



For Immediate Release

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Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel leads 200-mile Bicentennial Torch Relay *200 runners from all 27 county communities carried torch for more than 40 hours*

To celebrate its bicentennial year, Macomb County hosted a 200-mile torch relay starting on June 21 and ending on June 22, kicking off the Mount Clemens' fireworks celebration. The two-day event saw torchbearers run through all 27 county communities, Lake St. Clair and Stony Creek Metropark, Selfridge Air National Guard Base and Macomb Community College. In all, 200 runners from every county municipality carried the torch.

On Thursday, June 21, County Executive Mark A. Hackel and several community leaders kicked off the relay, lighting the torch at the Macomb County Administration Building.

"This 200 mile non-stop relay, through every community in Macomb County, symbolizes 200 years of continuous progress in our county," said Hackel. "This relay is about connecting our community, and building upon that sense of pride for this place we call home."

Executive Hackel then ran the torch through downtown Mount Clemens and handed it off to the next runner at the Mount Clemens City Hall Building. Over the next 40 hours, the torch and volunteer torchbearers [traveled across](#) Macomb County. Several [distinguished torchbearers](#) also joined in the relay and ran portions of the route. These individuals were nominated to participate by their local communities for their service and commitment to the area.

"It was very exciting to run a leg of the relay and take part in the bicentennial celebration," said John Paul Rea, director of MCPED, a Huron-Clinton Metroparks board member and a distinguished torchbearer in the relay. "This event is a true testament to the people of Macomb County. People coming together to celebrate 200 years of rich history, and looking forward to the next 200 filled with energy and excitement."

The final leg of the relay was again led by Executive Hackel, who was joined by several young people from across Macomb County. The group entered downtown Mount Clemens, running down Cass towards N. Gratiot. They then accessed the riverfront and ended the relay by lighting a special bicentennial sign and kicking-off the Mount Clemens fireworks. Photos from the entire relay can be found on Facebook [here](#).

A special component of the event was the specially-made, [one-of-a-kind torches](#). Created by Macomb Community College students, faculty and staff, the eight torches took eight months to design and build. The final torches were 28 inches tall, 7 ½ inches wide (at its crown) and weighed 2 ½ pounds (without fuel). They featured several special symbols representing the county's history and heritage.

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News

Office of Macomb County Executive
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Macomb County's bicentennial celebration kicked off on January 10 with a birthday party attended by more than 200 government officials, historians and county enthusiasts. Additional items planned for the yearlong campaign include the production of a bicentennial float that will be featured in several local parades and continued updates to the Macomb200.org website, which features historical articles and information. Sponsors of the bicentennial year include:

- Legacy Leader Sponsor: Fiat Chrysler Automobiles
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- Heritage Partner Sponsors: AEW, Comcast, Green For Life Environmental, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Michigan Lottery, Michigan Schools & Government Credit Union, Nickel & Saph, Inc., Plante Moran, St. John Providence/Ascension
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