

MIDDLE MICHIGAN
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



2020
ANNUAL
REPORT



MIDDLE MICHIGAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

STRATEGIC PLAN

2019-2021

MISSION

We grow the economy with services designed to retain, expand and attract businesses in Clare and Isabella Counties.

VISION

We are the primary economic development driver for businesses, communities and industrial partners in Middle Michigan.

BUSINESS RETENTION AND GROWTH

- Conduct regular retention calls on area businesses with municipalities and other partners.
- Represent companies seeking state incentives to the MEDC and other departments.
- Connect businesses with suppliers and customers through Pure Michigan Business Connect.
- Facilitate workforce training and export growth for businesses in Middle Michigan.

BUSINESS ATTRACTION

- Target businesses for attraction and respond quickly to new leads and site selector inquiries.
- Assist incoming businesses with State incentives and municipal approval processes.
- Update site selectors and area businesses through the MMDC websites and social media.
- Coordinate with economic development partners for a regional attraction strategy.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Publish available properties on the MMDC and Great Lakes Bay Region websites.
- Work with developers, land owners and real estate brokers to promote redevelopment.
- Assist developers with real estate tax credits and other incentives.
- Assist municipalities with brownfield redevelopment and other development stages.

Clare Office

402 North First Street
Harrison, Michigan 48625
Phone: (989) 539-2173
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Mt. Pleasant Office

200 East Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I have just completed my fifth full year as President and CEO of the Middle Michigan Development Corporation and am very pleased to present our 2020 Annual Report!

2020 was a very challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, we at Middle Michigan Development Corporation made over 520 virtual company visits while the companies we work with in Clare and Isabella Counties have reported over \$130 million in new investments. In response to the pandemic, MMDC was one of fifteen regional economic development organizations selected by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to distribute relief grants to area small businesses.

In March, MMDC distributed \$200,000 in grants to 169 small businesses and nonprofits within our region through the Michigan Small Business Relief Grant Program. In April, another \$200,000 was made available for low-interest loans for businesses with a larger number of employees. Three businesses in Mt. Pleasant and one in Clare received \$50,000 loans at 0.25% interest and a ten-year payback. In May, MMDC distributed \$48,000 through the MEDC's Match on Main COVID-19 Response Program to 22 small businesses in downtown Mt. Pleasant. In addition, MMDC distributed another \$45,000 to 31 small businesses and nonprofits in Isabella and Clare Counties based on generous contributions from Dow Chemical, TCF Bank and the Clare County Community Foundation.

In June, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill 690, providing \$100 million from the CARES Act for the Michigan Small Business Restart Program. MMDC distributed 842 grants totaling \$3,325,000 to eligible small businesses and nonprofits in the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella and Midland. So despite the many challenges we faced, 2020 was an incredible year for grants to small businesses.

We were able to continue our highly successful speaker series for our quarterly meetings by moving them online. Our 2020 speakers included Daniel Eichinger, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Josh Hundt, Executive Vice President of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Wayne Hofmann, President of Infuse Great Lakes Bay, Chelsea Beckman, MEDC's Community Assistance Specialist, Derek Kirchner, Director of Commercial and Industrial Demand Response of Consumers Energy, and Duane Watson, Agricultural Program Specialist of Consumers Energy.

We would not be successful in anything we do without the strong support of our MMDC Board members and area business leaders. Here's to another successful economic development year in 2021!

Sincerely,

James McBryde
President and Chief Executive Officer
Middle Michigan Development Corporation

2020 MMDC METRICS

\$134,472,995 INVESTED

\$4,240,706 GRANTS RECEIVED

298 NEW HIRES

542 COMPANY VISITS

1,219 COMPANY ASSISTS

MIDDLE MICHIGAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION RESTORING THE ECONOMY POST-COVID

In an effort to support Michigan small businesses that were negatively impacted by COVID-19, Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC), along with our regional economic development partners, worked diligently to assist businesses with getting back on their feet. MMDC was one of fifteen statewide economic development organizations selected by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to distribute funds through the Michigan Small Business Relief Program, Match on Main COVID-19 Relief Program and the Michigan Small Business Restart program. Additionally, MMDC received local funds from The Dow Corporation, TCF Bank and the Clare Community Foundation to extend some of these programs even further.

The administration of these programs was no small feat. MMDC was not only responsible for the distribution of aid to our area businesses, but by necessity, the creation of an internal infrastructure that would allow us to successfully provide support. We created application portals, objective scoring criteria, payment distribution systems and online resources to ensure our eligible small businesses could easily access and receive the funds they needed. We also worked closely with the MEDC, providing feedback on what worked and what didn't, and made ourselves available to business owners who needed further assistance in the application process. This, along with our communication outreach strategy, allowed us to ensure that every business in Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella and Midland counties received an opportunity for support.

Through these efforts, MMDC was able to pivot many of our core services to better support a wide variety of area businesses and develop place-based initiatives that foster resilience in our region. As a result, the majority of the companies that received funding have remained open and continue to rebound from the challenges they faced in an unprecedented year.

"We were honored to take part in distributing grants and loans to help businesses in Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella and Midland," states Jim McBryde, President and CEO of Middle Michigan Development Corporation. "Small businesses are the backbone to a functioning community, and it was critical to get these funds out the door as quickly as possible to help them continue to operate and maintain a vibrant community."

169

small businesses
supported

Michigan Small Business Relief Program

Middle Michigan Development Corporation was selected to provide \$200,000 in small business relief grants to eligible businesses. One hundred and sixty-nine businesses in Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot and Isabella Counties were awarded. Additionally, small businesses received \$45,000 from contributions by Dow Chemical, Clare County Community Foundation and TCF Bank. Five hundred and fifty-eight applications were received across the four-county region.

22

small businesses
supported

Match On Main

The MEDC announced that its existing Match on Main program was being expanded to provide access to more communities and refocus resources on recovery efforts of existing businesses. MMDC was one of 22 community organizations across the State to receive \$48,000 through the Match on Main COVID-19 Response Program. Twenty-two downtown Mt. Pleasant businesses received grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

842

small businesses
supported

Michigan Small Business Restart Program

The State issued \$100 million of CARES Act funding to the Michigan Small Business Restart Program through Senate Bill 690. MMDC was selected to distribute \$3,325,000 in grants to eligible small businesses located in Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella and Midland Counties. Out of 871 applicants, 842 small businesses were approved for grant funding through this program.

WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS ACROSS SIX COUNTIES...



Nicole Wilson

Midland Business Alliance Vice President of Economic Development

"The Midland Business Alliance was able to support the Midland small business community as they faced challenges brought on by the ongoing pandemic. Through the Michigan Small Business Restart Program, the MBA was able to provide financial support and get a better understanding of the unique opportunities and challenges faced by each of these businesses. This program also provided opportunity to build collaborative efforts across our region, and with MMDC in particular, to collectively support our business communities."

Stephanie Buffman

Arenac County Economic Development Corporation Director

"Middle Michigan Development Corporation is an incredibly valuable resource in our region. They offer amazing guidance during blue sky times, and most recently showed an abundance of leadership during the very difficult challenges faced by businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for our relationship with the MMDC."



Jim Wheeler

Greater Gratiot Development Corporation President

"The Michigan Small Business Restart Program provided crucial relief to small businesses seeking to continue operations in an unprecedented time. In Gratiot County alone, \$518,000 was distributed among 150 small businesses, leading to the retention of 900 jobs and creation of over 150 jobs. GGDC was elated to partner with the MMDC to assist small businesses through the MSBRP."

Pam O'Laughlin

MMDC Clare County Director

"It has been incredible to hear back from so many business owners who were successful in securing a grant through one of the many grant programs MMDC has been involved with during the COVID-19 pandemic. The tales from each are varied in the specifics, but overall the story is one of relief and jubilation of being able to retain a business that they have worked so hard to establish through major investments of time and money. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be involved in providing that help."



TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

Bob Balzer

Gladwin County Economic Development Corporation Director

"Middle Michigan Development Corporation has been an incredible partner throughout our regional efforts to support local businesses and the economic development organizations that serve our Mid-Michigan communities. Their expertise and willingness to administer State and local programs in partnership with the Gladwin County Economic Development Corporation has provided the tools needed to serve our businesses and organizations in ways that would otherwise not have been possible. Their administration of recent business relief grants helped provide over \$400,000 in funding to Gladwin County businesses. Multiple business owners complimented the process and expressed their appreciation for funding that allowed them to keep their businesses open. We sincerely appreciate our relationship with MMDC and its staff and look forward to future collaboration with them as we work together with regional economic development partners."



SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS ARE GRATEFUL TO MIDDLE MICHIGAN



"COVID-19 has been challenging for most businesses, especially for restaurants and microbreweries. If it wasn't for the grant opportunities from MMDC, it would have been extremely difficult to weather the storm for those bills not covered by other programs. As we start our recovery and get past this pandemic, it's partners like MMDC that I credit to our survival and recovery!"

JIM HOLTON

Mountain Town Station and
Summit Smokehouse & Tap Room

"The COVID shutdown hit us here at Cops & Doughnuts at the worst time of year possible. The rapid work of the MMDC team ensured grant funding arrived at a critical time and helped bridge the gap until PPP funds arrived. It truly helped save our business."

GREG "RYNO" RYNEARSON

Cops & Doughnuts

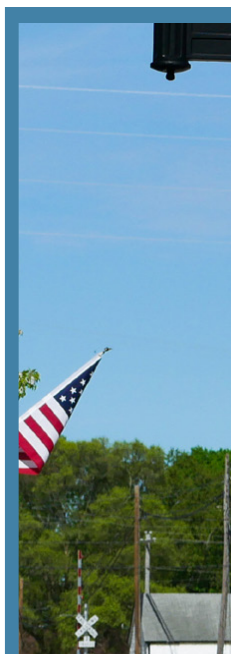


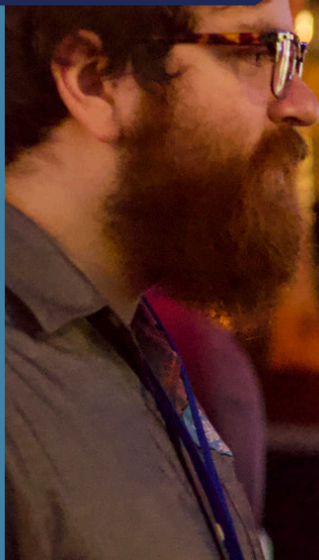


THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION



— MIDDLE MICHIGAN —
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION





Written by Robert Hoshowsky

Approaching its 40th anniversary, Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) has plenty to be proud of. It has been busy attracting and retaining businesses, growing the economies of Clare and Isabella Counties, and enjoying an inflow of new staff and hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding.

"When I first started here in Michigan, our total annual operating budget

was substantially less than just the grant amount we received in 2019," says James (Jim) McBryde, MMDC President and Chief Executive Officer for the past five years. "We received more in grants in one year than our total operational budget was just five years ago," he shares.

"We've come a long way in terms of being a regional leader and a leader for rural counties, and a lot of smaller counties in the area look to Middle Michigan as an example of leadership." ►►



▸ Decades of service

Founded in 1981, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation remains committed to assisting existing and new businesses with valuable information, guidance, grants, and much more.

With two conveniently located offices in both Clare and Isabella counties, MMDC remains focused on keeping and growing existing businesses, attracting new companies to the area, and many community development initiatives.

Internally, MMDC keeps on growing. Staff include McBryde; Kati Mora (promoted to Vice President last year); Pam O’Laughlin, who is Clare County Director for MMDC and covers Clare County for Michigan Works! Region 7B; Krista Pohl, Assistant to the President; and Brian Roberts, Rural Specialist/Field Manager, who also works on contract with the Michigan Defense Center, part of the MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation).

“Our scope has grown a lot, and we are doing many more things,” says McBryde. “We are not just focused on best practices for our two counties; we are assisting neighboring counties in getting better, and that’s what a lot of grants are about. Even if a project that could have gone here goes to a neighboring county, it affects our workforce in a positive way. People who live here work there, and vice-versa. There is a cooperative spirit among all of us who work in this region, and we are all cheering for each other.”

Working for businesses

2019 was a record year for Middle Michigan Development Corporation, and for business attraction and retention. Last year, MMDC made an impressive 135 company visits in Isabella County and Clare County, and 309 company assists, often helping companies with multiple issues.

With MMDC’s hard work and dedication paying-off, companies visited by the Corporation reported 263 new hires, and \$32,897,000 in new investments.

Together with over \$32 million in business investment, 2019 was a record year for grants, with a grant total of \$330,750 (\$100,000 of the amount was a Michigan Defense Center grant).

Three site readiness grants were received from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) totaling \$61,250 for Farwell Enterprise Park and Clare North Industrial Park for signage and lighting improvements.

Another \$200,000 was allocated to the Mt. Pleasant SmartZone District to roll out broadband throughout the park, making it more attractive to high-tech companies who were potential tenants, since existing broadband only covered half of the area.

 **Farwell Enterprise Park**
Photo by Courtney Jerome Media



Additionally, \$30,000 was received from MEDC's Region 5 (eight county region) to run the first ever Coming Home event last October. This event was arranged for potential employees, including graduating college seniors and young professionals returning to the area, to take part in matchmaking with 26 participating companies.

With 146 participants last year, the event was a huge success, helping bridge the talent gap between job-searchers and businesses looking to hire.

"This event really helped to build that talent pipeline between educators and companies, because oftentimes there isn't a lot of communication between the two," says Pam O'Laughlin of Coming Home. "I believe this event opened up some of those doorways between students and companies to make sure they understand the talent that is within those classrooms, and that the students understand there are opportunities in their backyard to be able to continue their pursuits here."

Another \$39,500 was received from EMCOG, the East Michigan Council of Governments. The funds were directed to assisting neighboring counties to achieve best practices for economic

development, for website design, and to help with site selection, industrial parks, and redevelopment-ready communities under the MEDC certification program.

Of the \$330,750, a significant amount was sub-granted to various entities, a point of pride for the Middle Michigan Development Corporation. "We have really become a regional leader in a lot of these areas," comments McBryde. "Our service area is still just two counties, but we stepped up to the plate, and through these grants have provided some real help for the region in a number of ways." ➤



📷 Mt. Pleasant RRC Certification



**STRONG ROOTS
IN THE COMMUNITY,
WITH OPPORTUNITIES
TO GROW.**

TREE CARE • RECYCLING • BIO-ENERGY • FORESTRY

Bandit Industries is an employee-owned manufacturer and worldwide distributor of premium tree care, material processing and recycling equipment. Every Bandit machine is hand-built at our mid-Michigan home and put to work at jobsites around the world. We've earned our reputation by producing durable equipment and standing behind our customers every step of the way. That's why we've been an industry leader for the last 35 years, and we're still growing.



**Bandit
INDUSTRIES, INC.**

► Defense and cybersecurity

Long known as one of the world's centers for automotive manufacturing, Michigan shifted from cars to making planes and tanks during the Second World War, earning the nickname 'Arsenal of Democracy.'

Eighty years later, the Michigan Defense Center (www.michigandefensecenter.com) works with the MEDC on areas ranging from homeland security to the estimated 4,000 state businesses serving the defense sector.

One of the roles of the MEDC is to locate companies in defense-related industries like automotive, tool and die, and medical devices, and to augment their product mix and portfolio with defense and homeland security contracts. To achieve this, Brian Roberts is actively identifying and encouraging companies.

Navigating a Post-COVID World

- Like many organizations, MMDC had to swiftly pivot to accommodate life post-COVID. MMDC was one of 15 local organizations across the state selected to facilitate Small Business Relief Program grants to businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. MMDC distributed \$400,000 in grants and loans across four Mid-Michigan counties including Clare, Isabella, Gratiot and Gladwin. According to Josh Hundt, Executive Vice President, MMDC truly modeled how a partnership between state and local economic development organizations can work.
- MMDC was also selected as a Match on Main COVID-19 Response Program Grant recipient to further support place-based businesses in downtown Mt. Pleasant with additional funding made available through the MEDC. \$48,000 was made available to distribute to 22 businesses located within the traditional downtown corridor of Mt. Pleasant to further support COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- MMDC has already brought in an additional \$645,000 in business and community grants and loans in 2020, surpassing their 2019 grant total.
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Apex Clean Energy Wind Project is underway and ahead of schedule, making it the largest infrastructure project taking place in the State of Michigan at this time.

Part of his role is educating businesses who may not think they produce anything defense-related. "Typically, they want end products, but even for companies that don't produce end products, there's always opportunities to jump in on subcontracts with prime contractors," says Roberts. "And that's the other part of this: identifying what companies would be good to come in with bigger prime contractors who have those relationships with the government."

Midway through its most recent Strategic Plan covering 2019 to 2021, MMDC continues working diligently with the Michigan Defense Center, cybersecurity, and Industry 4.0, also known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution as industry moves towards artificial intelligence and Smart manufacturing.

One of the few organizations in Michigan to receive a second year of funding with the Defense Center, MMDC is identifying companies with the capacity to pursue homeland security contracts within the five more rural counties of Region 5, not just Clare and Isabella.

Roberts says there has been increased awareness of the rewards of pursuing federal contracts, and coordinating with the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) housed at Saginaw Future, technical experts helping companies pursuing defense contracts.

Roberts is on hand assessing and encouraging companies to go for defense contracts, while PTAC provides additional technical assistance and follow-up. "In that way, the state can identify companies and see if there's anything they can do to strengthen those assets, and provide more opportunities," says Roberts.

Since so many companies are being hit by ransomware, the Defense Department insists all contractors are third-party certified for cybersecurity, and are fully embracing Industry 4.0. Every year, a cybersecurity conference is held with speakers from law enforcement and other areas to bring companies up to speed, while local businesses are encouraged to pursue Industry 4.0, as MMDC wants their practices to be fully up to date.





Welcoming wind power

A few years ago, McBryde was asked to support a large wind energy project in Isabella County, the biggest single phase wind farm in the history of the state. Apex Clean Energy received approval for the project, which will see 136 General Electric wind towers installed.

Significant not only for its size, the wind project will help power the area, bring in additional jobs, and result in the creation of new infrastructure. Requiring and receiving community approval, the turbines will generate enough energy to power approximately 97,000 homes, resulting in more than \$800 million of investment locally.

"The team at Middle Michigan understands the value of this project and what it means to the local community and was with us every step of the way," says the development manager for the Isabella Wind Project, Albert Jongewaard, in the latest MMDC Annual Report. "In fact, the project wouldn't have been possible without their assistance."

Among the many other benefits, the wind farm project will result in an estimated 20 well-paying, long-term jobs, and lead to potential training opportunities in renewable energy careers for students in both Clare and Isabella counties. Installed on farmland in the rural northern half of the County, the wind project will also see the County and townships participating in revenue in the areas where the towers will be located, and significant tax revenue coming into the area.

"This project provides more energy independence and clean energy for the area, and this is just Phase 1 of further development of wind and solar in our area," says McBryde. Another bonus is new roads are being built and dirt roads being paved to access the towers, taking up a minimal footprint on existing farmland. "One of the side benefits of this is, you could have companies coming in and upgrading roads which would never otherwise be upgraded."

Based on information from Apex Clean Energy, all 136 wind towers should be completed and online by November.

REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT
GRATIOT-ISABELLA RESD

*Shaping the Future
Through Education*
**Gratiot
Isabella
RESD**

www.giresd.net
Dr. Jan C. Amsterburg, Superintendent
1131 E. Center St.
Ithaca, MI 48847
989-875-5101

- Special Education Services
- Instructional Services
- Business Services
- Data Processing
- Technology Services
- Forest Hill Nature Area
- Winding Brook Conference Centre

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER LOCATIONS

<p>Mt. Pleasant Campus 989-775-2210 1155 S. Elizabeth St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 www.mpatc.com</p>	<p>Alma Campus 989-466-7549 1500 N. Pine Ave. Alma, MI 48801</p>	
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Bright future

With a diversified business base including large manufacturers like Delfield, American Mitsuba Corporation (AMC), Unified Brands, Morbark, and Bandit; and with numerous available grants, industrial parks and room for expansion; with the successful Coming Home event, and with growing renewable energy and more, the future of Clare and Isabella counties is bright.

"I would like to see Middle Michigan continue to be a regional leader but be an even bigger regional leader in terms of working with other areas of the region, not just the two counties we represent," says McBryde.

"Obviously that's job one for us – our core two counties we represent. We have to make sure they are doing well. But as we move forward, if we are doing well and can be helpful to our neighbors, it strengthens the region and it's basically one employment pool.

"People drive 20 or 30 miles to work sometimes. So we want the area to be strong, and we can help companies be stronger and more diversified than ever before, and that's our goal." ■

MANUFACTURERS INNOVATE TO MEET CRITICAL NEEDS



Many manufacturers in Middle Michigan found themselves launching new protective equipment products to diversify their offerings, support frontline workers and maintain profitability in 2020. Highland Plastics, Inc., Unified Brands, Inc., Bear Packaging & Supply and The Rogers Group are just a few examples of area companies that thought outside-the-box to develop innovative health and safety solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highland Plastics, Inc. and Unified Brands, Inc. Develop Protective Enclosures

Both Highland Plastics, Inc., located in Shepherd, and Unified Brands, Inc., located in Weidman, began producing protective enclosure boxes that could be utilized by healthcare professionals working in close contact with COVID-19 positive patients in early 2020. Both companies altered their traditional manufacturing techniques in order to stay open and provide a product that was in short supply.



Bear Packaging & Supply, Inc. Gets Creative, Switching to PPE Production



Bear Packaging & Supply, Inc. located in Mt. Pleasant, worked diligently to deliver plastic bags to healthcare facilities. Plastic bags became an in-demand item at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In just a few days, they shipped over 7,000 bags to organizations in the medical field.

StageRight Corporation and The Rogers Group Pivot Production to Help With PPE Shortage

StageRight Corporation and their parent company, The Rogers Group, contributed their efforts in the fight against the coronavirus by working closely with a leading medical technology company to supply essential equipment. Their components helped produce a bed that serves as a patient platform and directly assisted medical professionals serving on the front lines of the crisis.





BUSINESS ATTRACTION

MAC LTT Makes Middle Michigan Newest Location for Operations

MAC Liquid Tank Trailer (MAC LTT) has made Mt. Pleasant its newest home of operations. Headquartered in Kent, Ohio, MAC LTT acquired the manufacturing assets of Burch Tank and Truck on May 11, 2020 and has since opened their first stainless-steel facility right here in Middle Michigan to build state-of-the-art cargo tankers.

With a strong focus on producing solution-driven products, MAC LTT specializes in building trailers and tanks for transportation. Its advanced designs provide operational benefit to customers, including those who transport dairy products, orange juice and fertilizer.

Continuing to advance their operations and techniques in the manufacturing industry, MAC LTT was looking to expand their stainless steel market and recognized Burch Tank & Truck as an ideal fit.

“We are thrilled to see a unique and successful company like MAC LTT come to Middle Michigan. This successful acquisition has given MAC LTT an opportunity to grow their team, and they are in search of 16 more individuals to join their welders, mechanics and general laborers at their Mt. Pleasant location,” stated Jim McBryde, President and CEO of Middle Michigan Development Corporation.

MAC LTT has been exceeding industry expectations and offering game-changing solutions in the liquid tank trailer industry for the past 22 years. Acquiring Burch Tank & Truck’s manufacturing assets and deciding to co-locate at Burch Tank & Truck’s Mt.

Pleasant location is just another example of that. From the level of craftsmanship Middle Michigan has become known for to the reliable reputation built by Burch Tank & Truck over the years, MAC LTT is positioned to lead the way in this competitive market.

About MAC LTT:

MAC LTT is an industry leading manufacturer of Liquid Tank Trailers.

About Burch Tank & Truck:

Burch Tank & Truck was founded in 1990 and is an OEM tank trailer dealer for MAC LTT Stainless Steel Division as well as a complete service center for cargo tanks.





Broadway Lofts Development and GreenTree Cooperative Grocery Expansion Almost Complete

The Broadway Lofts community development project broke ground in March 2020 and is expected to be completed in early fall of 2021. This \$18 million project is expected to play a major role in the vibrancy of downtown Mt. Pleasant and required a variety of both State and local incentives to become a reality. The 50,000 square foot mixed-use building sits on a 1.34 acre site. The top three levels of the building will feature 48 apartments, and GreenTree Cooperative Grocery will be a key commercial tenant on the first floor.

The project's downtown location make the apartments a perfect attractor for young professionals in the area.

GreenTree Cooperative Grocery has been a part of the Mt. Pleasant community for over 50 years. In 2020, the Cooperative launched a capital campaign to raise funds to expand from their current space into their new Broadway Lofts location. This expansion will quadruple the size of their grocery store and is expected to create 15-20 new jobs.



HARRISON COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF TOWN SQUARE

In 2020, the City of Harrison celebrated the grand opening of the Harrison Town Square featuring unique amenities for locals and non-residents alike. The new park features a splash pad that is fun for all ages, an entertainment pavilion, a digital sign to inform the community of upcoming events and notifications, bathrooms/changing rooms, a town clock, a bus stop shelter and additional downtown parking.

The Harrison Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was key to the planning and development of The Town Square, which included extensive community outreach to determine all the park features. Through the Harrison Downtown Revitalization process, the \$700,000 park was the third phase of a larger plan to make downtown a more desirable place for community members to frequent.

The USDA, MEDC, MDOT, DNR Passport Program and Rising Tide Community Program all contributed grant dollars which totalled \$450,000. Additionally, a local chapter of the General Federation of Women's Clubs raised funds to purchase the Town Square clock.



The City of Harrison is committed to providing a vibrant community space for their residents. The Town Square gives individuals space to interact, attend special events, enjoy aquatic experiences and add to their overall quality of life through fun and safe outdoor activities. At its core, Harrison is a wonderful residential community with great recreational assets.



THE YEAR IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CONSUMERS ENERGY SUPPORTS CLARE AREA BUSINESSES THROUGH 'OUR TOWN' CAMPAIGN

Businesses in Clare received a little extra support from Consumers Energy's 'Our Town' Campaign. Shoppers who purchased gift cards redeemable at local businesses through the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce received a dollar-for-dollar match. This campaign provided the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce with an additional \$24,000 to be spent at community businesses.



BLANCHARD COMMUNITY CENTER REVITALIZATION UNDERWAY



The former Blanchard Elementary School building has been purchased and will be utilized as a new community center. The school was vacated in 2008; however, the grassroots efforts of community members pushed revitalization of the space forward. The community center is expected to be named 'The Ethan Courser Community Center' and will be completed in the near future.

FUTURE MOLD CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to our friends at Future Mold Corporation, Farwell, MI, who celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2020. Since 1970, Future Mold has been specializing in manufacturing state-of-the-art thermoforming tooling and lip rolling machines. Their unique custom-made products and years of experience in the industry make them a strong leader in thermoforming design and tooling.



MID MICHIGAN COLLEGE RANKED #2 ONLINE COLLEGE IN MICHIGAN

The Harrison area is home to Mid Michigan College, which ranked #2 for the best online community college in Michigan. Through their professional programs made available online, students have the opportunity to further their education affordably and from the comfort of their own homes. Determining criteria for the rankings included the College's success rates and the variety of its online offerings.



PRESIDENT DAVIES NAMED TO NEW MICHIGAN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Central Michigan University President, Bob Davies, has been appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the new Michigan Workforce Development Board. The board will be seeking input from local businesses and educational leaders across the State to identify new policies that improve and expand Michigan's workforce, economy and educational opportunities.



MIDMICHIGAN MEDICAL CENTER - CLARE RECEIVES LEAPFROG'S ANNUAL PATIENT SAFETY RECOGNITION AWARD

MidMichigan Medical Center's Clare campus received recognition as a Top 2020 Rural Hospital in Leapfrog's Annual Patient Safety Survey. Only 19 hospitals nationwide received this distinct honor, which required top performance among peers, as well as meeting the highest standards for quality and patient safety.



THE ISABELLA COUNTY WIND PROJECT REACHES COMPLETION

Apex Clean Energy has put up their last wind tower, making Isabella County the largest single-phased wind farm in Michigan. With over 136 wind turbines across more than 55,000 acres of land, this project alone can power nearly 97,000 homes.





GOING PRO TALENT AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Through the State of Michigan Going Pro Talent Fund, five businesses in Clare County and one in Isabella County received a total of \$91,706 in funding for employer training opportunities.

- Advanced Battery Concepts - \$28,590
- Central Restoration - \$11,470
- Four Leaf Brewing - \$3,599
- Integrity Printing - \$33,550
- Mid Michigan Industries - \$33,550



Kudos to Pam O'Laughlin, our Clare County Director for Middle Michigan, for making this happen.

MMDC HOSTS PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Thanks to an EMCOG mini-grant, MMDC was able to offer a product photography workshop to small business owners and employees in Clare and Isabella Counties. This workshop was designed to give individuals hands-on product photography experience and enhance online listings of their products. MMDC partnered with Bo Parker, Owner of Afterglow Film & Photo, and ArtReach of Mid Michigan on this initiative.



MID MICHIGAN COLLEGE AND MICHIGAN WORKS! REGION 7B PARTNER ON APPRENTICESHIPS

Mid Michigan College and Michigan Works! 7B collaborated to develop the Trade Apprenticeship Readiness Certificate. To achieve this certification, individuals take four college-level courses designed to equip them with the skills necessary to excel in today's modern manufacturing environment. This partnership ensures a successful talent pipeline for employers in Middle Michigan.



Connecting Employers,
Resources & Talent



JAMES MCBRYDE NAMED MEDA ECONOMIC MEDALIST AND 2021 MEDA PRESIDENT

Middle Michigan Development Corporation President and CEO, Jim McBryde, received two honors in 2020: the Michigan Economic Developer Association's (MEDA) Medalist of the Year Award and he was elected to be the MEDA President for 2021.

The Medalist of the Year Award identifies individuals that showcase outstanding contributions to economic development within Michigan. Recipients of this award have demonstrated commitment and dedication to helping communities grow and are resources for businesses within the area they provide support.

Prior to joining the MMDC, McBryde served for twelve years as Vice President, Governmental Affairs for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). At MEDC, he worked on key State and Federal initiatives and the successful passage of MEDC's annual budget. Before joining the MEDC, McBryde also served as the Interim Chair for the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and as a Special Assistant for the Michigan Department of Community Health. For eight years, McBryde also served in the Michigan House of Representatives, 99th District, having been first elected in 1990 and retiring at the end of 1998 due to term limits. He served on the House Appropriations Committee, as Chair of the State Police and Military Affairs Subcommittee and Vice Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee.



In addition to his most recent award, McBryde has received the following honors:

- CMU Centennial Award in 1992 as one of Central Michigan University's most distinguished alumni of their first 100 years.
- Legislator of the Year in 1994 by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association.
- Merit Service Award in 1995 by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
- Legislative Star Award in 1994 and 1996 by the Michigan Deputy Sheriff's Association.
- Distinguished Service Award in 2008 by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

McBryde has been President and CEO of Middle Michigan Development for five years and continues to be a leader in economic development. This award honors his continued success and achievements on behalf of Isabella and Clare Counties.



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2020 PARTNERS

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City of Harrison

City of Mount Pleasant
Clare County
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Isabella County

Mid Michigan College
Village of Farwell

2021 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



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MMDC Chair
President
Isabella Bank



Harmony Nowlin
MMDC Vice Chair
Community Services Area Manager
Consumers Energy



Brad Wahr
MMDC Treasurer
Vice President for Commercial Lending
Mercantile Bank of Michigan



Tracey Connelly
MMDC Secretary
City Manager & Clerk
City of Harrison



Margaret McAvoy
MMDC At Large Representative
County Administrator
Controller Isabella County



Marita Hattem-Schiffman
MMDC At Large Representative
President
MidMichigan Health

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS



James McBryde
President & CEO
Middle Michigan Development Corporation



Rick Barz
MMDC Past President
Past President, Isabella Bank

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rick Barz, Past President, Isabella Bank
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- Tracey Connelly, City of Harrison
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