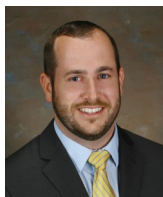


Quarterly News

In this issue...

- From the President's Desk
- ProTec Panel & Truss Expands to Battle Creek
- Ribbon Cut on New Entrance for Air National Guard Base
- Gull Lake Distilling Coming to Downtown
- Made in Battle Creek: Manufacturing Day 2025
- Kalamazoo River Restoration Update
- Happy 30th Anniversary to Maverick Express
- BCU to Visit Japan in September
- Save the Date: BCU Economic Update - Tuesday, November 4
- Paula Young Retires After 37 Years
- Battle Creek Innovation Hub Ribbon Cutting set for October 9
- MEDC Summer Roadshow Comes to Battle Creek
- BCU Announces Changes to its Board
- Battle Creek Food Reimagined Update
- June Company Spotlight: Prairie Farms
- July Company Spotlight: Geislinger Corporation
- Coming Soon: Uproot Market & Eatery
- BCU Out & About



From the President's Desk

By Joe Sobieralski
President & CEO

Despite recent economic headwinds, there has been some encouraging news about Michigan recently. In June, Area Development Magazine honored Michigan with a Silver Shovel Award, recognizing the state's strategy of prioritizing "investments in people, revitalizing places, and securing projects." Then in July, CNBC ranked Michigan #6 in America's Top States for Business 2025, up from 9th in 2024. Michigan also continues to lead in key industries. According to the latest Business Facilities Magazine rankings, Michigan maintained its No.1 position in the automotive sector and rose to the top three for both semiconductor and manufacturing jobs. The state also ranked in the top 10 for life sciences, exports, customized workforce training, and tax policy.

Here in Battle Creek, our economy continues to be strong. At the BCU Board of Directors' recent annual meeting, I reported on the results of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Last year's highlights include:

- 209 new units of housing announced
- \$107.75 million in capital projects announced, including \$58 million for housing projects
- 194 new jobs, including 130 jobs at or above \$21.52/hour

See "President's Desk" on Page 8

ProTec Panel & Truss Expands to Battle Creek

ProTec Panel & Truss Manufacturing, a manufacturer of engineered wood roof trusses, floor trusses, and wall panels, has acquired a building in Battle Creek. The company, based in Bremen, Indiana, purchased a 22-acre facility located at 370 Watkins Road. The property includes several buildings, which have been vacant for more than a decade. ProTec expects to invest upwards of \$3 million in the facility, which will return the dilapidated property to productive use.

ProTec manufactures custom engineered components for residential, agricultural, multi-family, and commercial projects

using the latest design software and manufacturing equipment. This expansion will allow the company to establish a Michigan footprint while also meeting its growing customer demand.

"Battle Creek is the perfect second location for us," said ProTec President Shane Soule. "It positions us closer to the heart of Michigan's growth and gives us better access to legacy manufacturing talent. This move is about more than expanding our reach: it is about delivering greater value, speed, and support to the partners who count on us."

See "ProTec" on page 7

Ribbon Cut on New Entrance for Air National Guard Base

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Friday, July 11 to dedicate the new entrance for the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. The project relocated the main gate from Dickman Road to Skyline Drive in the Fort Custer Industrial Park. The new entrance officially commenced operations on Friday, May 23; construction on the project began in 2023.

The new entrance will improve security and traffic flow. It was built at a cost of \$10 million and includes a gate house, a covered vehicle inspection area, anti-vehicle barriers, and more than 11,000 square yards of new

pavement. It is adjacent to the roundabout recently installed at the intersection of Hill Brady Road and Skyline Drive.

The ceremony was attended by U.S. Senator Gary Peters, Congressman Bill Huizenga, Michigan State Rep. Steve Frisbie, and Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke. Major General Paul Rogers, Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, and Colonel James Rossi, Commander of the 110th Wing, based at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, represented the military.

See "Ribbon" on page 3

Gull Lake Distilling Coming to Downtown

Gull Lake Distilling, based in Galesburg, recently announced that they will expand into downtown Battle Creek. The distiller will take over the space on Michigan Avenue previously occupied by Torti Taco.

Gull Lake Distilling opened in 2020 in a former theater and bowling alley. Owners Lindsay and TJ Koch, who are both teachers in Battle Creek, relocated from the Chicago region several years ago. The couple quietly opened their doors in Galesburg at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We really like the city and really like what the city is putting into bringing in new businesses and building up the craft industry there," said Lindsay.

Gull Lake Distilling is known for small-batch craft spirits, beer, and wine made with local ingredients. The company has become known for its craft cocktails, such as the Honey Rose Old Fashioned, with rosemary, honey, and basil, or The

Gilmore, made with their signature gin, lemon, honey, chamomile, and rosemary.

The Kochs are putting the finishing touches on their new space. They hope to open the Michigan Avenue location in early September, with a grand opening celebration open to the public later in the fall. To learn more, visit www.gldistilling.com or follow them on Facebook.



Kalamazoo River Restoration Update

Work on the Kalamazoo River restoration project continued over the summer. Crews were out on the river collecting sediment samples, which will be sent off for analysis. Our experts are also developing an alternative design which will incorporate the removal of the Monroe Street dam.

BCU staff also participated in a clean up of the Kalamazoo River, in partnership with the City's Department of Public Works and the Calhoun Conservation District. The group spent the day pulling trash and debris from the river.

The City is still accepting responses to its Community River Survey. More than 290 surveys have already been submitted. BCU staff have been speaking to community groups about the river restoration project, including the Battle Creek Chapter of the NAACP, the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, and others.

The survey will remain open until the end of September. Community input is key. To complete the survey, scan the QR code below or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/rma7c26y>



The BCU & DPW crew with some of the trash they removed from their clean-up.

Made in Battle Creek: Manufacturing Day 2025



Manufacturing Day 2025 will be held on October 8-9 at the Kellogg Community College (KCC) Regional Manufacturing Technology Center (RMTc). This year's theme is "Made in Battle Creek." Ninth- and tenth-grade students from across Calhoun County will visit the RMTc to learn about careers in manufacturing. Several companies in the Fort Custer Industrial Park will also host tours to show students what modern manufacturing looks like.

Manufacturers are invited to engage directly with students, teachers, and counselors, to highlight job opportunities, and showcasing their facilities. Companies can host a tour or exhibit at the RMTc. Manufacturing Day plays a vital role in building Battle Creek's future workforce by inspiring young talent and connecting them to local career opportunities in manufacturing.

This annual event is organized by KCC, BCU, Michigan Works! Southwest, and representatives from area schools and local manufacturers. If your company is interested in participating, contact Pauline Rombaugh at rombaughp@kellogg.edu.

Happy 30th Anniversary to Maverick Express

Congratulations to Maverick Express, which recently celebrated their 30th anniversary.

Founded in 1995 by Jim Wood, Maverick is a full-service trucking company offering a range of transportation services. It has a fleet of vans, pickups, trucks, and tractors, and provides service throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

On July 17th, the company hosted an open house at their facility on Hill Brady Road to mark the occasion. Here's to many more years of success!



BCU to Visit Japan in September

In September, BCU will take a delegation to Japan. The group will join the State of Michigan Delegation at the Midwest US-Japan Association Conference in Tokyo. The Michigan Delegation will include Governor Gretchen Whitmer, MEDC CEO Quentin Messer, Jr., and Chief Innovation Officer Ben Marchionna.



Japan is Battle Creek's largest foreign investor. Of the 25 international companies in the Fort Custer Industrial Park, 16 are Japanese. Those companies collectively employ approximately 7,000 people, more than half of the total workforce in the industrial park. BCU will meet with several of the Japanese companies with facilities in Battle Creek to express appreciation for their continued investments and update them on BCU's recent activities. The meetings are also used to discuss

challenges the companies might be having and discuss any opportunities for growth. In-person meetings like this are an important part of Japan's unique business culture.

The group will also participate in a Toyota Suppliers event in Aichi Prefecture, visit the Osaka Expo, and take part in a networking event at JETRO Osaka. Look for photos from the trip in BCU's Fall Newsletter.

Save the Date: BCU Economic Update to be Held on November 4

Planning is underway for BCU's 2025 Economic Update, to be held on Tuesday, November 4. The event will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Battle Creek. Doors will open at 7:00 AM for breakfast and networking, with the program to begin at 7:30 AM.

BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski will report on the progress of the first two years of our 2030 strategic plan and give an update on our ongoing community development efforts. Dr. Paul Isley, Associate Dean and Professor of Economics at Grand Valley State University, will share his insights on the economy. The program will also include a panel of local business leaders who will discuss how they are responding to recent economic challenges

and opportunities. The event will conclude with a presentation from entrepreneur and AI expert Frankie Russo, who will talk about the tools and strategies companies need to utilize AI for growth and innovation.

The event is open to the public. Look for registration information to be announced in September.



Ribbon cont'd from page 1

"This is a testament to the strong partnership of the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base and the incredible Battle Creek community," remarked Col. Rossi. "The new entry control facility behind me in the gate house are designed to meet the stringent requirements of the DOD for physical security and for force protection."

The new entrance brings the facility into compliance with U.S. military standards for access control and force protection.



U.S. Senator Gary Peters (center) cuts the ribbon on the new entrance to the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base with help from Congressman Bill Huizenga (left) and Major General Paul Rogers (right).

Paula Young Retires After 37 Years

At the end of June, BCU bid farewell to Paula Young, who retired after 37 years.

When Paula was hired in 1987, there was just one computer in the office. During her time at BCU, she worked in three different BCU offices and wore many different hats. For several years, she was part of the Downtown Partnership initiative and worked out of Commerce Point on Michigan Avenue. Paula designed many of BCU's brochures and advertisements, and won several awards for her work. She was responsible for the official minutes for the BCU Board of Directors as well as the Battle Creek Tax Increment Finance Authority (BCTIFA).

Outside of the office, Paula was an active volunteer for many years with the Field of Flight, the Optimist's Club Christmas

Parade, and the local Elks Lodge.

We congratulate Paula on her well-deserved retirement and thank her for her years of dedicated service.



Paula Young poses with BCU Board Chair Erick Stewart following the June meeting of the BCU Board of Directors.

Ribbon Cutting for the Battle Creek Innovation Hub set for October 9

On Thursday, October 9, Grand Valley State University (GVSU) will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Battle Creek Innovation Hub, located at 50 Jackson Street. The event is scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM. Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to enjoy a community reception and guided tours of the facility.

The Battle Creek Innovation Hub is a partnership between GVSU, BCU, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The facility, located in the heart of downtown Battle Creek, will expand GVSU's presence in Calhoun County. The university will offer classes in the building to increase access to degrees and certificate programs. The building will also serve as the new home to Battle Creek Food Reimagined

(BCFR) and help grow the local food innovation economy.

For more information, contact Melissa Ellis at 616-331-9095 or by email at melissa.ellis@gvsu.edu. To register, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y76usktt>



Workers recently completed the installation of the GVSU sign atop the Battle Creek Innovation Hub.

BCU Announces Changes to its Board

In August, Joe Michilizzi and Jim Sholl stepped down from their positions on the BCU Board of Directors.

Joe recently retired as the Assistant Business Manager for the United Association Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333. He joined the BCU Board in 2021. He previously served as a member of the BC CAL KAL Board of Directors, the official grantee for FTZ #43. As a BCU Board Member, Joe also served on Development Review Board, which approves all new construction as well as building modifications in the Fort Custer Industrial Park.

Jim joined BCU's Board in 2016. He spent 38 years at Kellogg, retiring in late 2015 as the Vice President for Internal Audit and Compliance. As a member of BCU's Board, he served on the Audit & Finance Committee. He also served as a member of the Direct Investment

Fund (DIF), which supports job creation and company retention within the City of Battle Creek.

Nick Asher from Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 will join BCU's Board of Directors. We appreciate Joe and Jim's years of service and wish them the best in retirement.



Joe Michilizzi (left) and BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski after the August meeting of the BCU Board of Directors.

MEDC Summer Roadshow Comes to Battle Creek

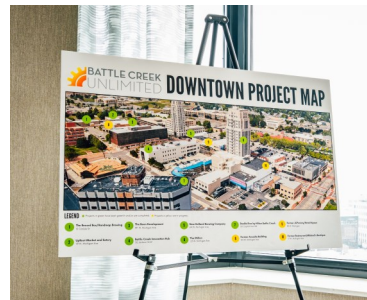
In early August, BCU welcomed representatives from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) as they kicked off their tour of Southwest Michigan. The group was led by MEDC CEO Quentin Messer, Jr. and included members of the Community Development and Marketing & Communications teams.

BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski led a tour of the redeveloped DoubleTree by Hilton, which was generously supported by the MEDC. After seeing the atrium and the ballroom, the group moved to the 16th floor. Joe highlighted several recent projects downtown as well as in the Fort Custer Industrial Park which have received assistance from the State of Michigan. He talked about the role MEDC programs have played in BCU's ongoing efforts to revitalize the Battle Creek community and expressed his appreciation to the MEDC for their support.

From Battle Creek, the group went on to Comstock, then Paw Paw, and finally St. Joseph.



TOP: Joe Sobieralski (right) talks about some of BCU's recent projects and how they have impacted Battle Creek's vibrancy.



CENTER: A map of BCU's projects in downtown Battle Creek.



BELOW: Attendees pose on the 16th floor of the DoubleTree by Hilton.

Battle Creek Food Reimagined Update

The team at Battle Creek Food Reimagined (BCFR) has had a busy summer. On Thursday, June 26, BCFR hosted a workshop titled “Profitability of Your Mobile Food Business.” The program brought together seasoned veterans and aspiring food entrepreneurs. The would-be business owners, including food truck operators, caterers, and other food-related businesses, gained invaluable insights and real-world advice from industry experts, including a presentation by Peter Robertson of RP’s Pasta and Taste Republic. Peter talked about his experience building a gluten-free pasta brand to more than \$15 million in sales, providing both insight and inspiration.

Special thanks to the presenters, including Peter Robertson & Caroline Bowker from the Food Finance Institute; Laura Wood-Romit from the MSU Product Center; Dana Edwards from Sprout BC; Lisa Silkworth from the City of Battle Creek; and Patrick Cleland, the Battle Creek Fire Marshall.

On Thursday, July 24, BCFR held its “What’s Cookin’ in Battle Creek” networking event. The session, hosted by JPG Resources at their office downtown, focused on companies looking to build a packaged food business. JPG Resources Managing Director Jeff Grogg shared his decades of experience scaling national and global food brands. He offered actionable guidance on:

- Identifying the right market fit and communicating product value
- Developing a robust formulation and scaling production effectively
- Building scalable financial models and knowing when to seek investment
- The importance of assembling a trusted support team—from formulation to logistics to branding.

Thanks for our cosponsors for their efforts to make this event a success: JPG Resources, the City of Battle Creek, MSU Product Center, and Sprout. Special thanks to Cafe Rica for providing the food and beverages that fueled the conversation.

In early August, the BCFR team welcomed a delegation from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to Battle Creek. The group toured the Battle Creek Innovation Hub, which is currently under

construction and will be BCFR’s future home. The space will serve as a food business incubator and accelerator, designed to support entrepreneurs and small food businesses. Recognized by the MEDC as both a Small Business Support Hub and a SmartZone, BCFR will anchor the Battle Creek Innovation Hub and fuel inclusive, regional growth in the food & beverage sector. It will provide:

- Accelerator and demonstration kitchen
- A café and event venue
- Coworking spaces and private offices
- Access to industry experts, food consultants, R&D facilities, and customized business support networks

BCFR welcomes The Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship at GVSU to our ecosystem of entrepreneur support organizations under the MEDC’s Small Business Support Hub program. GVSU CEI will bring two key programs to the community: the Michigan Veteran Entrepreneur (MVE) Lab and Momentum by Seidman, a student consulting program for startups and emerging entrepreneurs. Amy Hilton was recently hired as the Program Manager for Entrepreneurship Initiatives in Battle Creek. Amy brings expertise in strategic management, facilitation, and entrepreneurship, with proven experience guiding startups, driving innovation, and fostering growth.

LEFT: Jeff Grogg (left) and the BCFR team at the recent What’s Cookin’ event at JPG Resources.

BELOW: Representatives from GVSU, BCU, BCFR and the MEDC tour the Battle Creek Innovation Hub.



Upcoming BCFR Events

Entrepreneurial Networking: What’s Cookin’ in BC

September 10; In-person program at Café Rica to learn about GVSU and the new Battle Creek Innovation Hub.

Recipe For Success by MI - SBDC

September 30-November 18; A hybrid 8-week program for mobile food businesses and restaurants.

Founders Cohort by JPG Resources

Starts October 22; A 6-month cohort program for emerging food and beverage companies seeking to scale their business.

Navigating Uncertainty by FFI

October 6-16; Four online sessions on how to build a nimble and resilient food business.

Michigan Veteran Entrepreneur Lab

MVE Program for qualified veterans and veteran-connected families interested in starting a business (food or otherwise). In-person program, to be held at the Battle Creek Innovation Hub. Classes starts October 6. <https://tinyurl.com/y9368yw3>

Legal & Risk Management for Food and Farm Businesses by FFI

September 23, 10:00 AM; Online program

For more information on upcoming BCFR programs or to sign up, visit bcfood.org

June Company Spotlight: Prairie Farms Dairy



Prairie Farms is a cooperative owned by over 600 farming families, dedicated to fresh products, sustainability, and animal care since 1938. Their offerings undergo rigorous quality control and are free from antibiotics and artificial growth hormones. Prairie Farms Dairy's Battle Creek facility, situated at 126 Brady Road, is a significant operation within this farmer-owned cooperative, and was established in the Fort Custer Industrial Park in 2003. This plant processes millions of pounds of milk weekly, sourced from 11 local dairy farms, and produces a diverse range of milk products and iced coffee.

In 2018, Prairie Farms invested nearly \$29 million to expand the Battle Creek plant, introducing a cutting-edge ultra-high-temperature (UHT) pasteurization line. This advancement makes it the only Prairie Farms facility capable of producing UHT milk products in plastic bottles. The UHT process enhances the shelf life of milk and cream, enabling wider distribution throughout the U.S. In 2024, the Battle Creek plant earned 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards at the World Dairy Expo Product Contest in the Flavored UHT Milk category, showcasing that investing in efficiency does not mean compromising flavor.



Steve London, General Manager for Prairie Farms Battle Creek

Additionally, the local plant engages with organizations to give back to the community – such as the South Michigan Food Bank and Charitable Union. In collaboration with Milk Means More, the Calhoun County Visitors Bureau, and the Battle Creek Community Foundation, the plant also organizes family-friendly events like milk and cookie giveaways, aimed at bringing the community together and promoting the nutritional benefits of dairy. The plant takes pride in sponsoring the city's yearly "National Cereal Festival," in addition to supplying the milk, to honor the city's history.

The Battle Creek facility plays a crucial role in bolstering local agriculture and supplying high-quality dairy products all over the Midwest.

Learn more about Prairie Farms, their products, and even get recipes at: www.prairiefarms.com.

July Company Spotlight: Geislinger Corporation

With roots in Austria and a global reputation for innovation, Geislinger Corporation has been a proud part of the Battle Creek community since



establishing its North American headquarters here in 2001. A proud family-owned and multigenerational company, Geislinger is a world market leader for innovative powertrain solutions and built to last products for all kinds of high-performance drivelines. The product portfolio includes torsional vibration dampers, torsional elastic, high damping couplings, misalignment couplings, composite shaft lines, torsional vibration monitoring systems and digital solutions. Their innovative solutions are trusted across a wide range of industries, including marine, power generation, rail, construction, wind and renewable energy, industrial applications, mining and motorsports.

Geislinger's Battle Creek operation serves as a critical hub for manufacturing, sales, and service across North and South America. Their solutions are known for durability, and efficiency, supporting their customers in reducing emissions, extending equipment lifespan, and improving operational performance. When servicing their customers, the Geislinger team combines deep engineering expertise with a commitment to quality.

Geislinger also shows commitment to strengthening their community and upskilling our local workforce. Geislinger invests in local talent, working with educational partners to build strong programming in skilled trades, promoting apprenticeships as a lucrative and viable career pathway, and participating in local groups to provide resources to the community and fellow manufacturers. The company actively supports initiatives such as internships, the Goodwill Connects Program, GoingPro, MiSTEM/ MiStairs, and Craftsmen with Character—reinforcing its dedication to creating opportunities and empowering the next generation of skilled workers.

With strong ties to the Fort Custer Industrial Park and the broader business community, Geislinger continues to grow its U.S. footprint while remaining dedicated to the Battle Creek region. For more about Geislinger, visit: www.geislinger.us.



Geislinger Corporation's COO Jason Woodard (left) and CEO Jerry Kleinhenz talk outside the production area.

Coming Soon: Uproot Market & Eatery

The finishing touches are being put on the Uproot Market & Eatery, located in the Anson Building at 119 W Michigan Avenue. The latest addition to downtown Battle Creek is just about ready to open. Construction is done. Equipment has been delivered and installed. Staff are being hired and trained. Recipes are being developed. The only things left are to finish stocking the shelves and get final inspection and licensing.

Uproot is a member-owned food cooperative emphasizing fresh, locally-sourced products. It is the final part of Restore(269)'s effort to redevelop the Anson Building. Built in 1923, it served as a hotel and boarding house. The building had been vacant since 1997. BCU acquired the property from the Calhoun County Landbank in 2017, along with the buildings at 15 Carlyle Street and 64 W Michigan. Restore(269) purchased the property from BCU in 2023 and converted the top two floors to eight apartments. They partnered with Sprout BC to develop the market and café.

While it began as one of Sprout BC's initiatives, Uproot is now an independent organization with its own board of directors.

The project was supported by a \$1.5 million Community Revitalization Program performance-based grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

15 Carlyle Street, another Restore(269) project, is now home to Handmap Brewing, Collab BC, and the Record Box Loft. The building at 64 W Michigan Avenue was redeveloped by New Holland Brewing, which opened in March 2023.

The new space will have groceries and ready-to-eat meals, as well as coffee and fresh juices. Uproot is working with local vendors like Bliss Bakery in Holland, New Eden Microgreens in Battle Creek, Jake's Country Meats in Cassopolis, and Yellow Bird Chocolate in Albion.

To learn more about Uproot's upcoming opening or to join the co-op, visit their website at uprootbc.com or find them on Facebook.



ProTec cont'd from page 1

"We are pleased to welcome ProTec to Battle Creek," said Joe Sobieralski, President & CEO of Battle Creek Unlimited. "This project will return a long-neglected property to productive use and create as many as 50 high-paying new jobs. As a manufacturer of roof & floor trusses and wall panels, ProTec will also help to address Michigan's critical housing shortage. We are grateful to the MEDC for their generous support and look forward to ProTec starting production later this year."

The company expects to create at least 50 new jobs over the next three years, with wages expected to average \$25 per hour plus benefits. ProTec's Battle Creek location will be led by Alex Johnson.

The Michigan Strategic Fund approved a Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant in the amount of \$300,000. BCU worked closely with the company to help them navigate the City of Battle Creek's permitting and zoning requirements. BCU also supported their application for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Abatement (OPRA).

For more information about ProTec including available jobs, visit protecmmfg.com



A ProTec truck delivers roof trusses to a job site.

President's Desk from page 1

- 7 new companies established operations in Battle Creek
- 1 new DIF loan
- 2 placemaking projects

BCU's expanded focus on community development is bearing fruit. Uproot Market & Eatery and Gull Lake Distilling will soon be open downtown. United Federal Credit Union, which opened a branch in The Milton, just celebrated its 1-year anniversary. There are several housing projects currently in development, which could add hundreds more units over the next few years. And construction on the Battle Creek Innovation Hub will soon wrap up. BCU is partnering with Grand Valley State University (GVSU) on this project. They are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony in October to officially unveil the redeveloped facility. All of these help make Battle Creek a more vibrant and attractive place for people to live, which in turn makes the city more attractive for more companies looking to establish a facility.

On the industrial side, congratulations to ProTec Panel & Truss, which chose Battle Creek for their next facility. This project will create dozens of jobs while redeveloping an obsolete property. We greatly appreciate their investment in our community and look forward to watching them grow in Battle Creek. At the Battle Creek Executive Airport, construction on Junkers Aircraft's new manufacturing facility continues on schedule. The exterior of the building is expected to be completed soon, followed by the installation of new manufacturing equipment. Hiring has already begun and the company hopes to begin production by November. I am excited to see the first Junkers plane produced in Battle Creek.

Finally, the BCU team has begun planning for the 2025 Economic Update. It will be held on Tuesday, November 4 at the DoubleTree by Hilton. Look for more details and registration information to be announced soon.

I hope that everyone has a restful Labor Day and enjoys the last few days of summer.

Contact BCU

Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is focused on investment generation and job creation in Battle Creek, Michigan. BCU works closely with community partners to attract new companies to the Battle Creek region while also supporting the growth of existing companies. BCU was established in 1972 to develop the Fort Custer Industrial Park (FCIP), the largest industrial park in Michigan. Today the FCIP is home to nearly 90 companies, including 25 international organizations, which collectively employ more than 13,000 people. The FCIP covers more than 3,000 acres, with over 1,000 acres available for development, and offers convenient access to rail, air cargo, interstate and international trade highways as well as an international port of entry and a Foreign-Trade Zone.

Battle Creek Unlimited

www.bcuunlimited.org

4950 W. Dickman Road, Suite 1

Battle Creek, MI 49037

TEL 269-962-7526

Email comments, questions or suggestions to:

BCUnewsletter@bcuunlimited.org

Follow BCU online:



BCU Out & About



ABOVE: The BCU team attended the Bronson Cancer Care Spring Fling at the Gilmore Car Museum in June.

BELOW: BCU welcomed Japanese Consul General Hajime Kishimori (center) and his colleagues to the Battle Creek Field of Flight on Sunday, July 6. The group enjoyed the Thunderbirds' aerobatic performance, despite the rain.



ABOVE: BCU attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Battle Creek Area Chamber office on Michigan Avenue on Wednesday, July 23.

BELOW: The BCU team enjoyed a back-stage tour of the Binder Park Zoo on Friday, August 15. This was part of BCU's ongoing effort to familiarize staff with local nonprofit organizations and stakeholder groups. Past visits have include Kingdom Builders, New Level Sports, and the Washington Heights United Methodist Church.

