



## 'Community for Victory' exhibit in U-M library examines Ann Arbor during World War II

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University of Michigan students have used historical pictures and maps in a library exhibit to chronicle Ann Arbor's experience as a "Community for Victory" during World War II.

The display, a **joint project between the Clark Library in the Hatcher Graduate Library and the Ann Arbor District Library**, highlights both individual stories and the overall growth that Ann Arbor experienced between 1941 and 1945.

Co-curator Grace Rother, a U-M undergraduate student, grew up in Ann Arbor and said she was inspired to look into the time period in part by looking at old Ann Arbor News photos available on the district library's website.

"We knew we wanted to do an exhibit featuring Ann Arbor for the summer," Rother said.

"The students leave and we like to do something that appeals more to the town. We have more townies and fewer students over the summer. We thought this was a great way to showcase our Ann Arbor maps collection and a bit of the city's history."

The Ann Arbor News has been chronicling the lives of World War II veterans throughout the summer as part of **MLive's Michigan Honors project**. We are **holding an open house at The Ann Arbor News offices**, 111 N. Ashley St., Sunday from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for World War II veterans and their families.

The exhibit on Michigan's campus includes maps of Ann Arbor from the turn of the 20th century to the present as well as Ann Arbor News photographs and cookbooks from the Hatcher Graduate Library's collection. Many of the cookbooks in that era were specifically geared toward helping people cook food they grew in "victory gardens."

"One of the things I'm most fond of is our section on victory gardens," Rother said.

"There is a picture of a house on Olivia in Burns Park that has a victory garden in the back yard and the garden is

still a garden space today. I grew up near there and it's really neat to see that it was that way in the 1940s and it still exists."

Everyone knows a picture is worth a thousand words, but the maps in the exhibit also tell the story of the Ann Arbor area's rapid expansion during the 1940s.

"One of the things we talk about a lot was housing," Rother said. "How the [Willow Run] bomber plant and all of the factories created this huge influx of population, and then there was a huge housing crisis and there wasn't enough housing. The maps can show how the city changed over those years. Even though it was wartime, it was a boom time for Ann Arbor. We saw lots of new houses and new streets built."

The exhibit is located on the second floor of the Hatcher Graduate Library on the University of Michigan Diag. The Clark Library is open from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday, 8 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

The exhibit's final scheduled day is Sunday, September 21.

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