grow young people's appreciation for arts, said Stephanie James, director, curator and collection educator for the Mott-Warsh Collection. They also noticed the lack of art by African-Americans in national museums, she said.

"From its inception, the collection was meant to serve an educational mission and to be shared with the public (and) to be a lending collection," James said.

Works from the private fine arts Mott-Warsh Collection have been shown to the public since the early 2000s in and around the city of Flint. Today, collection pieces are shown in nearly a dozen local venues, such as the Flint Public Library, Flint Institute of Music, Genesee County

Health Department in Burton and in three churches, James said.

Having a permanent gallery has allowed the Mott-Warsh Collection to show more of its artwork to the public, including larger and more fragile work, James said.

MW Gallery, 815 S. Saginaw St. in the former Internal Revenue Service office, features about 50 pieces from the collection at any given time.

The current exhibit, "20/20: Influential Artists of the 20th Century," includes prints, paintings and sculpture from 20-plus groundbreaking artists, such as Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Robert Colescott, Betye Saar, Kara Walker and Hale Woodruff. The exhibit runs through July 28.

The larger collection includes more than 700 works—drawings, paintings, photography, printmaking, sculptures and video art—from about 200 artists.

"It's probably almost a 50-50 mix of figurative work, or work that is narrative in nature, and maybe 50 percent is abstraction," James said. "...In starting the collection, Maryanne was very fond of abstraction. Herman was a little bit more fond of figurative work. He was lifelong educator and really enjoyed history, so he

was really drawn to works that reflected some aspect of American history."

The Mott-Warsh Collection continues to grow, James said, and she works closely with Mott to identify selective pieces to add.

Gallery art changes about every five months, aimed to help local college and university professors and their students, while artwork in community spaces changes about three times a year, James said.

Pieces also are loaned to national museums or touring exhibitions.

MW Gallery is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. It's also open during ARTWALK, held the second Friday evening of the month. The gallery also hosts groups, field trips and special events.

"We want ... to be sort of a safe and comfortable and inviting place to come and reflect and to learn more about the works ... looking at work from different cultures or focusing on the African diaspora and just being kind of a catalyst for creative thinking and cultural awareness," James said. "That's part of our vision for the gallery—that it would be a welcoming environment for engagement with fine arts. 



Nefertiti Goodman, *Getting Fixed to Look Pretty*, 1978, Linocut. © Nefertiti Goodman

With new construction and renovations, Flint & Genesee is fertile ground for hoteliers

By Melissa Burden | Photo Eric Dutro



CALL IT A LODGING BOOM

for Genesee County. Several hundred new hotel rooms are headed for the southern half of the county. Two new hotels are going up and more may be in the works.

A multi-million Fairfield Inn & Suites in Grand Blanc Township and a \$16 million Hyatt Place in Mundy Township are under construction and will feature 100 and 106 rooms, respectively.

Left: Fairfield Inn & Suites under construction on Holly Road in Grand Blanc Township.

Right: Rendering of the proposed hotel on the site of the former Genesee County Savings Bank on Saginaw Street in Flint.



Kremer Design Group

The properties will significantly add to the 1,640 hotel rooms in the county and help provide lodging for popular local events, such as the HAP Crim Festival of Races, new Ally Challenge golf tournament and the Back to the Bricks car show. And that's not all.

A 96-room SpringHill Suites has received site plan approval along Hill 23 Drive South in Mundy Township, and another hotel near the Fairfield Inn along Holly Road in Grand Blanc Township is going through site plan review with the township. Plus, progress continues on bringing a new hotel to downtown Flint.

The new brick and mortar hasn't gone unnoticed by existing hoteliers in the county. Several hotels recently upgraded or are planning major overhauls to keep their rooms and properties fresh.

Occupancy and revenue for Genesee County hotels increased by about 1 percent in 2017. But the results are even stronger in the first three months of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017, with occupancy up 11 percent and revenue up 6.8 percent, said Brandon Morgan, director of the Flint & Genesee Convention and Visitors Bureau.

An improving economy, Flint's improving perception and corporate travel are aiding growth, Morgan said.

"We have all these stories of people who are staying here for months as consultants in the automotive industry or they're here to work for Diplomat Pharmacy or Hurley," he said.

New hotels

In Michigan, the number of hotels has grown from 1,330 in 2016 to 1,392 this year, according to the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

The four-story Fairfield Inn & Suites is scheduled to open in late October on Holly Road near Cook Road in Grand Blanc Township. It will include a fitness center, pool, whirlpool and sauna, meeting space for 150 and 24-hour market. It will employ about 25 people, said Victoria Leonard, regional director of sales and marketing for Pinnacle Hospitality Management Group, a growing West Bloomfield-based company that owns and manages hotels in Michigan.

Its first property was the Quality Inn, adjacent to the Fairfield Inn site.

"We noticed that Grand Blanc is booming in business. You've got Magna, you've got McLaren, you've got Laird that came in, you've got CNXMotion that came in," Leonard said. "There's a lot of businesses that need the kind of space and the kind of facility that Fairfield's going to be to them."

In Mundy Township, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in May for the Hyatt Place. It's set to open in summer 2019 at 5481 Hill 23 Drive near Meijer, said Callie Cain, vice president of sales and marketing for Mt. Pleasant-based Lodgco Hospitality, which owns and manages 19 hotels in Michigan and Florida.

Hyatt Place, which is expected to create 20 to 30 jobs, will include an indoor pool, fitness room, bar, 24-hour hot food, outdoor patio with fire pit and 1,400 square feet of meeting space.

Cain said the hotel is close to U.S. 23 and Bishop Airport, and Lodgco owns the nearby Hampton Inn and Suites Flint/Grand Blanc on Rashelle Drive, "which just does really well for us."

Renovations

The Best Western Plus in Mundy Township, formerly the Best Western Flint Airport Inn & Suites, has wrapped up a more than \$1 million renovation to its 69 rooms, pool area and exterior.

"Every single room was completely gutted out, brand new carpet, brand new walls, brand new furniture, new TVs, new lighting," said Sam Muraeky, president of the hotel management company Universal Hospitality Advisors in Royal Oak. "In addition to that, all the public areas including the conference rooms are completely redone with new carpeting, new lighting, new furnishings."

The hotel was named 2017 Hotel of the Year by the Convention & Visitors Bureau and has seen business increase since making the upgrades, Muraeky said.

New aesthetics also have helped the

Red Roof Inn Flint-Bishop Airport on Miller Road in Flint Township.

Red Roof Inn General Manager John Hakim said owners about a year ago sunk a half-million dollars into the 107-room property, changing the furniture and flooring and more. Occupancy since the fall has jumped from 40-70 percent to near 100 percent, Hakim said.

There are plans to redo the parking lot and improve landscaping this summer.

"I want this hotel to be the jewel it is," Hakim said.

In Grand Blanc Township, the Wingate by Wyndham Flint/Grand Blanc also has completed a renovation and Holiday Inn Express & Suites on Regency Park Drive is in the midst of an upgrade, Morgan said.

Renovations are slated for several other hotels, including the Hampton Inn and Suites next year.

The Courtyard by Marriott Flint Grand Blanc and Residence Inn by Marriott Flint Grand Blanc, both in Mundy Township, are expected to undergo top-to-bottom facelifts, including room redesigns and new furniture, said Kimberly Marme, general manager of the Residence Inn, an Aimbridge Hospitality property.

The renovation at the 102-room Courtyard, which also includes revamping the bistro and lobby, is slated to begin in November and last into early 2019, Marme said. Work at the 87-room Residence Inn, an extended stay hotel, will follow around April 2019 and last a few months, she said.

Renovation projects show existing hotels are confident in their business, Morgan said.

"They want to take care of their guests," he said. "And they want to be able to compete with the folks across the parking lot and across town." 

'Young Professionals' charting a path forward



In a nutshell, the Flint & Genesee Chamber's Young Professionals Committee is all about expanding opportunities. Opportunities for personal and professional growth. Opportunities for volunteerism and civic engagement. Opportunities, too, for enriching the talent pipeline for area businesses and organizations.

"We work to give our members a LEG stand on," said YP Chair Quentin Groce.

"That's L-E-G, which stands for Learn, Earn and Grow. We

do this by providing opportunities for networking, professional advancement through mentoring, hosting company tours and other activities."

While the YP is focused on the future of its members and the larger community where they live, work and play, it also has been taking stock of its current position. The committee has been conducting focus groups with its members to ensure that it is in tune with the current needs, wants and desires of its target-age demographic, which is 21-40.

"One of the issues we're examining is

what it means to be a 'young professional' in Flint and Genesee," Groce said. "What are they looking for? And who is (the organization) for? There may also be a question about whether they can or should join."

Groce gave the example of the someone who may be a recent college graduate but is currently employed at a restaurant instead of working in the field of his or her major. "They may ask themselves: Am I a young professional?"

Rather than getting hung up on labels, Nikki Koliopoulos says it is better to focus on the value proposition.

"This group exists to serve the purpose of helping others make those connections," said Koliopoulos, YP's communications chair. "It's easy to see how people have advanced their careers. We want to make sure that that the organization is evolving to the meet the current needs."

Jennifer Wenzlick agreed. One of the committee's strongest attributes is the cross-section of members from the private, public and nonprofit sectors, she said.

"We're just a group of people trying to promote the different things that are happening in and around Flint," said Wenzlick, the community outreach chair. In doing so, she added, "we can help members identify opportunities that may exist, especially those positions between the entry-level and executive levels."

YP also works to leverage the success of

its members and former members

– i.e., those who may have aged out – to tout the benefits to prospective members and the public at-large.

"We like to bring back people who are really relatable," Koliopoulos said. "We launched the 'Member Spotlight' feature on our Facebook page as a way to put a face on the group. It's a positive thing to utilize the success of our members in reaching out to others. Our 'Meet the Executives' panel brought back a group of young professionals who were successful in growing their contacts or growing their businesses."

YP members expressed enthusiasm about the developments underway in Flint, particularly downtown. At the same, the committee recognizes to the importance of broadening its reach.

"We want to be cognizant that we represent Flint and Genesee," Koliopoulos added. "That means doing things around the county and not simply in downtown Flint. So, we're having 'meet ups' at different restaurants. We had one recently at Mo Pete's in Flint Township."

"We're not only focused on professional development. It's about making friends, too; supporting Flint and Genesee as a whole, and being a positive force for change and growth." 

Want to learn more about YP? Contact Member Services at (810) 600-1404 or MemberServices@flintandgenesee.org.

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MW Gallery (Mott-Warsh Collection)
m-wc.org

Nagel Paper
nagelpaper.com

Neighborhood Engagement Hub
neighborhoodengagementhub.org

Re/Max Edge - Ryan Eashoo Broker
RyanEashoo.com

Reliable Commercial Cleaning, LLC
(313) 949-1982

SodexoMAGIC
sodexomagic.com

Soriano's Mexican Kitchen
sorianosmexikitchen.com

Thryv
emp.thryv.com/site/rhondaerickson

Vehicle City Classic Diner
vehiclecityharley.com

Witt & Howard, PLLC
witthoward.com

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Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan

MIDNIGHT GOLF PROGRAM
College. Career. Beyond.

Congratulations to our members on the move. Share your ribbon cutting ceremony, groundbreaking, expansion or promotion with us. The Chamber has the media connections to promote your news, offering valuable exposure to the community announcing you are open for business.



Twist in a Dish, 4270 Miller Rd., Flint Township, on June 7. Self-serve yogurt and more.



MacDonald Chiropractic Clinic, 5154 Miller Rd. Suite J, Flint Township, on June 5. Chiropractic office focusing on neuro-muscular stabilization and spinal health.



Media Reload, 4365 Miller Rd., Flint Township, on May 17. Buys and sells used games, movies, music and electronics.

Promotions, New Hires and Recognition

Diplomat Pharmacy, Inc.

has named **Brian Griffin** as its new chief executive officer and chairman of the Board of Directors, effective June 4. Griffin is formerly the executive vice president and CEO of IngenioRx, the pharmacy benefit manager of Anthem, Inc.



Genesee Health System (GHS) has

named **Dr. Wendy Ringo** as the new executive director of Genesee Community Health Center. She will also serve as the GHS' vice president of medical operations. Dr. Ringo is

formerly the chief operating officer for a large healthcare system with 10 clinics in Chicago.



Mobile Medical Response (MMR)

has named **Jason MacDonald** the vice

president of operations to provide oversight and direction for the clinical and ambulance operational aspects of the organization. MacDonald has been with MMR since 1996 and has served the organization in a variety of roles, including staff paramedic, paramedic supervisor, operations manager and operations director. He is also an Instructor/Coordinator and previously taught EMT-Basic programs prior to taking on leadership responsibilities.



Kettering University President Dr.

Robert K. McMahan was appointed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) Executive Committee. The committee is charged with management and guidance of MEDC development projects and policy initiatives.

Pioneer State Mutual Insurance Co.

has promoted **Jason VanSteenburg** to vice president/director of marketing. VanSteenburg joined PSMIC in 1998 as a claims adjuster and, for the past 12 years, has played an integral role in developing relationships as the agency director.





Kara Ross has been appointed the new president and chief executive officer of the **Food Bank of Eastern Michigan**, following a national search. Ross

is a 20-year veteran of the organization and most recently served as the interim president.

ROWE Professional Services Co.

named **Rick A. Freeman, PE**, the new director of engineering following 18 years serving as the deputy director of engineering. As director of engineering,



Freeman leads the nearly 90-member engineering staff in the company's eight offices. Freeman joined ROWE in 1998 with 12 years' experience, became an associate in 2002, and a principal/vice president in 2006.



Petagaye English, DO, has joined the **Genesys Health System** care team and is now seeing patients. Dr. English joined Dr. Melanie Pendergrass at Genesys Primary Care Grand Blanc,

8392 Holly Rd. (previously known as Genesys Internal Medicine). As a primary care physician, Dr. English will care for patients of all ages – from infants to adults.

Lewis & Knopf, CPAs, P.C. announced the addition of **Jarrod Berkey** as staff accountant. Berkey, who previously served the firm as a tax intern, is currently in the process of earning his CPA designation. Prior to pursuing a career in accounting, Berkey was an elementary school teacher for Flint Community Schools.

Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC announced that 30 of its attorneys have been named to Michigan *Leading Lawyers* 2018: **Gustaf R. Andreasen; Michael J. Beals; Michael M. Bell; Daniel H. Bliss; Brandon J. Booth; Henry J. Brennan, III; Mark A. Davis, President & CEO; Joseph J. DeVito; Robert E. Graziani; Lisa S. Gretchko; Andrew (Jake) Grove; Sam J. Haidle; Jeffrey A. Hoover; Wayne C. Inman; Michael V. Kell; Rodger A. Kershner; Bradley J. Knickerbocker; Henry P. Lee; Patrick M. McCarthy; Gerald E. McGlynn, III; Richard M. Miettinen;**

Susan E. Padley; Gary A. Peters; Mark W. Peyser; Brad A. Rayle; Jeffrey A. Sadowski; Michael F. Wais; Thomas H. Walters; John A. Wise; and Timothy M. Wittebort.

Business News

Lambert, Edwards & Associates, a leading PR, investor relations and integrated communications agency, has acquired the financial communications firm Owen Blicksilver Public Relations, Inc. The move creates a national top-10 investor relations, transaction and financial communications firm, and a top-five private equity-focused PR firm.

Genesys Credit Union in May presented a check for \$36,000 to The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency for its Walk for Warmth campaign. The money was raised by Genesys members and staff through several fundraising activities leading up to the event. The walk, held earlier this year at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets, raised money to help people who experience utility emergencies throughout the year. Genesys has sponsored the walk as part of its Making a Difference campaign for over 20 years and has provided



\$392,000 to help those who need emergency heat related services over the years.

The University of Michigan-Flint

School of Health Professions and Studies (SHPS) has been renamed the College of Health Sciences (CHS) to encompass its expanded programs and enhanced offerings to students. The change, which took effect July 1, was approved by the university's Board of Regents. "This name change is the culmination of our institution's progress in health science teaching and training to meet the demands of an evolving marketplace," said UM-Flint Chancellor Susan E. Borrego.

Genesee County Parks is celebrating 50 years. The seed was planted in 1960 when

the Genesee Recreation Area was embedded into the City of Flint's Master Plan. It gained traction in 1964 when Charles Stewart Mott said, "Let's do it." Thanks to the foresight and support of Mott and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the county park system began to take shape, starting with the passage of a millage and the subsequent land acquisition.

Genesys Health System has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for the second consecutive year. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

Security Credit Union announced the recent election of officers to its Board of Directors during the credit union's May 15 organizational meeting. The elected officers include: **Kennith Scott**, Chairman; **John Truchan**, First Vice Chairman; **Joseph Niedzwiecki**, Second Vice Chairman; **Phillip Thick**, Treasurer; **Richard Hazel**, Secretary; and **Donald Henry**, Assistant Treasurer/Assistant Secretary.

Dort Federal Credit Union is a recipient of the 2018 Governor's Service Award in the Corporate Community Leader category. The Governor's Service Awards are given annually by the Michigan governor to individuals, organizations and businesses to acknowledge their commitment to serving their communities through volunteerism. In 2017, Dort Federal donated to, volunteered at, and/or participated in nearly 100 events and charities in the community. This has led to countless hours of volunteer work by employees, 45 pints of blood donated, and over \$19,000 raised personally from employees and donated to charities.

Al Serra Chevrolet garnered the prestigious Dealer of the Year award for 17th straight year, one of only a handful of dealerships nationwide earning the honor every year since its inception in 2000. In 2017, Al Serra Chevrolet enjoyed one of the best 12-month periods in its 44-year history, selling 3,659 units. That achievement placed the Serra team 16th among Chevy dealerships nationwide.

Live the Laws of Leadership

By George Wilkinson

The heartbeat and the hinge of any organization resides and rest with its leadership. When leadership is present and viable, the life of the organization is vibrant and on the road of momentum that leads to organizational success.

As in any journey, one must abide by a set of laws to achieve success. In life, we have natural laws, such as the law of gravity, and we have civil laws, such as traffic infractions. When we violate these laws, we suffer the consequences/penalties that remind us to live by the law.

The same is true with leadership laws. If you consistently violate them, you will end up in leadership jail, held back from expressing your leadership vibe that leads to victory.

The following represents three laws of leadership that enhance the journey of current managers.

Leaders Listen

One of the most violated laws is the law of listening. All leaders have been guilty of not being engaged and actively seeking to understand others. Most people listen to reply; leaders listen to understand and position entities for improvement and future success. The leader must be swift to listen and slow to speak.

There are three levels of listening: internal listening, focused listening and 360 listening. In monitoring my own listening, I recognized that I sometimes succumb to the lowest level of listening, which is internal listening. This occurs when one is so engaged with internal self-talk, through mobile phones and other forms of distraction, that it prevents one from actively listening.

Listening leaders consistently pursue 360 listening, where there is ongoing interaction to understand rather than being understood. They value inclusivity, reinforce their influence with subordinates and build on their intuition through focused listening.

Leaders Craft Culture

A leader is a landscape architect. She is responsible for building a living environment, better known as culture. Culture is the soul of the enterprise. Today's leader is a master culture-crafter. She sculpts and crafts an environment that stimulates, excites and invites people to be their best self daily.

In crafting a landscape and culture for others to thrive within, the leader must be prudent in designing methods for individuals to move out of their comfort zones. When creating a culture that stimulates and cultivates innovation, intuition and inclusivity, one should consider the following culture-crafter principles:

- Communicate a common understanding of the past and future.
- Clearly convey why change is necessary.
- Provide positive images of their future.
- Articulate actions that point them toward the direction of success.

If one violates the law of the landscape architect, the organization will create not a culture that cultivates people but a culture of chaos instead.

Leaders Prioritize

Leaders must put first things first. They understand that the greatest tragedy in life is not death but life without purpose; life with the wrong priorities. Leaders recognize that life's greatest challenge is knowing what to do. They understand that the greatest mistake in life is to be busy but not effective. And life's greatest failure is to be successful in the wrong assignment.

Successful leaders learn that time is the stuff that life is made of and proper prioritization leads to successful endeavors. Success in leadership, and in life, consists of the effective use of one's time.

Continue to pursue living the laws of leadership and you will experience success on your leadership journey. 



George Wilkinson
NorthGate President

Experienced Professionals Yield Results



Grand Blanc - 5198 Territorial Road - 9,192 SF Attractive brick office building on 2.09 acres. New roof in 2014. Ceiling height 10'. 8-unit attached carport with covered private entrance. \$919,200.



Flint - Lennon and Dutcher Roads - 47 Acres in 3 parcels located off the northeast corner of Lennon and Dutcher with easy access to I-75, US-23 and I-69. Genesee Valley is across Lennon Road. Ideal for retail commercial and office combined with residential such as adult foster care, churches, etc. \$999,000.



Flint - Ballenger Pointe Medical Plaza - 7.43 Acre property consisting of 94,000 SF in 3 buildings with easy access to I-75/US-23 and I-69. Great medical office. 3,700-11,581 SF Available for Lease. LEASE: \$6 - \$8 PSF NNN or Own it for \$4,500,000.



Burton - Belsay & I-69 - ±14 Acres of commercial property conveniently located on the southeast corner of the I-69 interchange. Ready for development. Does not include restaurant. \$1,495,000.



Flint - 2050 Linden Road - 900-17,117 SF available in HAP building located at the corner of Linden & Corunna Roads. 900-10,700 SF on the 1st floor and ±6,388 SF on the 3rd floor. LEASE: \$19.75 PSF Gross.



Flint - 5055 Pilgrim Road - 11,727 SF Attractive, modern glass building with large open shop/warehouse area with double door access on 4.1 acres. Municipal sewer and water. I-75/US-23 exposure. Excludes cell tower. \$850,000.



Flint - 3801 W. Boulevard - 25,000 SF 2-story office building located on 3.7 acres and includes 3 parcels north of the property for a total of 9+ acres. Wet sprinklers throughout with dry FM200 system in IT area. New roof in 2015. Diesel generator on site. Available for immediate occupancy. \$849,000.



Flushing - 5140 Flushing Road - Former King Par Golf property consisting of 80,000 SF in several buildings used for retail and warehouse on ±20 acres. Ceiling heights 10-18'. Loading docks in main warehouse. \$1,250,000.



Flint - 625 S. Grand Traverse - 7,712 SF Professional office building with private parking near the court district in Flint. Perfect for larger law practice. \$359,900.

(810) 732-6000

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Hot Dogs & Hot Rods

Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce
Annual Member Appreciation Cookout

August 16, 2018 | 5-9 p.m.

Sit back and watch the Back to the Bricks rolling cruise while you enjoy:

- Great food catered by Blackstone's Pub & Grill
- Complimentary beer and wine
- Lawn games
- Dancing to the music of Black Tie Productions
- Door prize drawings

New Location!

University of Michigan-Flint
University Pavilion Outdoor Rink

This event is free to chamber members. Don't forget to register at flintandgenesee.org/hotdogs



Join our current sponsors at the largest Chamber membership event of the year! Visit flintandgenesee.org/hdhr

