



# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council  
Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades unions

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## SHORT CUTS



### Kellogg Co. strike enters month No. 2

A strike against Kellogg Co. entered its second month in November, with picket lines and product boycotts still not swaying the Battle Creek-based cereal giant into an agreement.

The Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) called for the strike after it said the "the company's last, best and final offer does not achieve what our members are asking for; a predictable pathway to fully vested, fully benefited employment for all employees with no concessions."

On strike are 1,400 BCTGM members in Battle Creek, Omaha, Lancaster, Pa., and Memphis, Tenn. The company restarted production at all four cereal plants with salaried employees and replacement workers.

"Kellogg's continues to insist on takeaways," a statement from the union said. "The company came to the table insisting that there will only be an agreement if the union accepts the company proposal exactly as it has been written. The company's proposal was filled with conditions and terms as to what was acceptable to Kellogg's. These terms and conditions are unacceptable to our members."

### John Deere workers reject second pact

Another high-profile strike action ongoing in the U.S. is at farm equipment manufacturer John Deere, where 10,100 United Auto Workers who toil at 12 plants have voted down a second tentative six-year contract.

The second tentative pact, reached Oct. 28, called for a raise of 10 percent in its first year, 3 percent lump sums in the second, fourth and sixth years, 5 percent raises in the third and fifth years and an \$8,500 ratification bonus, UAW Local 281 reported. And there would be no changes in their health insurance costs.

This proposed contract lost 45 percent - 55 percent. The workers rejected the farm implement maker's first try, by a 90-10 percent margin.

"The strike against John Deere and Company will continue as we discuss next steps with the company. Pickets will continue and any updates will be provided through the local union," the union's brief statement said.

John Deere has the money. The AP reported it expects to net \$5.7 billion this year, almost triple the \$2 billion it netted in 2020. It also now refuses to return to bargaining.

The Deere workers thus joined other striking U.S. workers from. Per Bloomberg and Cornell University, there have been 178 strikes so far in the U.S. this year. The Bureau of Labor Statistics said in 2020 there were eight major work stoppages, the third-lowest number since 1947.

### Quotable

"The more we express thanks, the more gratitude we feel. The more gratitude we feel, the more we express thanks. It's circular, and it leads to a happier life."  
—Steve Goodier (1962-)



UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON what was largely green space at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor is the foundation work for the new 12-story hospital that will house The Pavilion at University of Michigan Health. At the center, ongoing caisson installation will anchor the building.

## Earth starts to move for erecting new U-M hospital

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

ANN ARBOR – This month, only the cranes and heavy equipment are poking above ground level at the new Clinical Inpatient Tower project in the University of Michigan's Medical Center.

But in the coming months,

the ongoing earth work and foundation construction will support a \$920 million, 12-story hospital that will house The Pavilion at University of Michigan Health, which will include 264 private rooms capable of converting to intensive care, a neurological and neurosurgical center, high-level specialty care services for cardio-

vascular and thoracic patients, along with advanced imaging.

Barton Malow is managing the 690,000 square-foot project, which is still largely subterranean at East Ann Street and Zina Pitcher Place. The new hospital will provide more access to care for adult patients

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TALKING TO THE SITE'S tower crane operator, rodbuster Brandon Krel directs the movement of a bundle of reinforcing rod. The newly graduated journeyman Iron Workers Local 25 member is working for City ReSteel at the University of Michigan's Clinical Inpatient Tower hospital project in Ann Arbor.

## OSHA has new vaccine rules for large employers

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration set a new vaccine standard, and deadlines to meet it, that apply to companies with an employee workforce greater than 100.

That is, until the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals issued a stay on Nov. 12, blocking its

implementation temporarily. Next stop for the matter: after a "lottery" determines which U.S. circuit court will hear merits to the challenge, that court will rule. Ultimately the U.S. Supreme Court will likely hear (or not hear) the case.

Here's what's in the now-paused OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard, which became effective when it was published on Nov. 5, and applies to all work-

places under its jurisdiction, including construction. The new standard does not apply to workers who are fully vaccinated, or who work at companies that employ fewer than 100 across all locations. But for non-vaxed workers employed at a company with 100-plus employees, there are some things you may need to know.

If the new OSHA standard

does survive the court challenges, an analysis by North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) said the OSHA standard calls for employers with more than 100 employees to develop, implement and enforce either:

- A mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy, or
- A policy allowing employees to choose whether to be fully

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building trades stand to see thousands of new jobs as a result.

"Victories like this are why we campaigned so hard for President Biden," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "Finally, at long last, infrastructure week is really here." Shuler called the legislation "a monumental political and legislative accomplishment. After decades of delay and decline, America's workers stand ready to rebuild our country."

The infrastructure bill passed the U.S. House on Nov. 5 by 228-206 margin, with support from 13 Republicans including Michigan's Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph), and "no" votes from six Democrats. Upton called it "commonsense legislation that will support critical infrastructure projects in Michigan without raising taxes or increasing the debt."

According to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will send billions of dollars to Michigan. Including:

- \$7.3 billion to fix roads and \$563 million for bridge replacement or repairs.
- \$1 billion to improve public transportation across the state.
- \$1.3 billion to improve water infrastructure, including lead service line replacement.
- \$100 million to expand high-speed internet access to an additional 398,000 Michiganders.

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## Thanks to all the helping hands...

### Goyette, trades help turn the Heat's On, safely

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

BURTON – Just in time for fall furnaces to kick on, volunteer staff from Goyette Mechanical and a helpful crew of plumbers/pipe fitters, sheet metal workers and electricians joined forces to provide safer homes for dozens of residents.

About 80 volunteers from Goyette, including building trades workers and company staff working as organizers, dispatchers and drivers, spent about half their Saturday on Oct. 23 inspecting furnaces and water heaters, and installing new smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors as

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GATHERING BEFORE the Heat's On event in Burton are (l-r) UA Local 370 volunteers Gary Brown and Steve Mahalick, Goyette dispatcher Mike Coppigli, Gavin Greenway (Local 370), and Chuck VanEennoo (UA Local 636).  
Photo credit: Goyette

### Union workers wrap up food packaging effort at UA Local 85

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

SAGINAW – Many union hands might light work during a food packaging event held Oct. 21 at Plumbers, Steamfitters & HVACR Service Technicians Local 85's union hall.

A remarkable 50,000 meals were packaged in two hours by the glove-encased hands of scores of unions workers from a host of locals, including several from the building trades. The event was sponsored by the United Way of Saginaw County.

"We are fortunate to be able to offer Local 85's new administrative building as this year's packing location, and it's a great honor and a great pleasure for us to be involved," said host Local 85 Business Manager Justin Pomerville, who thanked the United Way "for putting this amazing

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VOLUNTEERS PACKAGE food at the Saginaw Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 85 hall. The Oct. 21 event saw 50,000 meals packaged for local food pantries. Photo credit: United Way of Bay County



# BUILDING MICHIGAN: Zug Island HISTORY IN THE MAKING By Marty Mulcahy



ZUG ISLAND in the Detroit River will never, ever, be the focus of a Pure Michigan commercial – it may be the most heavily industrialized acreage in the state. The area became an island when a canal was made to connect the Rouge River, partially seen at left, to the Detroit River in 1888. The canal was widened in the 1920s, as larger vessels needed access to Ford’s River Rouge plant. *Photo credit: Center for Land Use Interpretation*

It’s difficult to imagine today, but 120 years ago, Zug Island was a swamp. And it wasn’t an island. And it wasn’t what would become one of the most heavily industrialized pieces of land in Michigan, and the nation.

Located on Detroit’s southern border where the Rouge River and Detroit River meet, 334-acre Zug Island was originally a part of the village of Delray. Today it’s within the border of the City of River Rouge. It was purchased by furniture mogul Samuel Zug in 1859, who wanted to build a luxurious home on the Detroit River.

“The swampy land proved unsuitable for a home,” says an account by the Detroit Historical Society, “and in 1888 Zug allowed the River Rouge Improvement Co. to dig a canal through the land, transforming it into an island. Zug sold the island in 1891 to George Brady and Charles Noble (for the then-enormous sum of \$300,000), who may have originally intended for the island to be used as an industrial dumping ground.”

That dumping ground may or may not have happened in that era, but the island’s land and air has certainly been contaminated over the years by all manner of indignities wrought by the building and operation of generations of coke ovens, foundries and steelmaking plants. But jobs on



ZUG ISLAND blast furnaces in the 1980s. *Photo credit: National Steel Corp.*

the island have also provided a middle-class living for thousands of workers at the plant, as well as employment for the construction trades.

The Detroit Iron Works started the process of industrializing Zug Island by building a blast furnace on the site in 1902. The works was purchased by the M.A. Hanna Co. in 1904, which built a second blast furnace in 1909. They were reportedly the largest of their kind in the world, producing pig iron.

According to *The Men and Mills of Great Lakes Steel*, a company pamphlet published in 1948, the success of a rolled steel plant, completed near Zug Island in 1923 by the Michigan Steel Corp., was an eye-opener

for steel manufacturers. After all, the nearby automotive industry was already using an enormous amount of steel products.

“It then became evident that there was a definite opportunity for a completely integrated steel mill in this area—one that would conduct every process of steel making from iron ore to a wide range of finished products,” the Great Lakes Steel pamphlet said. “For this big step a charter was secured for Great Lakes Steel Corp. in February 1929, and additional funds were raised for this major project.

“The important, immediate problem was a suitable location. It had to be in this district and afford sufficient space, it had to have access to an abundant water supply for plant operation; and



IN THIS NOVEMBER 1992 photo, one of the largest jobs ever for Detroit-area bricklayers was wrapping up—construction of a \$320 million, 85-oven coke battery on Zug Island. This photo shows Chad Hopson grouting brick, while Bruce Gergel pours water on the brick to cool it, since the ovens below had already been fired. Thousands of brick were laid as part of the construction of the massive oven, now operated by DTE Energy. *Tradesman file photo*

for transportation advantages, it was highly desirable that it be at water’s edge. The search finally narrowed down to one location that had everything—everything, that is, but solid ground on which to support the enormous mass and weight of steel plants. This location was a swamp.”

The Zug Island site, laughably, was surveyed by a rowboat. But Great Lakes Steel, which had become a division of National Steel, really wanted to the land: some 100,000 piles were driven down 75 feet to bedrock to establish the foundations. The floor level was established 15 feet above sea, err, swamp level.

The first facilities constructed for Great Lakes Steel were six open hearth furnaces, four soaking pits, a blooming mill, a bar mill, a 34-inch hot strip mill, and a 10- and 14-inch merchant mill with auxiliary equipment. Production started on Aug. 21, 1930.

Late in 1931 the Great Lakes Steel Division of National Steel assumed operations of both of the still-operating Hanna Furnace Corp. blast furnaces on Zug Island. In 1938, a third blast furnace was added and the existing installations were rebuilt and enlarged.

Then Great Lakes Steel got busy. In the 1930s, despite the ongoing Great Depression, the

blast furnace operations were supplemented with a battery of 130 coke ovens, a by-product plant, coal-handling facilities with storage, and construction of docks for iron ore, stone and coal. Construction of a slag plant, which produces concrete aggregate for road building, helped solve the enormous problems of disposing of the slag from their blast furnaces.

A 96-inch hot strip mill was erected, as was a 93-inch cold mill that began operations in 1936. More open hearths were added to make a total of 16 blast furnaces at the plant.

After it was converted to building wartime materiel during World War II, the plant quickly converted back to peacetime use. The size of the site’s cold mill was doubled. Two Bessemer Converters were added to refine pig iron.

Through the mid-1960s, National Steel had never failed to show a profit since the company’s inception. It had several plants in the U.S., but relied on the Detroit facility’s close automotive supply chain to generate 40 percent of the company’s total sales. But as it was with the domestic automotive industry, imported products eventually ate into profits and, and National Steel went bankrupt in 1983, and was bought up

by U.S. Steel the next year.

Access to Zug Island is highly restricted. Tradespeople we have talked to who have worked on the island have used the terms “awful,” “nasty” and “horrible” to describe their impressions of the place. Island neighbors living in the 48217 zip code have long complained about foul air and unknown particulate falling on their parked cars, as well as the smell. People in Windsor for years complained about a hum that was suspected to come from Zug Island, a noise which stopped since the idling of steelmaking at the plant.

In December 2019, U.S. Steel announced that it would “indefinitely idle” a significant portion of its Great Lakes Works operation. Steelmaking and the hot strip mill had already shut down.

The company said it expected to continue operating the following areas at Great Lakes Works “in line with customer demand”: the pickle line, cold mill, sheet temper mill, continuous galvanizing line, annealing, and warehouses. DTE Energy owns the still-operating EES Coke, a coke battery on the island.

Still, some 1,500 Steelworkers union members who worked on the island received their notices. At peak in the late 1940s, more than 16,000 worked on Zug Island. Today there are about 500.

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## Outdoors

# The best deer hunting practices



Hunters can expect excellent conditions for the 2021 firearm deer season, which began Monday, Nov. 15. As Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers gear up for the season, they share best practices and tips to avoid the most common violations and mistakes they see every year.

"Most of the violations that conservation officers encounter during firearm deer season are simple mistakes people make when they get caught up in the excitement of the hunt or forget to put safety first," said F/Lt. Jason Wicklund, DNR Law Enforcement Division. "We want people to be safe, so they have a good story to tell friends and family about their successful hunt."

Here's a list of 10 best practices to help hunters avoid common mistakes and violations during firearm season – most of which easily can be avoided with a little research and planning.

**#1 – Properly tag your deer.** Conservation officers often see the wrong kill tag on game – such as fish or turkey licenses on deer. Often, this is a simple mistake made in the dark and can be corrected by re-tagging the deer as soon as you notice the error.

**Solution:** Before field-dressing or moving the deer, kill tags should be filled out (including the month and date the deer was taken and the deer's gender and number of antler points) and properly placed on the deer.

**#2 – Know your firearm and how it functions.** Semi-automatic, lever, bolt and pump-action firearms are common choices among hunters, but each firearm functions differently.

**Solution:** Take the time to familiarize yourself with your firearm and make sure it is properly sighted and functioning before you go hunting. Being able to safely handle your firearm is an important part of being a responsible hunter.

**#3 – Know your target and what's beyond it.** Each year conservation officers investigate property damage caused by firearms. Rifle rounds travel long dis-



MICHIGAN CONSERVATION Officer Jenni Hanson checks a deer for proper tagging at a camp in Iron County during the 2019 season. MDNR photos

tances – hunters are responsible for where the bullets end up.

**Solution:** Know the area you'll be hunting, including nearby buildings and properties. No one may hunt with a firearm within 450 feet of an occupied structure (including buildings, dwellings, homes, residences, cabins, barns or structures used for farm operations) unless they have permission from the landowner.

**#4 – Respect landowner rights.** If a deer runs onto private property, the hunter cannot retrieve it without the landowner's permission. Conservation officers usually are contacted when trespass disagreements escalate and a resolution cannot be reached.

**Solution:** Always respect posted trespassing signs. If you'll be hunting near someone else's property, contact the landowner ahead of time; don't wait until you're tracking game. Most of the time, a friendly call or visit to your neighbor will remedy the situation.

**#5 – Share public land.** State-managed land is a popular place to hunt. Confrontations over hunting spots, or the illegal post-

ing (trespassing or hunting signs) of state-managed public land, do occur. Conservation officers, who are often asked to help resolve disputes, say the main reason for these situations is usually last-minute hunters who randomly pick a spot.

**Solution:** Hunters should re-

search and scout the land they plan to hunt well before the hunt. Brush, constructed blinds and tree stands on public land are just that – public. Regardless of who constructed, purchased or tends to these blinds, when they're on state-managed public land, they are available on a first-come, first-



HARVEST YOUR BUCK responsibly this firearm deer season.

served basis. Public land cannot be posted or reserved.

Tree stands used on public land must be portable and have the hunter's name, address and Michigan driver's license number or DNR sportcard number affixed in legible English that can easily be read from the ground. Hunting platforms cannot be affixed or attached to any tree by nails, screws or bolts.

Refer to the 2021 Hunting Digest (Google: "Michigan Hunting Digest") for more information about hunting from tree stands on public property.

**#6 – Leave the land better than you found it.** Leaving propane bottles, hand-warmer wrappers, food wrappers, bottles and other trash causes problems for animals and people.

**Solution:** Practice the "leave no trace" ethic and don't litter. Whatever is brought into the woods should be taken back out. It is the responsibility of all hunters to be good environmental stewards and clean up after themselves.

**#7 – Wear hunter orange.** Some hunters remove their orange clothing once they get into deer stands or blinds. In the excitement of getting a deer, hunters may forget to put their orange clothing back on.

**Solution:** Hunters are required by law to wear hunter orange as the outermost layer of clothing at all times. Hunter orange garments, including camouflage, must be at least 50 percent hunter orange and be visible from all directions. Clothing options include a cap, hat, vest, jacket or raincoat. The DNR recommends wearing as much hunter orange as possible to increase visibility to other hunters.

**#8 – Know and follow baiting regulations.** Conservation officers stay busy responding to calls about illegal baiting in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and portions of the Upper Peninsula.

**Solution:** Know the law. Baiting and feeding are banned in the entire Lower Peninsula and in the core chronic wasting disease surveillance area in the Upper Peninsula (portions of Delta, Dickinson and Menominee counties) – except for hunters with disabilities who meet specific requirements.

In approved Upper Peninsula baiting areas, two gallons of bait can be spread in an area that measures 10 feet by 10 feet. On com-

mercial forest land, bait must be brought in each night, unless the landowner has given permission. Use bait sparingly to help curb the spread of deer diseases like bovine tuberculosis and chronic wasting disease.

**#9 – Hunt in-season, during legal hours.** One of the most common complaints to the DNR's Report All Poaching Hotline is about shots fired after dark. Often, these complaints are reported days later.

**Solution:** Make sure your hunt is within legal hours. A hunter legally may shoot game 30 minutes before sunrise or until 30 minutes after sunset. Anyone who witnesses or suspects hunting outside of legal hours should immediately call or text the DNR's Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800. Fast reporting makes it more likely that a conservation officer will identify the suspect.

**#10 – Be respectful to other hunters.** Conservation officers investigate acts of hunter harassment – which is when a person or organization intentionally sabotages another hunter's quality opportunity to take game. Examples include spraying repellent around a hunter's blind, creating loud noises and/or barriers that prevent or deter a hunter or game from accessing an area, or destroying other hunters' equipment such as trail cameras and blinds.

**Solution:** Respect the law. Michigan law prohibits anyone obstructing or interfering with the lawful taking of animals. Hunter harassment is a misdemeanor offense.

Anyone who feels targeted by hunter harassment or who witnesses a natural resource violation should immediately call or text the Report All Poaching Hotline line at 800-292-7800. Information can be left anonymously; monetary rewards may be offered for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of violators.

Michigan conservation officers are fully commissioned law enforcement officers who provide natural resources protection, ensure recreational safety and protect residents through general law enforcement and conducting life-saving operations in the communities they serve. Learn more at [michigan.gov/ConservationOfficers](https://www.michigan.gov/ConservationOfficers).

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