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# Travelers tout homemade Shelby Township flag

**BY SARAH WOJCIK**

[swojcik@candgnews.com](mailto:swojcik@candgnews.com)

SHELBY TOWNSHIP — On May 17, Supervisor Rick Stathakis presented two former Shelby Township residents who manifested their hometown pride in a unique way with an official Shelby Township flag that had flown over the township's

veterans memorial.

Matthew Abdo, 31, of Ferndale, and Jordan Corsetti, 24, of Sterling Heights, grew up as neighbors in Shelby Township. They created a homemade Shelby Township flag and took it on their various travels.

“Mr. Corsetti and I are both 20-plus-year residents of Shelby,”

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# Flag

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Abdo said. “We both don’t live here anymore, but we wanted to carry a piece of it to places we travel. We’re honored to be recognized for the tremendous hometown pride that we have.”

Abdo said the idea for the flag originally came when a group of approximately 15 close friends from Shelby Township, including Corsetti, wanted to make a flag to stake their claim at a four-day Tennessee music festival called Bonnaroo last summer.

“I went online, found the logo and had it printed up,” Abdo said.

Many groups at Bonnaroo create flags to carry around the festival and fly over their campsites, and Corsetti said Shelby Township was the combined factor that united their group.

“That’s what made the flag even cooler to fly, because everyone was from Shelby Township,” Corsetti said. “That we take pride in Shelby is pretty much what sparked it.”

Abdo said he had hoped to take the flag to Burning Man, a weeklong music festival in Nevada, last year, but someone took the flag and failed to return it in time.

Outside of the U.S., Abdo and Corsetti carried their Shelby Township flag during a trip March 4-12 to the top of a mountain in Colombia known for its stunning views.

“I can promise you, you’re going to get a picture of like 20 of us (with the flag) up on the CN Tower for a big group trip to Toronto,” Abdo said.

He said he and his friends are also planning a trip to either the Far East or Berlin, where the flag will also make an appearance.

“Other people think it’s a little weird, but everyone from Shelby is just like, ‘That’s so awesome!’ and uniquely proud of being from Shelby Township,” Abdo said.

Corsetti said the group enjoys traveling to experience new locations, cultures and how different parts of the world operate.

“It’s nice to know that people appreciate what we’re doing, and we’re happy to keep doing it,” Abdo said. “We have a lot of home-



Photo provided by Matthew Abdo

**Jordan Corsetti, left, and Matthew Abdo, right, hold up a homemade Shelby Township flag on the summit of a mountain in Colombia this past March.**

town pride.”

Stathakis congratulated Abdo and Corsetti’s efforts to market and promote Shelby Township globally.

“These two gentlemen showed the world what makes Shelby Township a better place to

live, learn, play and do business in — the community of neighbors and friends that we have here (who) take personal pride in our township,” he said. “We’re very proud of your efforts.”

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