

# *NEWS IN BRIEF*

A Quarterly Report in brief by George Dunn, President/CEO, Middle Michigan Development Corporation

This is a “special” edition of *News in Brief*, commemorating MMDC’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The organization was incorporated in late 1981 through the efforts of several Mt. Pleasant businessmen, the Mt. Pleasant City Commission, and key administrators from CMU. Their purpose was simple and straight-forward: to create a healthy economic climate in the greater Mt. Pleasant area.

Very quickly other organizations joined CMU, the City, and the Mt. Pleasant IDC, including Isabella County, The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce. Thus, the organization was born.

Over the past 25 years MMDC has been instrumental in the initiation and development of numerous “huge” accomplishments, including its responsibilities to the interests in Clare County, begun in late 1999.

A gala event, sponsored by Chemical Bank-Clare, Firstbank, and Isabella Bank and Trust, was held for the MMDC Board of Directors and their guests at The Embers restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. More than 100 persons were in attendance with many proclamations and resolutions of endorsement and support presented. Rick Barz read a proclamation from Congressman Dave Camp. In addition, presentations were delivered by Senator Alan Cropsey and Ryan Wanburg, aide to Representative Bill Caul; Central Michigan University’s Mike Rao; Scott Govitz, speaking in behalf of Mid Michigan Community College; Cynthia Bradley Kilmer, Ken Hibl, Brook Wood, and Steve Grim, speaking for the cities of Mt. Pleasant, Clare, Harrison, and the Village of Farwell, respectively; Jim Allen for the Clare Industrial Development Corporation; as well as Brook Wood, again, in behalf of HAEDCO; and some special comments came from David Stevens, Vice President of CME Mitsuba, a company recruited to the area by MMDC some 20 years ago.

Special tributes were also paid to members of the original Board of Directors in attendance – Dr. Ernest Minelli, Sid Smith, Bob Joynt, Art Ellis, Alvin Hosking, and Larry Johns, as well as to the MMDC staff and the entire body assembled for their vision and commitment to the growth and economic well-being of this Central Michigan Region.

Elected to second, 3-year terms on the Board were Tim Coscarelli, Duane Gottschalk, Brian Johnson, David Kyle, Mark Ruhle, and David Stevens. Elected to serve their first 3-year terms were George King, Roger Royer, Harmony Nowlin, Larry Neeper, Jack Neyer, and Tony Fox.

Special recognition was also extended by bestowing Life Memberships to Bob Berry, Ren Kao, John Lewis, Mark Perry, Mike Pung, Barb Theunissen, and Graham Tillotson.

These past 25 years have been very special and rewarding and “thanks” needs to be extended to all who have been so supportive, including MMDC’s clients, its Corporate Sponsors, and to the entire Board of Directors (past and present).

For more information on these or other projects, contact MMDC at (989) 772.2858 or [www.mmdc.org](http://www.mmdc.org).