

## Macomb County's Economic Growth Predicted to be Better Than U.S.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jacobs cited the impact of Superstorm Sandy and depressed consumer sentiment for a less jolly holiday season, which resulted in less economic growth than expected.

Going forward, the national economy faces several hurdles, including extremely slow growth, lower wages, and Jacobs explained this lack of wage gains coupled with the restoration of some tax rates will result in lower consumer demand. Also, the current political climate tends to produce "mini settlements" rather than solutions and policies that result in a significant boost to the economy and cut down on the nation's long-term debt.

Major trading partners also affect the national economic climate, with Europe entering a period of recession, and the economic boom in China slowing. For the year 2013, Jacobs said the county can expect continued positive income growth. Meanwhile, the national picture is less rosy – a GDP growth of 1.8 to 2.0 percent through most of the year at best, but with inflation remaining low and job growth continuing.

On a positive note, Jacobs said the national housing recovery will help the local economy, as well as the continuing recovery from Sandy. Unfortunately, the recession in Europe and the uncertainty in the Chinese economy will result in a drag on expansion for the national economy, and the lack of wage gains for most workers and the restoration of past higher tax rates is expected to put a damper on consumer demand.

For the county, there are challenges in the months and years ahead as well. Jacobs said the automotive recovery has peaked and there's a need to stress on innovation and expansion of the local economic mix. Healthcare reform will also be crucial, and he recommends a focus on wellness and growth.

Jacobs said auto sales will continue to show growth, but the total impact will depend on gains in domestic market share. Housing is also expected to grow, but with prices remaining much lower. Finally, the Metro Detroit area will see increasing business opportunities, but he expects risk factors and margins to be greater.

Jacobs added there are some "wild cards" to watch out for that can affect this forecast.



Several Detroit Tigers visited the Detroit Arsenal in Warren and posed with soldiers last month as part of the team's winter media tour.

## Detroit Tigers Start 2013 with Annual Winter Caravan

by Jim Stickford

Workers at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren got a treat on Jan. 24 when the 2013 Detroit Tigers Winter Caravan stopped by and visited the Army installation as part of the team's annual community promotion efforts.

Attending the event were Joaquin Benoit, Miguel Cabrera, Phil Coke, Prince Fielder, Bryan Holaday, Torii Hunter, Austin Jackson, Jeff Kobernus, Kyle Lobstein, Max Scherzer and Danny Worth.

The players posed for pictures with soldiers and civilian workers at the Arsenal and then got to operate omnidirectional inspection system robots. These devices are used to go under vehicles. They come equipped with video cameras and are used to look for booby traps.

Terry Tierney, deputy associate director, ground vehicle robotics for TARDEC, said that the devices are very useful to have at checkpoints and were used for security at the recent presidential inauguration.

The players were then taken to an auditorium where they were

introduced by Fox Sports Detroit Tigers announcer Mario Impemba. He asked the players questions that were submitted by members of the audience.

One question was directed at Torii Hunter, who joined the team in the off-season after playing for the Twins for many years.

Hunter said when he was finished with the season and he was watching the Tigers progress in the playoffs, he realized that was a team that wanted to win.

"You can't beat them, you have to join them," Hunter said.

Scherzer was asked what happened last year to make him a better pitcher. He replied that the biggest thing for him was that he was able to be more consistent with his off-speed pitches. Combining his more consistent off-speed with his fastball, he said, led to his success last year.

Major Daniel Ramos submitted the question of what would each player rather do, drive a tank, jump out of an airplane or rappel from a helicopter. Most players picked driving a tank.

Cabrera was asked which pitcher he was most afraid of. He

said it was the batting practice pitcher. But he got serious and said left-hander David Price can be scary because you never know where the ball will go when he throws it.

Another question was what movie best showed what playing baseball was really like. The consensus was "Bull Durham," but Detroit native Sam Raimi's "For the

Love of the Game" also got a vote.

Fielder was asked what impressed him most about hitting after Cabrera. He said that he was impressed by the way hits that appeared to be bloopers over the head of the second baseman would keep going and become home runs.

"That's the most amazing thing to watch," Fielder said.

## Sam's Club Offer Set for Club GM

Club GM is hosting a special Sam's Club sign-up offer on Wednesday, Feb. 6, and Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Tech Center's Vehicle Engineering Center (VEC) in Warren.

Sam's Club representatives will be in the VEC's Club GM store located on the first floor between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. both days.

Those who sign up for a \$40 Advantage plan or a \$35 Business plan will receive a \$10 gift card. Those who sign up for \$100

Business Plus and Advantage Plus plans will get \$25 gift cards.

Current Sam's Club members can also renew their cards as well. Club members enjoy all sorts of savings in health services, wellness services, and pharmacy savings, as well as electronics services and technical assistance.

All sign-ups include two annual membership cards; one for the original buyer and one for a household member over 18.

### GRIMES BARBER SHOP

MON. - FRI. OPEN 7:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY OPEN 7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**\$8.00**

5966 CHICAGO RD. (AT MOUND) • 586-979-4130

### INDEPENDENCE AUTO REPAIR

**Full Service** American Owned & Operated  
★ We Have Tires ★ We do all factory scheduled maintenance!

OPEN: Mon-Fri 7:30 am-6pm Sat. 8am-3pm

**FREE** Shuttle Service within a 10 mile radius  
**FREE** Courtesy Check on any vehicle  
**FREE** Coffee to everyone

**2 Locations:**

28775 Van Dyke • Warren 15075 32 Mile Rd. • Romeo  
12 & Van Dyke Corner of 32 Mile & Powell Rd.  
586-751-4440 586-336-4440

**Trans. Flush** w/ cleaner & additive. Includes 17 qts. transmission fluid. **\$99.99** w/ cleaner & additive. Inclu. 3 gal. of Coolant. In-store offer good through 2-28-13

**Full Service Oil, Lube & Filter Change** w/ Tire Rotation **\$17.99** \$26.99 In-store offer good through 2-28-13

**Front End Alignment** **\$39.99** 4-Wheel Alignment **\$79.99** Camber & Caster Adj. Additional In-store offer good through 2-28-13

**Ceramic Brake Special** **\$99.99** Includes pad installation In-store offer good through 2-28-13

**10% OFF Parts** to All GM Employees w/ Badge In-store offer good through 2-28-13

**ASK YOUR SERVER ABOUT THE BEER OF THE MONTH!**

**Lime Light**  
SPORTS BAR & GRILLE  
Karaoke & DJ

**Good Food, Good People**  
DINING • COCKTAILS • 32 TVs  
**The Best Burger & the Coldest Beer in Town!**  
**PIZZA OR WINGS SPECIAL** *During Game*  
**Buy 1 Get 2nd One 1/2 Off** *Dine-in Only*

**Try Our Every Day Hot Lunch**  
**Specials under \$4.95**

We've got you covered on all Red Wing & Piston Games  
**BUCKET OF BEERS & \$2.50 Boombas**  
**6 FOR \$12.00** till 7pm

**10% OFF** to All GM Employees  
**30200 Van Dyke • Warren**  
**586-751-7883**

**Dunlap Construction** **12 MOS. SAME AS CASH**

**Save on Roofing!**

Siding Windows Gutters Leaf Guard Kitchens/Baths Remodel/Repair **FREE Estimates**

**Licensed and Insured**

UAW/Veteran Discounts

www.dunlapconstruction.net  
**586-792-5926**