

“Facilitating business retention, expansion, and new business growth on Kalamazoo’s Northside”

LaCrone Park Target of Spring Cleanup

The Northside Business Association is gearing up for the annual “Spring Cleanup.” Scheduled for May 19th from 9-1, the project will bring volunteers together to assist with planting of annuals, and general all round sprucing up of the LaCrone park area. Volunteers will get T-shirts and food will be available during the clean-up event. This is a great service project for school kids and service clubs.

As we have indicated in the past, the NBA Board has put its support behind a redevelopment project for LaCrone Park that has been in the planning stages for over 3 years. This year, Teri Thomas and a steering committee made up of numerous community leaders will be taking on the tasks of public awareness, planning and fundraising as they prepare



Terri Thomas, Deacons Conference Director, explains plans for improving La Crone Park

for the construction work to begin in 2008. If fundraising is successful, the Northside Neighborhood will have a great neighborhood park for residents.

If you or your company is interested in volunteering, please contact Amy Remmert at (269) 978-1324 or by email at aremmer@citizenscu.org

NORTHSIDE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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NEW! www.northsidebusiness.org

NBA Officers 2006 – 2007

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Vice President	Suzanne Rhoades-Tidey
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Hammond Machinery Roto-Finish

If you’ve ever driven down Douglas Avenue, you may have seen Hammond Machinery Roto-Finish Company. The original company, started by William E. Hill, began operations in Kalamazoo in 1881 under the name of Hill and Curtis Company and was located at the corner of Eleanor and Park Streets. They manufactured sawmill machinery and soon repositioned themselves to produce printing and polishing machinery, as the logging industry in Michigan declined.



Dick Hewitt, Product Manager at Hammond Roto-Finish

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Spring NBA Membership Meeting

**Kalamazoo City Manager
Ken Collard will brief us
on pressing city issues**

Thursday, April 12, 2007

12:00 noon

Just Good Foods

303 North Rose Street

(Parking available in Arcadia Ramp across
Rose Street)

Lunch Cost \$5

RSVP Sherri Douglas at 381-2977, ext. 3202
e-mail sdouglas@kazoochamber.com
or by fax at 381-3507

Hammond Machinery Roto-Finish

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In 1917 Mr. W.C. Hammond joined the company and by 1926 purchased it and built a new facility at the current Douglas location. The Hill and Curtis name was changed to Hammond Machinery Builders and has been owned and operated by a succession of Hammond family members. The company expanded in 1988 with the purchase of Roto-Finish in Portage, which was relocated to the Douglas site. Today it is owned and operated by Mr. Rob Hammond.

Staying loyal to one of its original products, Hammond Roto-Finish continues to manufacture machines that put the bright finish on metal parts; and robotics that bring a level of efficiency to the process. In years past, a shop worker would hold the metal part and run it over a series of polishing belts. Today, automated machines and vibratory equipment do the buffing and polishing while robotics increase production speed and efficiency, and a consistent product.

American manufacturing has reached its highest level of efficiency ever due to the technology being developed by companies like Hammond Roto-Finish. Hammond produces machines

as small as a bread box or so large they are only limited in size by the trucks that ship them to their destination. And, Hammond engineers continually push the envelope when it comes to technology.

Dick Hewitt, Product Manager, at Hammond says "although Hammond Roto-Finish employs half as many workers as it did 20 years ago, it provides quality and rewarding jobs to over 75 employees while maintaining the same level of production." This international company ships to China, Japan, S. Korea, Poland, Mexico, and North America.

The company is committed to staying in Kalamazoo and was recently able to establish a relationship with the U.S. Mint to produce equipment for coin polishing. This is a big step for this Kalamazoo based company since most of the machinery used by the U.S. Mint was manufactured overseas.



NBA President Amy Remmert

presented a

Pride Award

to Issac Hinkle, President

of

One Way Products

The Northside Business Association makes a practice of recognizing business excellence and property enhancements that contribute to the quality of life and business climate on the Northside.

"When you look good, we all look good!"



Gary Cramer, Kalamazoo Township Supervisor, explained pertinent details of the I-94 Business Loop Gateway Plan at the Winter meeting.