

# *~NEWS IN BRIEF~*

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

The business activity to highlight this quarter is **The Center for Applied Research and Technology Construction.** The Mt. Pleasant Industrial Development Corporation's 6,000 square foot speculative "shell" building is nearing completion. The landscaping and irrigation system are yet to be developed, but will be finished as the weather permits. At that time a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held to highlight both the building and the naming of the new street. For the many contributions of Art Ellis, former President of CMU, toward the development of the entire Park, including the attraction of CME Mitsuba, the street is being named "Ellis Place".

Other items of significant activity include:

**Isabella Road Extension.** MMDC, in behalf of the Isabella County Road Commission, is waiting for a final decision from MDOT regarding the grant application submitted, funding necessary for the construction of this road. Representative Bill Caul is also following this project and is in contact with MDOT.

**Clare Industrial Park Expansion.** MMDC, having presented its recommendations to the Clare IDC and the City of Clare identifying the preferred location for further industrial park development, is waiting for a final decision, expected soon.

**ALRO Steel.** Renovation construction is underway as this new company to the market expands and redesigns the former Martinrea plant to accommodate its own requirements. The attraction of the company, working directly with both MMDC and the City of Clare, to the Clare Industrial Park is viewed as a huge success and will be most welcomed to our region! The company expects to employ 20-25 people as they become fully operational, serving as a distribution center for many local companies.

**MMDC Web-Site.** The MMDC website continues to be updated with new demographic data and now incorporates an inventory of available industrial buildings and sites. This website is the data base for the entire Central Michigan Region Micropolitan Area and is designed for those searching for new industrial, technology and research-based business locations. The site can be viewed at [www.mmdc.org](http://www.mmdc.org).

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**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Continues.** Continuing the hallmark celebration, *The Morning Sun* published a wonderful supplement commemorating MMDC's twenty-five years as the area's single-voice, economic development organization. Special "thanks" is also extended to the many companies who helped support this issue through advertisements and testimonials, as well as to *The Morning Sun!*

**Farwell's Enterprise Park.** Many more than enough new qualifying jobs have now been created in Farwell's Industrial Park, the area's only Renaissance Zone, to satisfy the MEDC requirements, which has allowed the State to forgive 80% of the original Community Development Block Grant. Congratulations are extended to the many people in Farwell and the Clare Enterprise Community for their vision and commitment.

**Regional Development Success.** Although a formal announcement has yet to be made, an historic agreement has been reached between the City of Mt. Pleasant, Central Michigan University, the Mt. Pleasant Local Development Finance Authority, and the MEDC with the MidMichigan Innovation Center in Midland, MI. This agreement, arranged through the efforts of MMDC, establishes the MMIC as a satellite to the Mt. Pleasant SmartZone and significantly expands the marketing reach of the CART to new companies incubated at the MMIC. In addition, it is yet another example of regional cooperation and collaboration within the region.

As always, we encourage your comments and suggestions as to how we might better serve you and the Central Michigan Region. Thank you!

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