

## **CITY OF MOUNT CLEMENS**

### **Celebrating 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1818 - 2018**

Mount Clemens is one of the oldest cities in not just Macomb County, but the entire state. So when the city celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, it will be cause for a major celebration.

#### **History**

The city was founded in 1818 by Christian Clemens, the same year that Macomb County was established. Because of Christian Clemens' diligence, the city soon received the designation of County Seat. Over the years, Mount Clemens attracted visitors from around the world for its healing mineral baths, created from the area's salt wells and mineral waters. As a result, Mount Clemens became known as "Bath City." In later years, Mount Clemens was recognized as the "Rose Capital of the World" with ten major rose growers perfecting their blooms in the city. Mount Clemens also gained attention for its world-class shipbuilding and pottery.

#### **Community**

Mount Clemens has displayed a strong sense of community since its inception. Hundreds of residents are currently a part of many civic organizations, including the Optimist Club, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club and Goodfellows, all of whom have been helping families in the city for nearly 100 years.

The city hosts a strong faith-based community which includes approximately 23 churches in various denominations serving our residents for decades, several for a century and older.

The Mount Clemens Community School District was first organized as Union School District in 1857, and is one of the oldest school districts in the State at 161 years old.

The Mount Clemens Public Library is the second oldest library in the State, at 153 years old.

We are proud of being a neighbor to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. It has been a privilege for the City of Mount Clemens to have a long history with Selfridge, who just celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year.

Each year the city takes great pride in honoring those residents and businesses who have made Mount Clemens a better place to live through exemplary positive contributions, as the city's "Local Treasures."

Longstanding community traditions include the city playing host to the Independence Day Fireworks celebration for nearly 30 years, the Mount Clemens Presents the Macomb

County Santa Parade for over 40 years, and the annual Old Crowd Parade and meeting, which will take place for the 138<sup>th</sup> year in August, 2018.

The Mount Clemens Farmers Market, operating in the city for over 30 years, has been voted best Farmers Market by the *Metro Times*.

### **Local Business**

Local businesses continue to thrive. Over 20 businesses have made Mount Clemens their home for 50 years or more, including such staples as the Rec Bowl (65 years), Miller Brothers Creamery (74 years), Nickel and Saph (88 years), and Will and Schwarzkoff Funeral Home (89 years). The oldest businesses include Mount Clemens Lock and Key (100 years), Eastside Tavern (109 years), Nunneley, Hirt, MacArthur & Burcar (115 years), and Krauseneck Carpet One Floor & Home (144 years)!

### **Bicentennial Events**

Throughout 2018, residents can look forward to a variety of bicentennial events. The celebration began with the annual New Year's Eve Gala Fireworks celebration, and will continue with several events throughout the year. City Hall hosts the Hall of History, where each month various organizations are displaying historical artifacts.

### **Commemorative History Book**

The City of Mount Clemens' new commemorative history book entitled "Capital of Macomb: A Bicentennial History of Mount Clemens, Michigan" is issued in honor of the City's bicentennial observance in 2018.

Deborah Larsen, who is assistant director and local history librarian at Mount Clemens Public Library, wrote *Capital of Macomb* for the city's bicentennial planning committee. The book is illustrated with more than 50 images, some never previously published. Copies are \$15 each, and all proceeds from sales of the book will be used to help defray costs of various bicentennial events.

"This book is a perfect souvenir of our bicentennial celebration", said Mount Clemens Mayor Barb Dempsey. "It would also make a lovely gift for family and friends who grew up in Mount Clemens but now live in other places. It reconnects them with home."

Copies of *Capital of Macomb* may be purchased at the Mount Clemens Municipal Building, Mount Clemens Public Library, and the Anton Art Center.

To learn more about the history of City of Mount Clemens and Macomb County, check out the award winning "A Minute of Your Time" videos at [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=mount+clemens+minute](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mount+clemens+minute).

The City of Mount Clemens welcomes you to celebrate its unique history, while witnessing its exciting future. After 200 years, we're still making history.