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Work begins on McDonald's in Clinton Township

MCDONALD'S: Construction under way

Work begins on McDonald's in Clinton Township

Officials excited about new projects that include hotel, fast-food outlet

By Mitch Hotts

Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Construction of a new McDonald's restaurant on Gratiot Avenue in Clinton Township may serve as the impetus for additional development, according to township and real estate officials.

McDonald's is going to spend

about \$2 million for the new eatery north of Metropolitan Parkway on the site of the former Parkway Chrysler Jeep dealership. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday morning.

"We're very excited because this facility is the new McDonald's prototype that includes dual drivethrough lanes," said Kathy Setter, who along with her husband, Kevin, is the franchisee of the facil-

The 3,800-square-foot restaurant is a little larger than the current facility located down the street. Opening is scheduled for early June.

The location was initially planned for a new Atlas Oil gas station with a smaller McDonald's on the property, but the gas company pulled out about two years ago and the property sat vacant.

"That corner was just looking ugly and blighted," said William Sowerby, the township treasurer. "This new McDonald's can add some life to the Downtown Development Authority area and offer some renewed hope for develop-

Joe Sowerby - brother of William Sowerby - is the broker who

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Macomb Daily staff photo by David N. Posavetz

Members of the Clinton Township DDA board and McDonald's officials attend a groundbreaking ceremony for a new \$2 million McDonald's on Gratiot near Metropolitan Parkway. The restaurant is expected to open in early June.

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hammered out the details for the project, which he called the

'linchpin" of the Gratiot strip. "McDonald's will take up 1.7 acres of the 8-acre site so we expect the opening will send a positive ripple effect on the proper-

The existing McDonald's will remain open until the new one is up and running and then will be demolished. The owners of the

Farmers Market just west of the restaurant are working to acquire the land.

Greg Sassin of the Farmers Market said tentative plans call for an expansion of the market's outdoor operations and parking

McDonald's last month demolished its restaurant on Groesbeck Highway near Cass Avenue in Mount Clemens to build a new fast food eatery. The replacement will have a similar construction design as the Clinton Township store.

Meanwhile, Clinton Township officials are also looking forward to the opening of a new \$5 million, three-story Hampton Inn on Gratiot near 14 Mile Road that will contain 93 rooms. It is expected to open in early April.

"We look at this additional building activity and hope it will generate interest in our Gratiot strip," said Clinton Township Planning Director Carlo Santia.