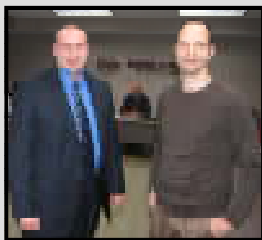


Two new members join DDA



Scott Luedke and John Skolas have joined the Clinton Township Downtown Development Authority. Luedke is a lawyer with a BS degree in engineering from Lawrence Tech and a law degree from MSU. Skolas is a co-owner of Sergeant Appliance with stores on Gratiot in Clinton Township and in downtown Rochester. His father, George, has been an area business person for more than 50 years.

Positive changes on the strip a sign of better times ahead?

Gratiot attracting the eye of new local businesses and national franchises

When DDA member Pete Thomas decided he wanted to expand his Cash Exchange business, he thought long and hard about moving to another part of the township or maybe even outside of the

“...I wanted to stay on Gratiot because of the high traffic count, my customer base is here, and I am confident more good things are going to happen...”

community. After examining his options, Thomas purchased a recently vacated 10,000 sq. ft. property on Gratiot north of 15 Mile Road that more than doubles his office space at an affordable price. Thomas even received some important support from the township when the Board of Trustees voted to reduce the amount of parking spaces needed for the larger business since additional parking was non-existent in the immediate

area. It was a good example of business and government working together to help promote our com-

investment that is expected to spur other growth in the area. The Hampton Inn brand is owned by Hilton



munity’s growth, Thomas said. “After looking elsewhere, I wanted to stay on Gratiot because of the high traffic count, the fact that my customer base is in the area, and I am confident that more good things are about to happen here,” Thomas added. So confident in the area is Thomas that he also purchased the adjacent shopping plaza.

One of the good things is the construction of a new Hampton Inn which will soon begin along Gratiot. The new 93-room facility will go behind the Aldi food market between 14 Mile and Quinn.

The 3-story hotel represents a multi-million dollar

Hotels.

“It’s a turbulent economy, but I have to believe in Michigan as well as Clinton Township,” said Akram Namou who owns a second Hampton Inn on Van Dyke in Warren.

Also scheduled for construction is a new Fifth/Third Bank in the outlot of the Regional Shopping Center at 15 Mile Road and Gratiot.

The bank will be adjacent to the Country Buffet restaurant.

Work is also continuing on a new service station and Brewers restaurant at Quinn Road, as well as a WOW service station and a new McDonalds north of Metropolitan Parkway near the site of the demolished Parkway Chrysler Jeep dealership.

The Avenue

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
40700 ROMEO PLANK RD.
CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI 48038

DDA LIAISON JOSEPH PERUZZI 723-8045
WWW.GRATIOTINCLINTON.COM

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AND THE GRATIOT BUSINESS OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Spring Gratiot clean-up attracts 35 volunteers



Elbow grease was not in short supply at the DDA's annual Spring clean-up. 35 volunteers recently gathered at Farmers Market to give the strip a makeover. 15 members of the Mustang Club also pitched in.

Volunteers disposed of winter trash and discarded items along the Gratiot right-of-way and the median. The township's Department of Public Works was also on hand to carry off the collected materials, as well as to later begin mowing grass along the median.

Volunteers were also treated to a complimentary lunch at the Dorian Ford dealership on Gratiot between 15 Mile and 16 Mile roads.

New bus stop configuration to better serve customers **SMART adding stops and shelters on Gratiot**

Macomb County Commissioner Ed Bruley joined representatives from SMART and the DDA to oversee the construction of new bus stop pads and shelters along Gratiot from 14 Mile Rd. to north of Metropolitan Highway.

When complete the project will include the installation or relocation of up to 36 stops. Four new bus shelters are being added and 13 shelter pads have been poured for future shelter locations.

The project's cost of \$80,000 will be paid for with Transportation funds.

Gratiot is a major transportation artery from the City of Detroit to Macomb County. More than 80,000 vehicles travel Gratiot every day making the M3 thoroughfare one of the busiest in the tri-county area.



DDA members Pete Thomas and Donna Sassin join township's Carlo Santia and County Commissioner Ed Bruley to examine new bus stop pad.

Median landscaping features native habitat plantings

United Lawnscape, Inc. will install more than \$135,000 in median landscaping along Gratiot. The native habitat plantings will go in at all mile road intersections, the Quinn Rd. turnaround, and the gateway's entrance north of Metro Parkway.

United is a full service commercial and residential landscaper and was one of 4 companies to bid on the

project.

Plantings will require very little irrigation, fertilization and maintenance. The township's DPW will continue to maintain the median lawns and trees.

Native habitat plants evolved in Michigan soils and have proven to be the heartiest under a variety of growing conditions.