

Celebrating the

2012

COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

AWARD Finalists



the review

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The excitement of being the 2012 Region 2 MML Community Excellence Award winner has added vigor to Baroda's effort to change from the tool & die capital of Southwest Michigan to a tourist destination, according to Village President Bob Getz.

"Where we once had eight tool & die shops employing over 220 people, we now have three employing 61 people. With the help of businesses like Round Barn Brewery, we are repurposing manufacturing buildings to promote our agri-tourism future," said Getz.

The village's next adventure is in placemaking—redeveloping a vacant former elementary school site into a mixed-use project, creating a visitor end designation walkable to our downtown businesses.



Baroda

"It's quite an incentive package for the right developer, one that expands Baroda's 'Heart of Wine Country' hospitality for residents and visitors alike."

Furthermore, noted Getz, "We know Phase II Reinventing Downtown Baroda will be challenging, but being recognized as an MML Community of Excellence has bolstered our confidence and proven even a small village of under 900 people can reinvent itself and create a positive future



With the help of Andrews University architecture students, we prepared a one-square block redevelopment plan showing housing, a bed & breakfast inn, and a restaurant surrounded by public gathering space; it's ready for planning commission preliminary PUD approval.

The village council is ready to grant a Commercial Renovation Tax Abatement for the bed & breakfast and restaurant.

