

News

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Three Alexander Macomb Awards given for local history preservation

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The Macomb County Historical Commission honored Patricia Hallman of Shelby Township, Bellview Elementary School (East Detroit Public Schools) in Eastpointe and General Motors Corporation for their work in preserving local history.

“We need to preserve our local history in Macomb County so our children can see the way life used to be for us and those before us. Local history is truly a treasure and these award winners have done their part to help preserve it,” said Philis DeSaele, county commissioner and secretary of the historical commission.

Hallman won the Individual Alexander Macomb Historical Award for her work with several local historical societies and projects. Bellview Elementary School won the first-ever Special 2008 Alexander Macomb Historical Award for creatively including local history in its curriculum. General Motors Corporation won the Organizational Alexander Macomb Historical Award for its overall impact on Macomb County’s history.

General Motors Corporation organized in 1908 and built the GM Tech Center in Warren between 1949 and 1956. GM was honored also for developing worldwide engineering innovations and technological advances since it opened in Macomb County and

– more –

for employing thousands of Macomb County residents. GM continues to lead Macomb County today as a top employer and the company is celebrating its 100th anniversary, dubbed "GMnext."

Bellview Elementary School won for teaching students about local history. The school does a "wax museum" project that requires students to learn about a historical figure, dress up like the person they researched and be able to recite facts about the historical person upon request as if they were a museum display. The school also takes students on a field trip while dressed in period costumes to the historic one-room Halfway Schoolhouse in Eastpointe to experience how students in early America learned. The school also won first place and an honorable mention in a state historical essay contest.

Hallman won for extensive work in local history preservation. She got three properties placed on the Michigan Register of Historic Places: The Qualmann House in Warren, Bunert School in Warren, and the Utica Cemetery in Shelby Township. Hallman has been involved with the Macomb County Historical Society, New Baltimore Historical Society, Roseville Genealogical & Historical Society, Warren Historical Society, Romeo Historical Society, East Detroit Historical Society, Washington Historical Society, the Sterling Heights Genealogical & Historical Society and is a member of the Sterling Heights Historical Commission. She was on the planning committee for Michigan Historic Marker for William Upton House and charter member of the Save the Octagon/Friends of the Octagon House.

Hallman was president of the Utica Heritage Association for several years and authored an article about Ludwig Wesolowski, the first Polish immigrant in Macomb County, which was printed in the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan publication called "Eaglet".

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