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# News

Shelby - Utica

# Supervisor delivers State of the Township address

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — During his second annual State of the Township address at the Palazzo Grande July 13, Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis touched on finances, public safety and quality-of-life initiatives.

“I am very happy to say that the state of Shelby Township is strong because of the many people that have worked together as a team,” Stathakis said, referring to the township’s department heads, employees and volunteers.

He said the Board of Trustees’ mission statement has remained

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# Address

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unchanged for the last eight years, which he summarized as, “Meet or exceed the needs or expectations of our residents without raising their taxes.”

In the finance arena, Stathakis said, the general fund recently had its seventh-straight surplus, and all three major funds — general, police and fire — reported surpluses in the latest fiscal year, which hasn’t happened since 2002.

He mentioned the township’s credit rating of AA+ from Standard & Poor’s Rating Service, the second highest on its scale ranging from AAA to D.

“We’re working on a triple A,” he said. “We hope to be there in a couple of years.”

Pension reform to move new members of the Police and Fire departments hired after 2014 to a defined-contribution retirement plan instead of a defined-benefit plan saves the township more than \$800,000 a year, he said.

Since 2009, the township has saved \$1 million by not replacing positions vacated through retirements, he said.

As far as public safety, Stathakis said the township was able to make a \$3.2 million renovation of the Fire Department’s headquarters in 2010 and construct a \$4 million Police Department in 2012 without debt or bonding.

“Fire Station No. 5 will open, hopefully, at the end of the year, but for sure the first quarter of 2017,” he said. “The \$1.9 million station will be built, staffed and equipped with no tax increase or hit on the operational budget.”

In order to achieve a better quality of life, Stathakis said, the township’s Community Center Advisory Board actively is seeking solutions to the overcrowded building at 23 Mile Road and Van Dyke Avenue that currently houses the court, library, senior center and Shelby TV.

“We don’t need to (build a brand new center), especially with all the vacancies we have here in Shelby Township,” he said. “We’ll figure it out. I hope it gets done in the next several months.”

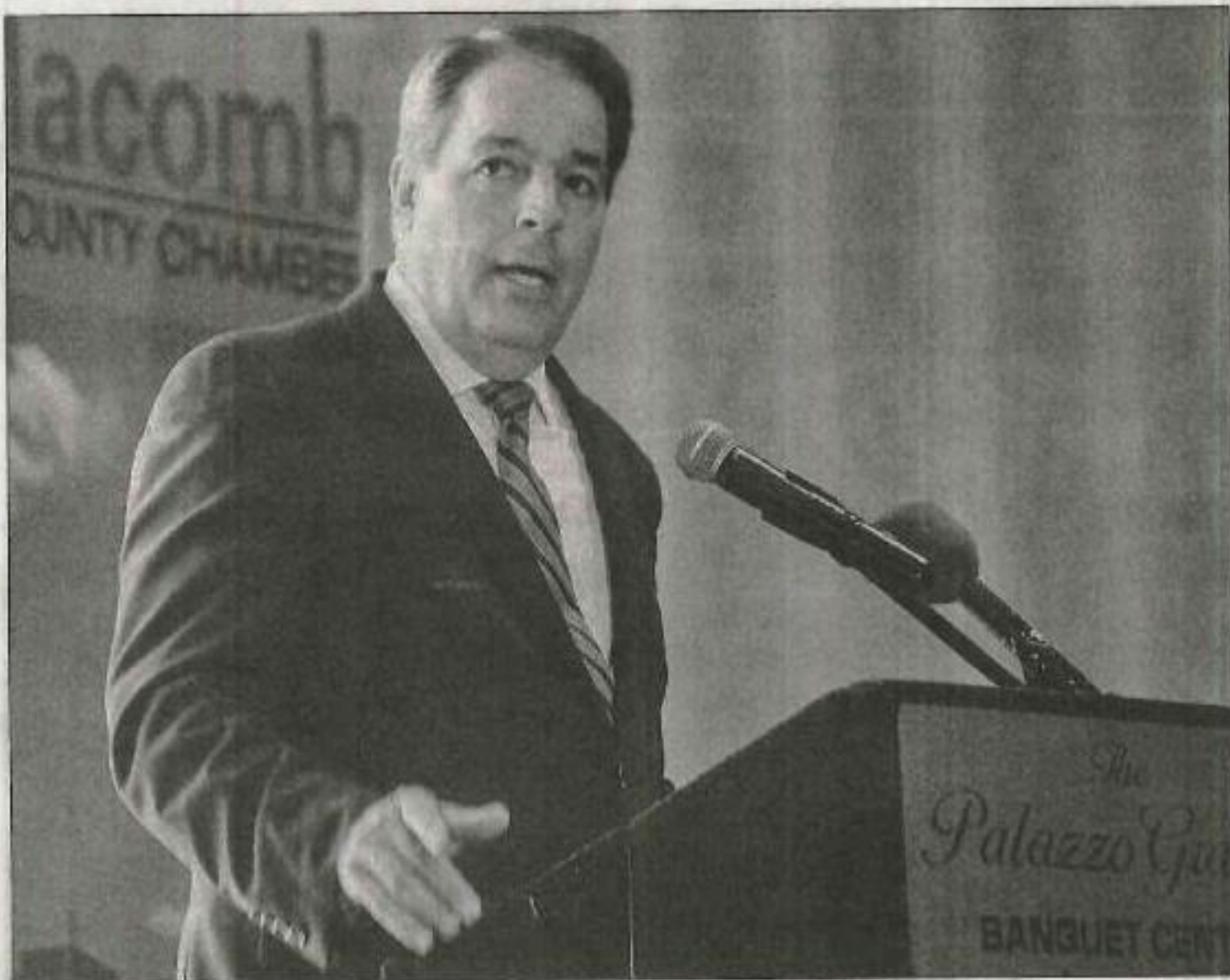


Photo by Patricia O’Blenes

**Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis delivers his second annual State of the Township address at the Palazzo Grande July 13.**

Stathakis also lauded the \$40 million invested in the township’s roads by the federal, state, county and township governments in the past eight years; the completion of the \$1 million Gene Shepherd Park at 23 Mile and Dequindre roads; and the miles of bike trails laid throughout Shelby Township with the help of state and federal grants.

Macomb County Deputy Executive Pam Lavers praised the

teamwork that led to Shelby Township’s status as a “thriving, vibrant community.”

“More than 3,000 businesses employ more than 30,000 workers,” Lavers said. “There were 78,287 residents in the last census — an increase of more than 4,400 since 2010’s official census, and over 1,800 new housing permits since 2010.”

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.

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