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NOVEMBER 2023
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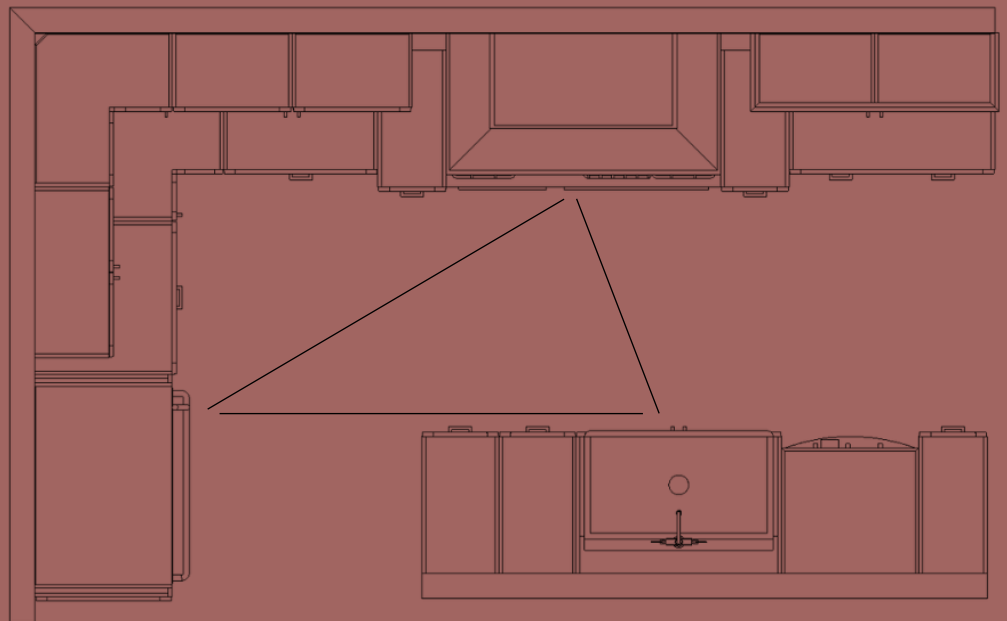


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When renovating, you need to think about what works, and what does not work in the current space. Your designer can then use that information when laying out your new space.

In this kitchen, our designer took into consideration the following: limited countertop space, the clients' love for cooking, and the need for additional storage. By placing the sink in the island, it not only maximized countertop space around the perimeter, but also made space for a larger 48" range, and appliance garage. Wine cubes were added above the fridge, and more drawers along the perimeter to maximize storage and keep everyday items easily accessible. This layout is also a perfect example of the 'working triangle', which is a time-tested design standard that ensures the cook has easy access to the sink, fridge, and range, with minimal obstructions or interfering traffic.

Each client and their space is different. So, creating a more functional space that meets and exceeds our clients' needs is our goal for every single project.



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LIFESTYLE LETTER

The THANKFUL Issue

In this season of giving thanks, we often find ourselves reflecting on the many blessings in our lives. The true spirit of Thanksgiving encourages the conscious expression of gratitude. Its focus is spending time with those you love. While ambition and slaying goals can be very healthy, forgetting to place importance on being present, enjoying the ride, and appreciating those who have helped us along in our journey, can leave us missing out on what truly matters. We'll never be content if we look outside ourselves and at our possessions or titles to determine if we are fulfilled. True contentment comes from within and from fulfilling who we were made to be.

As I reflect on my blessings this season, I return to my personal core values of God, Country, and Family. My paternal grandparents are holocaust survivors who were captured in Poland by the Nazis and taken to slave labor camps. Surviving World War II, they immigrated to America and took their Oath of Allegiance as naturalized citizens in Mount Clemens at the Macomb County Building. For a part of their lifelong journey, they had no freedom, no country, nor community to call their own. My grandparents overcame many obstacles to give our family the opportunity for a good life and an inherited vigilance to value our freedom.

Our November issue is dedicated to stories of gathering, gratefulness, and the community we get to call home. We are thankful for the leaders, residents, and businesses in our community who make our city vibrant. We are especially thankful to our advertising partners who help bring this magazine to your doorsteps each month. They are part of our vision and purpose of bringing inspiring stories and the good news of the community directly to you.

This holiday season as we prepare to gather with our loved ones, and in the true spirit of thanksgiving, let's set time aside to consider what truly makes life meaningful and stop to reflect on those blessings.

Blessings to you and your family,

KIMBERLY JANOWICZ, PUBLISHER
@MOUNTCLEMENS CITYLIFESTYLE



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CITY LIFESTYLE™

November 2023

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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Reflecting on more than 45 notable years in business, we can't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude.

To our esteemed clients, your unwavering trust and support have played a vital role in our journey.

Here's to the many more years of collaboration and growth. Thank you!

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ON THE COVER

Photography: : Janie Jones

Celebrate Thanksgiving with creative tablescapes ideas!

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AMADEUS



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NOVEMBER 2023

city scene

Where neighbors can see and be seen.



1: Blue Crow Entertainment was one of several performances at this year's ArtParty. **2:** 2023 ArtParty Honorary Chair Mark Switalski pictured with Anton Art Center Executive Director Phil Gilchrist. **3:** Jim George of the Tamer Foundation, ArtParty Honorary Chair Jodi Switalski, and Mayor Laura Kropp. **4:** Artists, such as Jeff Wolf of Finesse Ice, provided demonstrations throughout the night. **5:** Valerie Pollack, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, ArtParty Presenting Sponsor Amy Persyn, First State Bank. **6:** ArtParty Sponsor Andrea Yeip, owner of Cabinetry by Better Bilt, with her husband Mike. **7:** Kelly and Tommy Nahas were among guests enjoying an evening of food, entertainment, and art.

Photography by Kevin Shea Photography

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Enjoy The Oasis

The Oasis Social District is where people can buy and drink alcoholic beverages outdoors in the city's downtown area from participating businesses. *See signage in the downtown area for limitations.*

Gather



Whether you're hosting Thanksgiving or an autumn dinner party, setting a festive table creates the perfect cozy atmosphere. Improvise and use what you have around the house for adding elements to the table. Candlesticks, vases, little pumpkins and gourds, or fall decor you have on hand can make a great centerpiece. Add fresh flowers or dried foliage for that extra layer of texture and color.

Setting the Fall Table

ARTICLE BY ANGELA BROOCKERD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANIE JONES

The Traditional Table



For this classic, traditional look, a plaid throw blanket stands in for a tablecloth to establish a festive base layer. Brass candlesticks with brown taper candles create a simple and elegant centerpiece. Use familiar accents such as amber jars filled with dried grass foliage and brass pheasants to adorn the table. To add a little character to the table, use a recycled wine bottle as a vase. The simple place setting is enhanced with a dried grass accent and brown silk ribbon tied into a bow to add a special touch to your traditional display.

CONTINUED >

The Fall Garden Party Table



Are you planning to dine al fresco this fall? Create an earthy, fall garden party on the porch by using natural, organic elements, greenery and flowers. To make a statement, create a floral chandelier by hanging flowers upside down above the table using fishing wire (if your space allows). The centerpiece that runs down the length of this table consists of fresh eucalyptus with gold candlesticks and a ceramic pumpkin vase filled with flowers placed on top a tree trunk charger. Adding small pumpkins and fresh flowers along the center gives a little extra character. Instead of going with the classic white plate, enjoy a pop of color at your outdoor fall garden party with a blue place setting as a nod to the sky. Adding a cloth napkin and cloth placemat is a great way to add texture and more autumn color to your table. If the weather doesn't cooperate on your day, bring the outdoors in with a lovely indoor garden party dressed up in fall foliage.





The French Country Table

Rustic yet elegant, this tablescape combines the love of traditional, vintage and natural elements with an updated twist. Inspired by wooded acreage, the Spode Woodland Collection transferware designs are rooted in proper hunting tradition and perfect for marrying nature with traditional elegance. Dating back to 1831, the collection features various animals centered by the British Flowers border. This French antique dining room set was chosen for an intimate gathering for four. The fawn table runner mimicking deer spots brings an earthy, yet elevated foundation as the base for this table setting. Coordinating fawn napkins wrapped with twine and topped with natural feathers creates a whimsical touch. The stunning centerpiece starts with a vintage silver water pitcher that is then filled with fresh, sweet arrowwood *Viburnums* leaves. To complete the look, pair crystal glasses with vintage crystal stemware, and mix gold flatware with antique silver water pitchers, delicate salt and pepper shakers and your favorite trays.

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Alexander Macomb

War Hero of 1812 and Our County's Namesake

ARTICLE BY AMY NIEZUR | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN SHEA

Living in Macomb County, you may have wondered where the name came from. The story begins back around 1770, when two brothers originally from County Antrim, Ireland, decided to leave New York and come to what was then Fort Detroit to go into business as real estate speculators and merchants—at a time when all of Belle Isle could be purchased for eight barrels of rum, three rolls of tobacco, six pounds of vermillion paint, and a wampum belt.

There one of the brothers, Alexander, married a woman named Mary Catharine Navarre, whose family originally came from France, and together they had a son, also named Alexander, in 1782. Growing up at the fort, Alexander was steeped in military life. According to George H. Richards, author of

Memoir of Alexander Macomb, “The chubby boy became a favorite with the soldiers of the garrison. He was dandled on the soldier’s knee, fed at the soldier’s mess—his eye was dazzled with the gorgeous pageantry of military parade, and his ear delighted with the rousing strains of martial music.”

At the age of 14, says Richards, Alexander expressed a wish to join the military. His father, concerned that he should complete his studies before launching such a career path, insisted that Alexander improve his mind through additional study in mathematics, drawing, fencing, and riding. In his father’s opinion, “When he had completed his studies and evinced a competent ability, he might think of [the military] as a profession; but if he were to launch into the world

CONTINUED >



*Monument of General Alexander Macomb
situated outside the Macomb County
Courthouse on Main Street by sculptor
Frank C. Varga completed in 1977.*



*Oil painting of General
Alexander Macomb by
Thomas Sully, 1829.*

*“It expressed their sentiments of friendship,
gratitude for his military administration, and
prayers for his future.”*

with a mind uniformed and undisciplined, his course of instruction unfinished, it would be idle to expect the attainment of eminence in any pursuit.”

However, like children have done for time immemorial, Alexander didn’t take his father’s advice entirely to heart. Without his family’s knowledge, he joined the Army as Cornet of the Light Dragoons on January 10, 1799. This choice turned out to be the beginning of a notable military career.

In 1803, Alexander married his cousin Catherine, “a beautiful and highly accomplished young lady of sixteen,” and carried on with his work in the Army. He was one of the first officers trained at West Point and helped to build the fortifications at Fort Gratiot. A few years later, in 1806, while serving as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the Army, Alexander wrote the first book on American procedures for martial law and courts-martial.

Despite these accomplishments, Alexander’s greatest contributions were still ahead. In 1812, what some at the time called the “Second War of Independence” began, when the United States and the United Kingdom went to war. As Brigadier General in command of the Right Division of the Northern Army, Alexander was in command of defending the frontier of northern New York. With a battle looming at Plattsburgh, near Lake Champlain, and knowing that his forces were seriously outnumbered, Alexander spent the weeks before the battle moving trees

and creating fake roads in an attempt to lead British forces away from the three American forts in the area. Trapped by the maze he created, the British became easy targets for an American ambush.

Alexander’s success in the battle was rewarded with the thanks of Congress and a Congressional Gold Medal for his “gallantry and good conduct,” and he was promoted to Major General. Later, in 1828, Alexander was made Commanding General of the United States Army.

After the war, Alexander continued to contribute. He worked to increase pay for enlisted men to limit desertion, developed relief for widows and orphans of officers who died of wounds or disease, and spearheaded a system for officer retirement and replacement.

Not forgetting his training in drawing as a child, Alexander also maintained an interest in art. His watercolor and pencil painting, called *Detroit as Seen from the Canadian Shore*, resides at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

With his illustrious career in mind, it is no surprise that Louis Cass, Governor of Michigan Territory, named Macomb County for Alexander Macomb when it was formed on January 15, 1818—the third county to be created in the territory and encompassing what is now also Oakland, Lapeer, Genesee, and St. Clair counties as well. Says Richards, “It expressed their sentiments of friendship, gratitude for his military administration, and prayers for his future.”

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

*Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini Shares
the Services the Office Provides Our Community*

November brings thoughts of Thanksgiving dinner, falling leaves, elections, and Veteran's Day. At the Macomb County Clerk's office, headed by County Clerk Anthony Forlini, two of these are of particular importance. With approximately 100 employees spread between three buildings, the County Clerk's office focuses on four major areas—Vital Records, Register of Deeds, Courts, and Elections.

"The one most folks are familiar with is elections," he says. "The county election department is responsible for the administrative side of the election process—it is the clerks in local municipalities that actually have the responsibility to run elections for all of us." This administrative work at the county includes receiving candidate and proposal filings, preparing, proofing, and distributing ballots to local clerks, tabulator programming, election result accumulation, recounts, recalls, and assisting local clerks, the public, and the County Board of Canvassers to "check and double check" all election processes. With new changes allowing for at least nine days of early voting, "We want to make it easy for clerks to do their jobs while protecting our election system."

"The most important thing we can do is to make sure we have free and fair elections that reflect the will of the American people," he says. "Voters need to stay informed, get to know the candidates and proposals and then go vote." Forlini values public awareness and transparency in the election process. "We are the only county clerk in the state to do a forensic audit of the election server, and though we found no election interference, we developed new security protocols that further strengthened our systems. Our job in this department is never done, as we make continued security improvements and updates in our election department."

All of this is a big job, and Forlini had a lot to do to improve things when he started as County Clerk. "We were months behind on records and filings, voicemail was used often, and employees weren't cross trained, which slowed down service during vacations and illness. Concealed Pistol License (CPL) appointments were as far out as three months and you had to go to a different building to get fingerprinted." All that has changed, Forlini says. With improvements to cross-training, the implementation of new technology, and other changes, "We have all

CONTINUED >

ARTICLE BY AMY NIEZUR | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN SHEA





but eliminated wait times for all services.” Deeds are now registered within 24-48 hours, the Vital Records Department provides service within minutes, concealed weapons permits are processed the same day, and fingerprints can be done without a trip to the Sheriff’s Department. “I believe we owe the taxpayers a service,” he continues. “They do not owe us a job. Every resident deserves friendly, efficient service and that is our goal.

With Veteran’s Day on the horizon, Forlini is eager to remind veterans how their office can help. “One of the ways we honor our veterans at the Clerk’s office is to make sure they and their families have access to proof and verification that they served in the military—a form called a DD214.” This form, critical for the proof of service needed for special home loans, Social Security benefits, membership in veteran’s organizations, or to honor a loved one with a military burial, says Forlini, can be retained for free forever at the Clerk’s office. “You never know when you are going to need access to this document,” he adds. “Let us keep it safe for you.”

The Macomb County Clerk’s office is looking out for jurors as well, with free parking now being offered downtown. “Parking was not provided for our jurors, and that was a problem for me,” he explains. “I love Mount Clemens and our existing parking by parking meter created some bad will, with jurors leaving Mount Clemens as soon as jury service was over.” By providing free parking, Forlini hopes jurors will feel free to take the time to try a great local restaurant or some of the other “cool places Downtown Mount Clemens has to offer.”

As someone who has lived in Macomb County his entire life, serving first as Harrison Township Supervisor and State Representative before his election as County Clerk in 2020, Forlini feels a strong commitment to the area his office serves. Married to his high school sweetheart, Diane, for 38 years and a proud father and grandfather, he was knighted by the President of Italy in 2016 for charitable works between the two countries and is focused on providing the community the best service possible. “We believe that honesty is the best policy. We believe that concern for your neighbor is more important than a political belief. We believe that we are problem solvers. We aim to show this every day.”



Clerk Forlini and his team are ready to provide friendly, efficient service to Macomb County residents.



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Tyeisha was a young mother, unemployed and struggling to find work in the post-pandemic economy. Wanting to become a Certified Nurse Assistant, she reached out to Michigan Works for guidance. Tyeisha enrolled in the Young Professionals Program, and working with a Career Development Facilitator, got the assistance she needed to identify an appropriate training opportunity at Michigan Healthcare Academy in Mount Clemens.

With the help of grant funding, Tyeisha enrolled in a Nursing Assistant program in April, and completed her training a few months later. Support services through the Michigan Works Young Professionals Program assisted Tyeisha with the cost of the state exam, and when she didn't pass the first time around, her Career Development Facilitator helped her come up with a game plan to pass the second time around. Once Tyeisha was ready to start

“I was able to start a new career in manufacturing that would not have been possible without the assistance of Michigan Works.” – Gabriel

looking for a job, her facilitator was by her side as she updated her resume and began her job search. In a few weeks, Tyeisha was hired as a full-time Certified Nursing Assistant, and Michigan Works even helped Tyeisha get the necessary scrubs and nursing shoes she needed to start off right. As for her new job, Tyeisha says it is “everything I hoped it would be.”

At Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works, Tyeisha is just one of many success stories. By providing job search assistance, career and training resources, and both online and in-person events on topics such as resume development, interviewing skills, and more, Michigan Works lives its mission to “connect and support employers and job seekers to strengthen our economy and community.” According to Justin Al-Igoe, Executive Director of Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works Workforce Development Board, support is available across many fields, including emerging ones such as careers related to the growth in electric vehicles. “Additional career growth in areas like electricians, engineers, and even urban planners is expected,” says Justin. “Construction is expected to grow as the infrastructure, such as public charging stations, will be needed. Several new certifications, such as battery technician and related training, are developed or in the process of being developed.”

Training for a new career in the automotive industry helped Gabriel, who came to Michigan Works after losing his job with a mortgage company during the pandemic. Frustrated by finding only entry-level positions in retail and delivery driving, Gabriel reached out for help to make a change. He found he qualified for tuition assistance from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Michigan Learning and Education Advancement

Program, and an Industry Infinity grant, and enrolled at Macomb Community College in the Controls Technician program. Gabriel completed his certificate and began his new career shortly afterward working as an Automation Technician at a starting wage of \$27.50 per hour. “I was able to start a new career in manufacturing that would not have been possible without the assistance of Michigan Works,” he says.

Of course, Macomb-St. Clair Michigan Works isn’t just for job seekers—it also assists employers with finding the people they need. When Niagara Bottling was building a new plant in Shelby Township, they reached out Michigan Works Business Services. Michigan Works assisted the company with understanding the local labor market to set competitive wages, helped with posting available positions, and partnered with Niagara for a hiring fair at the Clinton Township Michigan Works Service Center, which resulted in the largest turn out Macomb-St. Clair Michigan Works has had for any job fair—over 1000 candidates for positions ranging from Warehouse Associate to Production Supervisor. The team at Niagara Bottling was pleased with the results. “We were able to find multiple well-qualified candidates for even our salary roles—Production Supervisor and Warehouse Supervisor. We were even able to find multiple great candidates for the higher-skilled QA Technician and Maintenance Tech roles, which we were having a difficult time finding candidates for.”

Whether you represent a business struggling to hire or find yourself in need of support and guidance toward a new career, including priority services for veterans, Macomb-St. Clair Michigan Works can be the key to success. For more information or to get started, visit msc-mw.org.





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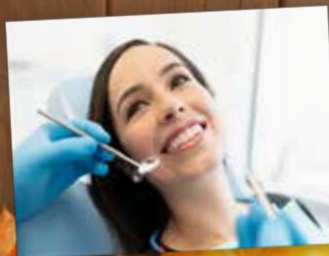
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events

A curated selection of the most intriguing upcoming events in our area.

NOVEMBER 1ST

Natural Health Q&A Session

THE URBAN NATUROPATH, 99 S MAIN ST MOUNT CLEMENS, MI | 7:00 PM

Here's your chance to get your questions about natural health answered! Meet with Jennifer Gale, a Classical Naturopath, Holistic Practitioner, and owner of The Urban Naturopath. This is an opportunity to ask any questions you may have and find out how to bring Balance, Inspiration, and Transformation into your life. FREE event. To RSVP, call 586-461-1416 or email jennifer@urbannaturopath.com.

THROUGH
NOVEMBER 10

Thanksgiving Food Drive

CABINETRY BY BETTER BILT, 99 CASS AVE MOUNT CLEMENS, MI

Cabinetry by Better Bilt is spreading a little holiday cheer by hosting a food drive. Let's give a little joy to the families in need of food to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Donations can be dropped off at Cabinetry by Better Bilt now through November 10th. For more information, call 586-469-0080 ext 1 or email andreay@cabinetsbbb.com.

NOVEMBER 16TH
THROUGH
DECEMBER 23RD

Holiday Market Shopping Experience at the Anton Art Center

THE ANTON ART CENTER, 125 MACOMB PL, MT CLEMENS, MI

The Anton Center features 100+ local and regional artists in our annual Holiday Market shopping experience. Stop in and see a variety of arts and craft items: holiday decor, gifts, fine art, jewelry, fiber and accessories, and more! Artists benefit directly from the sales, making this an important event for the Anton Art Center, as well as participating artists. theartcenter.org/holiday-market

NOVEMBER 17TH

Christmas Open House and Tree Lighting

FOUNTAIN STAGE ON MACOMB PLACE, DOWNTOWN MOUNT CLEMENS | 5:00 PM

Join us for our annual Christmas Open House & Tree Lighting Ceremony in historic downtown Mount Clemens. Visit with Santa and take your own photos at Capture A Moment Photography from 6:30PM until 9PM. Get a start on holiday shopping with local businesses. There will be FREE horse-drawn trolley rides, kids activities, crafts, and more! Visit downtownmountclemens.org/events/ for more information.

NOVEMBER 18TH

Mount Clemens Santa Parade

MAIN STREET, DOWNTOWN MOUNT CLEMENS | 10:00 AM

On Saturday, the 48th annual Mount Clemens Santa Parade takes place starting at 10:00AM on Main Street beginning at Church Street and proceeding north to Clinton Street. The 100-plus-unit parade includes marching bands, floats, a variety of costumed characters, service clubs, corporate sponsors, youth groups, dance studios, and other festivities, all capped by an appearance from Santa! Visit mountclemenssantaparade.com.

NOVEMBER 25TH

Small Business Saturday

MOUNT CLEMENS, MI | 10:00 AM

After the rush of Black Friday, come out and support local Mount Clemens businesses for Small Business Saturday, taking place from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Shop local and show small businesses in our community some love! Visit downtownmountclemens.org/events/ for more information.

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