



Quarterly News

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Battle Creek Named a Top Tier 3 Metro by Site Selection Magazine

Once again, Battle Creek has received national recognition. For the second time in three years, Battle Creek was recognized by Site Selection Magazine as one of the top Tier 3 metro regions in the country. Battle Creek was the only Michigan community to make the 2025 list from any tier.

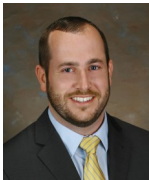
Because of major local investments in jobs, infrastructure, and capital, Battle Creek ranked #6 in total projects and #5 per capita nationwide for our size.

This achievement is a testament to the hard work, resilience, and vision of our local workforce,

businesses, leadership, and community.

Site Selection Magazine is published bimonthly by Conway Data. It is the leading publication in corporate real estate, economic development, facility planning, location analysis, and foreign direct investment attraction. Tier 3 metro regions are those with populations between 50,000 and 200,000. The full list is available here: tinyurl.com/2vv3am8x

We are proud to see Battle Creek once again being showcased on the national stage.



From the President’s Desk

By Joe Sobieralski
President & CEO

Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) held its annual meeting in June and reported on the results of the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Despite a challenging business climate, we made great strides over the past year, especially in our housing efforts. 585 new housing units were announced last year, bringing our 3-year total to 882 units; the goal laid out in BCU’s 2030 Strategic Plan is 1,000 new units. In addition, more than \$177 million in capital investments were announced last year, for a 3-year total of \$455 million; the 2030 goal for capital investments is \$750 million.

These results are indicative of BCU’s shift to more community development, which includes housing as well as increasing

Battle Creek’s vibrancy, especially in the downtown business corridor. It also important that we recognize that large projects like a housing subdivision or an apartment complex are complicated and have many moving parts. Things such as planning, site approval, financing, site due diligence, permitting, construction timelines. A lot of work has already gone into getting these projects to this stage yet even more work remains. It could be a 12-24 months before they break ground and then another year or two before the project is completed. The announcement is the first step in a long journey and the community should understand that these are long-term investments that take time.

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Battle Creek VA Awarded \$14 Million for Facility Upgrades

On Monday, March 30, U.S. Congressman Bill Huizenga announced that the Battle Creek VA Medical Center would receive almost \$14.5 million for modernization and building improvements. This funding is part of the Veterans Health Administration’s (VHA) Non-Recurring Maintenance (NRM) program, which funds nonroutine infrastructure projects to modernize VA facilities and improve patient care. In January, the Trump Administration announced the largest NRM allocation ever at \$4.8 billion.

“I am glad to see these important investments being made to improve infrastructure, safety, and care at the Battle Creek VA,” said Congressman Bill Huizenga. “Our

veterans deserve the best care available and that can’t happen unless we invest and make improvements to the facilities where our veterans receive care.”

“Under President Trump, the VA is putting Veterans first, and this historic investment underscores that fact,” said VA Secretary Doug Collins. “Improved facilities, equipment, and infrastructure mean better care for Veterans, and these funds will enable the VA to achieve that goal.”

BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski remarked, “We are grateful to Rep. Huizenga for his support and advocacy for the Battle Creek VA Medical Center.”

See “VA” on page 6

MICH-AIR @ Xponential in Detroit

In May, the Motor City became the Drone City, as Detroit played host to Xponential 2026. Organized by the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), this annual event is one of the largest conferences for robotics and autonomous systems in the world.

Nearly 10,000 attendees from across the drone, robotics, defense, and autonomous system sectors attended the event at Detroit's Huntington Place. The event was collocated with the Michigan Defense Expo (MDEX). Over 550 companies participated in the exhibition.

This was the first time for the event to be held in Michigan. The state's leadership in mobility, advanced manufacturing, and defense, along with its growing autonomy ecosystem, made Detroit an ideal host city. Michigan sits at the intersection of advanced manufacturing, mobility, and defense, with close proximity to OEMs, suppliers, research institutions, government partners, and end users.

BCU partnered with the Western Michigan University College of Aviation and Duncan Aviation to exhibit at Xponential. Our partners from ResilienX and Radial Vector Consulting were also on hand to speak with visitors and answer technical questions.

It was a busy week filled with great interactions. There was a lot of interest in MICH-AIR and the beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) system under development at the Battle Creek Executive Airport (BTL).

Special thanks to Kyle Jehnzen, Dave Kemp and Jason DeGeorge from WMU's College of Aviation; Trevor Smith from Duncan Aircraft; Brennan Thierry from ResilienX; and Amit Choudri from Radial Vector Consulting.



ABOVE: Kyle Jehnzen (left) and Dave Kemp from WMU in the MICH-AIR booth. BELOW: Kyle Jehnzen (left) with BCU's Robert Corder.



City Selects New Assistant City Manager and Fire Chief

In late March, the City of Battle Creek announced the promotion of two long-time employees to key leadership roles. Marcie Gillette has been promoted to Assistant City Manager while Bush McCarthy has been named as the new Fire Chief. Both have decades of experience, deep institutional knowledge, and strong connections to the Battle Creek community.

City Manager Amanda Zimmerlin said the promotions reflect the City's commitment to investing in experienced employees who have built their careers serving Battle Creek.

"While we always value the perspectives and ideas external candidates bring, moments like this reflect the strength of investing in people who have built their careers serving Battle Creek and are ready to take on greater responsibility," she said.

Gillette has worked for the City since 1998, most recently serving as Community Services Director since 2015. Her career spans multiple areas of city operations, with a focus on collaboration, service delivery, and organizational leadership. She is a member of the International City/County Management Association and is Vice Chair of the Battle Creek Housing Commission. Gillette succeeds Ted Dearing, who retired in April after 30 years of service to the Battle Creek community.

"Marcie Gillette brings deep institutional knowledge, steady leadership and an unwavering commitment to public service to the role of Assistant City Manager," Zimmerlin said. "She has demonstrated sound judgment, professionalism and a strong dedication to our community throughout her career."

See "City Staff" on Page 6

BCU Development Review Board, Site Plan Approval, and Abatements

Is your company located in the Fort Custer Industrial Park? Are you considering an expansion or modification to your building? If so, contacting BCU should be at the top of your to-do list.

All of the properties in the Fort Custer Industrial Park are subject to a Protective Covenant. A separate covenant governs the Battle Creek Executive Airport (BTL). Both the industrial park and the airport are part of the Battle Creek Tax Increment Finance Authority (BCTIFA), which is administered by BCU on behalf of the City of Battle Creek.

Per the covenants, all new construction, as well as any building modifications, must first be approved by the BCU Development Review Board. This includes signage, parking lot improvements, landscaping, fencing, outdoor storage, etc. The review board exists to ensure compliance with the park's protective covenant. It is comprised of five members, including the City Manager, the head of the City's Planning & Zoning department, and three members of the BCU Board of Directors. Once the Review Board approves a project, you can apply to the City for site plan approval and building permits.

Another reason to speak with BCU early on is to determine whether your project qualifies for a property tax abatement. The City of Battle Creek offers a variety of property tax abatement programs to support business expansion, redevelopment, and new investment. Applications are reviewed locally and, if approved, forwarded to the State Tax Commission for final authorization. Abatements include:

- Industrial Facilities Exemption (IFE) for new construction or expansion of qualified industrial facilities

See "Review Board" on Page 8

Duncan Aviation Establishes Endowed Professorship at Western Michigan University's College of Aviation

Duncan Aviation, the world's largest privately owned business jet service provider, has established the J. Robert Duncan Endowed Professorship of Technical Operations, the first endowed professorship in the college's history. The gift, announced on March 25 in conjunction with WMU's Giving Day, reflects the company's enduring commitment to developing the next generation of aviation professionals.

"Duncan Aviation is thrilled to collaborate with Western Michigan University's College of Aviation," said Andy Richards, Chief Operating Officer of Duncan Aviation's Michigan operations.

"WMU's aviation program is recognized internationally for its leadership in aviation education and serves as an essential element in Duncan Aviation's talent pipeline. As the industry expands in scope and complexity, WMU has consistently demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence. We value this exceptional institution as our partner."

The endowed professorship will create a permanent faculty position dedicated to advancing education, research and leadership in aviation technical operations, an area central to the safety, efficiency and innovation of the global aviation industry.

"This is a meaningful investment in our students and our college," said College of Aviation Dean Raymond Thompson. "Duncan understands [that] the strength of this industry depends on how well we prepare the next generation of technical operations professionals. This professorship will strengthen our ability to deliver the kind of education that connects directly to the needs of the field."

Endowed professorships represent a long-term commitment to academic excellence, supporting exceptional faculty whose teaching, research and mentorship shape student success and the future of their fields.

"This endowed position gives us the flexibility to engage highly experienced professionals who can help shape curriculum, mentor students, and keep our

programs aligned with a rapidly evolving operational environment," Dean Thompson said.

The Endowed Professor of Technical Operations will anchor academic and industry leadership in the operational core of aviation. The position will focus on preparing students for the increasingly complex demands of aviation maintenance and technical management, including safety systems, regulatory frameworks, and operational best practices.

To Robert Duncan, Chairman Emeritus of Duncan Aviation, this investment reflects a long-standing belief in the power of people to drive business aviation forward. Throughout his decades of leadership at Duncan Aviation, he emphasized developing talent, fostering growth, and building strong technical expertise, principles that will continue through the professorship that bears his name.

"Despite being a highly technical field, our industry relies on the talent and passion of its people to drive progress," Richards said. Duncan Aviation has partnered with WMU's College of Aviation for many years, supporting students and programs through internships, scholarships, and Experience-Driven Learning opportunities.

In 2008, the company established an aviation maintenance internship program for WMU students, followed by the creation of a maintenance scholarship in 2014. Duncan Aviation also has provided operational support at the Battle Creek Executive Airport (BTL), where the company and WMU share facilities, and has collaborated on immersive experiences such as the WMU Aviation Summer Camp.

The endowment will support development of new academic pathways, including:

- A technical leadership pathway within the aviation technical operations bachelor's degree program.
- An aviation technical leadership certificate program.
- A future graduate program in aviation maintenance leadership.

The aviation industry is undergoing rapid transformation driven by technological advancement, increasing regulatory complexity, and global workforce shortages. At the center of these changes is technical operations, which is the intersection of engineering, maintenance, safety, and innovation.

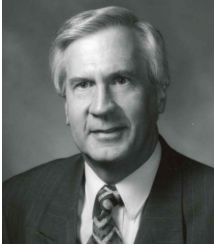
This endowed professorship will position WMU to help address that need by preparing graduates with both technical expertise and leadership capability. It also strengthens the University's ability to collaborate with industry leaders, regulators, and service providers on emerging challenges and opportunities.

WMU's College of Aviation is one of nation's largest and most well-regarded aviation programs. With state-of-the-art facilities, a new fleet, and FAA-approved programs, it offers undergraduate degrees in Flight Science; Aviation Technical Operations; and Aviation Management. The College of Aviation has been recognized as one of the six best flight schools in the world by Study International. It is the only comprehensive aviation program at a public university in Michigan and builds on more than 85 years of aviation education and experience.



Robert and Karen Duncan with the next generation of Duncan Aviation leaders.

Robert (Bob) Harberts, 1943-2026



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of long-time BCU Board member Bob Harberts, who died on March 16.

A native of Grand Rapids, Bob attended Western Michigan University where he earned his teaching degree. He began his career at Battle Creek Central High School before moving to the Calhoun County Vocational Center (now the Calhoun Area Career Center), where he became Principal. He later returned to

Battle Creek Public Schools and served as the Associate Superintendent for Personnel and Administration and later as Superintendent of Schools. Bob was on the BCU Board from 1980 through 1995, and served on the Executive Committee for many years. He was also active with the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce, the Calhoun Economic Development Commission, and the Council for Employment Needs and Training.

Our condolences go to his family and friends.

Intern Maleah Rogers-Fleming Graduates

Congratulations to BCU's intern Maleah Rogers-Fleming, who graduated from Harper Creek High School in May. She also attended the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center. Maleah spent the 2025-2026 school year with us, learning about economic development, nonprofit management, and the role that BCU plays in Battle Creek. A standout student, Maleah was a member the National Honor Society and part of Harper Creek's DECA team. She served as a youth ambassador for New Level Sports Ministries and was a member of the Michigan Afterschool Partnership's Youth Advisory Council. She will attend Davenport University in Grand Rapids, where she earned a full academic scholarship. Maleah will

major in accounting and hopes to pursue a career as a forensic accountant. We wish her continued success as she begins the next chapter in her life.



Changes to the BCU Board of Directors

At BCU's annual meeting in June, the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Kris Bahner, Senior Vice President of Global Corporate Affairs at Kellanova. Kris joined BCU's Board in 2018.

Joining the Board is Jesse Greenberg, Director of U.S. State and Local Public Affairs at Mars Inc. Jesse leads Mars' engagement with state and local governments across the country. His work focuses on issues relating to product packaging sustainability, food

& nutrition, labor issues, and tax policy. Jesse serves on the Board of Trustees for the Village of Deerfield (IL) and is a board member of Latinos Progresando in Chicago. As an undergrad, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and completed his masters degree at Northwestern University.

We greatly appreciate Kris's many years of service to the Battle Creek community and look forward to working with Jesse.

BCU Hosts Manufacturing Economic Roundtable



On Friday, March 20, BCU hosted a Manufacturing Economic Roundtable at the Battle Creek Innovation Hub downtown. The event, organized in partnership with the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research and Michigan Works Southwest, featured a presentation from Upjohn Institute President and CEO Michael Horrigan.

From shifting demand and cost pressures to workforce challenges and the growing role of automation, the discussion brought real data together with real-world experience. It was a great event filled with valuable insights and meaningful dialogue. Thanks to Mike for sharing his time and insights with the group.

To learn about future events, contact Heather Ignash at ignash@bcunlimited.org

MMA Workforce Solutions Summit to be held in Battle Creek on August 27

The Michigan Manufacturing Association (MMA) will host a full day event dedicated to strengthening Michigan's manufacturing workforce. The event is scheduled for Thursday, August 27 at the FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek.

Industry leaders, workforce experts, educators, and community partners from across the state will come together and share real-world insights and innovative approaches to talent attraction, development, and retention.

To learn more or to register, visit: mimfg.org



Battle Creek Food Reimagined Update

2026 Food Prize Highlights

On March 21, the Food Prize organizing committee hosted the 2026 Food Prize Pitch Competition and Open4BizBC Summit, bringing together entrepreneurs from across the region and state. This year's competition featured two tracks—Food Service (regional) and Food Manufacturing (statewide)—highlighting remarkable innovation and talent. This year's winners include:

Food Manufacturing / Production

- \$10K – New Eden Micro Green
- \$7K – 5 Lakes Flavor
- \$3K – Good Innergy

Food Services

- \$10K – Lake Michigan Beach Ice Cream & Eatery
- \$7K – Church Bros BBQ Co. by Raven
- \$3K – Ono Kitchen

People's Choice Award

- \$1K – Sugar Shop
- \$1K – Papa's Brittle

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thanks to our sponsors, judges, and participants for making this event a success. We look forward to what's next for these outstanding entrepreneurs.

VOCES Entrepreneurship Series & Inaugural Pitch

In partnership with VOCES and the MSU Product Center, BCFR launched a four-part Spanish-language entrepreneurship series designed to provide culturally relevant and accessible business education. Three sessions have been completed with strong engagement, covering LLC formation, food business development, and branding and marketing. The final session on revenue diversification will take place soon. For more information: info@voces.org

On May 5, 2026, we also celebrated the inaugural Voces Business Pitch: "Impulsando Voces, Creando Negocios" at the BC Innovation Hub. Congratulations to the winners:

- \$8K – Hexx Design
- \$6K – MP Landscaping
- \$4K – House Cleaning Queen
- \$2K – Miskey Peruvian Cuisines
- \$2K – Eva's Tamales y Más
- \$2K – Gabby Mexican Food and Sweets

Food Safety Education – ServSafe

Through partnerships with the Burma Center, BCFR expanded access to food safety training. A Burmese-language ServSafe program resulted in 18 new certified entrepreneurs, helping reduce language barriers. A community cook-off featuring these participants is planned for this summer. Stay tuned for more info.

Ready 2 Serve also delivered two sessions in March, with additional trainings scheduled for June 16 and June 20. Register at: www.ready2serveconsulting.com

Cohorts & Opportunities

We celebrated several key program milestones across our ecosystem:

- **MVE-Lab (GVSU)** graduated its second cohort at the BC Innovation Hub with a final pitch showcase. Applications are now open for the next cohort (July 15 – September 23, 2026), supporting

veterans and military-connected families (in-person and virtual). Visit www.gvsu.edu/mve for info on their summer cohort, starting in July.

- **Recipe for Success (MI-SBDC)** graduated on March 3, continuing to serve as a launchpad for food entrepreneurs.
- **JPG Founders Cohort (Fall 2025)** concluded on April 24, supporting scaling food and beverage brands statewide.

For upcoming training opportunities: BCFRinfo@BCfood.org

Launch 269 Ribbon Cutting

BCFR proudly celebrated the opening of Launch 269, our new collaborative workspace located on the second floor of the BC Innovation Hub. The space includes private offices, hot desks, meeting rooms, a workshop area, podcast studio, and event space. To learn more, contact BCFRinfo@BCfood.org



ABOVE: The winners of the Voces Business Pitch, held at the Battle Creek Innovation Hub.

BELOW: The ribbon cutting ceremony for Launch 269, the coworking space located at the Battle Innovation Hub, held on May 5.



Congratulations to DENSO's Newest Class of Skilled Apprentices

In April, DENSO Manufacturing Michigan, Inc. (DMMI) celebrated its largest-ever class of skilled trades apprentices. This milestone comes as DENSO celebrates 40 years of manufacturing in Battle Creek.

Eleven apprentices graduated from DMMI's apprenticeship program, marking an important milestone in the company's ongoing commitment to continuous skills development. DMMI operates a U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program, supported by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO). In 2024, DMMI was recognized as a Registered Apprenticeship Champion by LEO.

The four-year program, supported by Michigan Works! Southwest and the State of Michigan, combined classroom instruction with hands-on training under the guidance of experienced skilled trades professionals. As newly credentialed journeymen, graduates are now prepared to take on expanded roles based on specialization as tool and die makers, machine repairmen, or electricians supporting DENSO's manufacturing operations. Their efforts support the company's evolution of its products and manufacturing processes to meet the demands of future mobility. Since the program's inception in 2003, DENSO has graduated 77 apprentices.

"Skilled trades professionals are vital to advanced manufacturing, and the success of this graduating class reflects both their dedication and DENSO's long-term investment in people," said Todd Greer, DMMI Vice President. "Continuous skills

development is essential in our industry, and these graduates will play key roles in helping us develop the mobility solutions of the future – whether that's through smarter production processes, new technologies or safer, more sustainable manufacturing operations."

DENSO's apprenticeship programs are designed to strengthen internal talent pipelines while ensuring the company has the technical expertise needed to support increasingly complex production technologies. At DMMI, apprentices receive structured training that emphasizes not only technical proficiency, but also problem-solving, adaptability and collaboration, skills that are critical as manufacturing continues to progress.

"Advanced manufacturing depends on people who are willing to keep learning and growing," said Brian Boylan, director of skilled trades and maintenance at DMMI. "These graduates have shown that commitment, and we're excited to see how they continue to take our safety, quality and production to the next level."

Based in Kariya, Japan, DENSO one of the top automotive suppliers in the world. It has approximately 158,000 employees working at nearly 180 facilities around the world. In North America, DENSO is headquartered in Southfield, Michigan, and employs 23,000+ team members across nearly 50 sites. DENSO is Battle Creek's largest private employer, with approximately 2,500 associates and more than 1.3 million square feet of space across 120 acres.



City Staff, cont'd from page 2

Fire Chief McCarthy joined the Battle Creek Fire Department in 2008 and was promoted to Battalion Chief in March 2025. He is a Master Sergeant in the Michigan Air National Guard and serves on the American Red Cross Southwest Michigan Board of Directors and the Calhoun County Medical Control Authority board.

"Bush McCarthy's experience in the fire service and long tenure with the City of Battle Creek make him well suited to serve as Fire Chief," Zimmerlin said. "His leadership will support continued progress while keeping the wellbeing of our firefighters and neighbors at the forefront."



VA, cont'd from page 1

"This is a vital community asset, and we appreciate his continued leadership."

The NRM program funds one-time maintenance projects for facilities, equipment, or infrastructure that are not part of routine, recurring maintenance. These projects include major maintenance, replacements, and upgrades needed to maintain operational capability and advance health care delivery. In Battle Creek, the funding will be used to update the HVAC systems, replace several elevators, install new sump pumps, and improve building safety.

The Battle Creek VA Medical Center serves veterans in 21 counties in Southwest Michigan, as well as Northern Indiana and Ohio. The facility celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024. The 200-acre campus is adjacent to the Fort Custer Industrial Park. It provides primary care and specialty health services, including treatment for hearing loss, vision loss, dental care, nutrition counseling, hospice and palliative care, mental health services, laboratory services, and treatment for PTSD. The hospital has 211 total operating beds, including 35 mental health beds, 75 community living center beds, and 101 rehabilitation treatment beds. In 2025, the Battle Creek VA Medical Center had 1,979 employees and served 46,589 veterans.

Summer Time Fun in Battle Creek

The return of warm weather brings a wealth of activities and events to enjoy. Many are free and suitable for all ages, like the Post Band concerts and the Vibe@5 concerts downtown. You can spend the day enjoying the animals at Binder Park Zoo or sitting poolside at Full Blast. Play a round of disc golf at Leila Arboretum or visit Willard Beach to swim in Goguac Lake. Ride your bike and explore the city's Linear Park, with more than 26 miles of paved trails. Sample

the brews at Handmap Brewing and New Holland Brewing. Check out the New Wave music festival in August at Leila Arboretum, or take in a Battle Jacks baseball game at MCCU Field. Watch the fireworks and the drone show at the Field of Flight Air Show & Balloon Festival or head downtown for Backyard Burgers & Brews in August. No matter what your interest is, there is plenty to do in Battle Creek all summer long. Click the events below for more details.

Jun. 10	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jun. 11	Post Band Concert	Festival Market Square
Jun. 12-14	FireKeepers Casino Hotel Championship	Medalist Golf Course
Jun. 13	Cereal City Classic 5K/10K Race	Battle Creek YMCA
Jun. 13	National Cereal Festival	Downtown Battle Creek
Jun. 17	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jun. 18	Post Band Concert	Lakeview Middle School
Jun. 20	Juneteenth and Family Day Celebration	Claude Evans Park
Jun. 20	NexusCon	Kellogg Arena
Jun. 24	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jun. 25	Post Band Concert	Festival Market Square
Jun. 26	Del Shannon Tribute Concert	W.K. Kellogg Auditorium
Jun. 27	City Kids Day	Kellogg Arena
Jun. 27	Cheetah Chase 5K	Binder Park Zoo
Jul. 1-5	Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival	Battle Creek Executive Airport
Jul. 1	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jul. 2	Post Band Concert	Festival Market Square
Jul. 5	Battle Creek Half Marathon & 5K	Territorial Brewing
Jul. 8	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jul. 10	Vibe@5 - Tony Fields & Doug Decker	Friendship Park
Jul. 15	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jul. 17	BC Pride Parade	Downtown Battle Creek
Jul. 17	Vibe@5 - Toppermost Beatles Tribute	Friendship Park
Jul. 17	Friday Night Beats & Bites	Festival Market Square
Jul. 18-19	Battle Creek Garden Tour	Various locations
Jul. 18	Cereal City Triathlon & Duathlon	Willard Beach
Jul. 18	BC Pride Festival	Leila Arboretum
Jul. 18	Corks & Kegs at the Zoo!	Binder Park Zoo
Jul. 22	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jul. 24	Vibe@5 - Denise Davis & The Motor City Sensations	Friendship Park
Jul. 29	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Jul. 31	Vibe@5 - Glad All Over	Friendship Park
Aug. 5	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Aug. 7	Vibe @ 5 - Atomic Annie	Friendship Park
Aug. 8	New Wave Festival: Music, Art & Mystics	Leila Arboretum
Aug. 8	Cruise the Creek 2026	Downtown Battle Creek
Aug. 8	Goguac Lake Swim	Willard Beach
Aug. 12	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Aug. 14	Vibe@5 - JP and The Energy	Friendship Park
Aug. 14	Tour de Zoo	Binder Park Zoo
Aug. 14	Friday Night Beats & Bites	Festival Market Square
Aug. 15	Cereal City Kids Triathlon	Willard Beach
Aug. 19	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Aug. 22	Backyard Burgers & Brews	Festival Market Square
Aug. 26	Battle Creek Community Foundation Block Party	Festival Market Square
Aug. 26	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Sep. 2	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Sep. 9	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Sep. 13	Punk Rock Flea Market	Kellogg Arena
Sep. 13	Denso Denmaru Dash	DENSO Recreation Center
Sep. 16	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Sep. 23	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Sep. 30	Battle Creek Farmers Market	Festival Market Square
Oct. 9	Friday Night Beats & Bites	Festival Market Square

Vibe@5

Bring your lawn chairs downtown to Friendship Park (10 State Street) for the Vibe@5 concerts. Concerts are free of charge and the park is part of the Downtown Social District. Food trucks will be on site. Concerts will be held on Fridays between July 10 – August 14. Performances start at 5 PM. In case of rain, the Vibe@5 will move indoors to Handmap Brewing (15 Carlyle Street).

Battle Creek Farmers Market

The Battle Creek Farmers Market is held every Wednesday through October at Festival Market Square (25 South McCamly Street). The market runs from 9 AM – 1 PM. Enjoy fresh, locally grown foods, food vendors, and live music from local musicians. Be sure to check out the Friday Nite Beats & Bites in July, August, and October. The night market runs from 6-9 PM and will feature live music, food trucks, and artisan vendors.

Post Band Concerts

The Post Band is a summer staple in Battle Creek. The band is made up of area high school students as well as experienced musicians. The Post Band will perform four concerts in 2026, each with a special theme. Concerts are free and begin at 7 PM at Festival Market Square. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will move into the Kellogg Arena.

Truckin' Tuesdays

Truckin' Tuesdays brings a selection of food trucks to McCamly Park (10 North Washington) on select Tuesdays during the summer. Trucks will set up on Gould Street, with picnic-style seating available in the park. Lunch will be served between 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM.



President's Desk, cont'd from page 1

In the Fort Custer Industrial Park, work is wrapping up on the resurfacing of Hill Brady Road. The 2.2 miles between Dickman Road and Skyline Drive were repaved and restriped. This is part of our ongoing effort to ensure that the industrial park is well maintained.

Speaking of the industrial park, visitors may notice some new companies. Motus Integrated Technologies on Logistics Drive is now NexForm Technologies. In March, the company's owner spun out the Battle Creek operation into its own standalone business. In addition, Omega Corporation, the parent company of Omega Castings on Fritz Keiper Blvd, recently launched Omega Tool & Machine, a full-service machine shop located at 320 Clark Road.

Work on MICH-AIR, the advanced air mobility hub being developed at the Battle Creek Executive Airport (BTL), continues to move forward. The MICH-AIR team participated in the Xponential event in Detroit in

May. Staff also traveled to Syracuse, New York to meet with our partners at ResilienX and the Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance (NUAIR). In June, sensors for the beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) system will be installed on top of the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Battle Creek and at the WMU College of Aviation at BTL. Once the hardware is in place, the ResilienX team will work on getting FAA approval for the system. Staff are also actively marketing the facility to advanced air mobility companies.

Finally, Battle Creek recently lost a giant in Dr. Joe Schwarz, who passed away on May 27. Physician, City Commissioner, Mayor, State Senator, U.S. Congressman, Teacher; few others have had the impact on this community that he did. Our Summer newsletter will feature a large piece on the life and legacy of Dr. Schwarz.

Wishing everyone a terrific summer. Be sure to check out our list of seasonal events for summer fun in Battle Creek.

Review Board, cont'd from page 2

- Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Abatement (OPRA) for redeveloping a building which is functionally obsolete or blighted
- Commercial Rehabilitation Abatement for rehabbing a commercial or multi-family residential facility
- Solar Energy Facility Abatement for the installation of solar equipment

Each of these abatements have different requirements and conditions. BCU can help companies understand the options and the approval process. We can also connect you with staff at the City of Battle Creek to address technical questions.

For more information about the BCU Review Board and tax exemptions, contact Robert Corder at corder@bcunlimited.org.

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

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**BCU Out & About**

ABOVE: BCU staff attended Assistant City Manager Ted Dearing's retirement celebration at City Hall on April 30. Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke (left) presented Ted with a certificate of appreciation.

BELOW: In March, Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke (left) and BCU's Robert Corder (right) attended a reception celebrating the birthday of Emperor Naruhito of Japan, hosted by Hajime Kishimori (center), Consul General of Japan in Detroit.



ABOVE: BCU's Urban Planner Kris Martin (left), shown with Julia Perrone from Willard Library, participated in the City's Earth Day & Arbor Day event held at Leila Arboretum on April 18.

BELOW: The BCU team visited the NUAIR Operations Center in Canastota, New York in May. From left: Brennan Thierry, ResilienX; Joe Sobieralski, BCU; Jim Burnham, BCU; Sasha Torman, NUAIR; and Robert Corder, BCU.

