

Finding Aid for the Thomas C. Mathieu, Sr. papers Collection 388

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Mathieu, Thomas C, Sr., 1936-
Title	Thomas C. Mathieu, Sr. papers
Date [inclusive]	1968-2010
Extent	9.75 Linear feet 18 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Thomas C. Mathieu, Sr. (1936-) was a Michigan State Representative from 1975 to 1998. He is known for his work with the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps, the Michigan Veterans Facility and Grand Rapids Community College. In addition, Mathieu secured funding for many local organizations, including Grand Valley State University, the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Grand Rapids Public Museum. He also authored numerous bills, including the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act (1976), the Mathieu-Gast Home Improvement Act (1978), the Home Heating Assistance Act, the Senior Prescription Drug Program and the Long Term Care Ombudsman Act. This collection contains papers, newspaper clippings and photographs relating to Mathieu's political career.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Thomas C. Mathieu was born on December 2, 1936 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin to Clement and Florence Mathieu. The Mathieu family moved to Grand Rapids in the early 1940s and lived on the West Side. They later moved to a 40-acre farm on Knapp Street in Grand Rapids Township. After graduating from Catholic Central High School in 1954, Mathieu briefly attended Aquinas College. He left school to work at Leitel Iron Works, where he became involved in the United Auto Workers union. Mathieu was elected Vice President of the Kent County Labor Council, was assistant to the editor of the Grand Valley Labor News and was awarded Labor's Man of the Year award in 1968.

Beginning in the 1960s, Mathieu was active in the West Side Advisory Council. He became director of the West Side Complex and in 1971 was promoted to Director of Community Development for the Kent Community Action Program. He resigned from that position on June 1, 1974 to run for State Representative in the 92nd district.

Mathieu served as a legislator in the Michigan State House of Representatives from 1975 through 1998. Mathieu was active during his time in the House and was involved in numerous bills, including the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act (1976), the Mathieu-Gast Home Improvement Act (1978), the Home Heating Assistance Act, the Senior Prescription Drug Program and the Long Term Care Ombudsman Act.

Mathieu helped to secure funding for a number of local organizations, including the Ford Presidential Museum, the Michigan Veterans Facility, the Grand Valley State University Eberhard Center, the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Mathieu was involved with community colleges across the state, and especially Grand Rapids Junior College (later Grand Rapids Community College). He also played a vital role in the reinstatement of the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps program and the establishment of the Michigan CCC Museum.

For more information about Mathieu, see his autobiography, "An Impelling Desire to Serve," (Box 10 Folder 12)

Scope and Contents note

The collection consists of a wide variety of material relating to Mathieu's political career. The newspaper clippings, press releases, speeches and campaign material provide detailed information about his career and the projects he worked on. The collection is particularly strong in material relating to the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps, the Michigan Veterans Facility and senior citizen legislation. The photographs include a number of state and local politicians, particularly Governor Blanchard. A notable item in the collection is a program signed by President Gerald Ford and Betty Ford, from the groundbreaking for the Ford Presidential Museum.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department April 2012

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Thomas C. Mathieu, Sr., Accession Number 2011.042

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.). Michigan.
- Michigan Veteran's Facility. (Grand Rapids)

Genre(s)

- office files

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Michigan -- Politics and government

Subject(s)

- Older people -- Pharmaceutical assistance -- Michigan
- Politicians -- Michigan -- Biography

Newspaper Clippings and Press Releases

Collection Inventory

Series I. Newspaper Clippings and Press Releases 1968-2010

Scope and Contents note

The newspaper clippings and press releases are a good source of information about Mathieu's career, as well as projects that he was involved in. Material relating to the Michigan CCC, Michigan Veterans Facility and senior citizen programs can also be found in Series VI, VII and VIII, respectively.

	Box	Folder
Newspaper clippings 1968-1979	1	1
Newspaper clippings 1980-1989	1	2
Newspaper clippings 1990-May 1996	1	3
Newspaper clippings July 1996-2010	1	4
Newspaper clippings no date	1	5
Newspaper clippings Robert Kolt 1984-1985	1	6
Press releases 1975-1978	8	6
Press releases 1979-1985	8	7

Campaign Material

Press releases 1986-1996	8	8
Series II. Campaign Material 1975-1998		
Scope and Contents note		
This series contains material broadly related to Mathieu's campaigns for office, including advertisements, campaign brochures, constituent mailings and election files. The election files are arranged as found and contain some miscellaneous material.		
	Box	Folder
Political ads 1974-1998	1	7
Political ads 1974-1998	1	8
Political ads no date	2	1
Political ads other candidates	2	2
Political ads oversized	17	1
Campaign brochures	2	3
Campaign brochures	2	4
District mailings 1975-1998	4	5
Questionnaires 1975-1983	4	6

Campaign Material

Volunteer mailings 1975 and no date	4	7
Mailings - school employees 1976-1980	4	8
Mailings - senior citizens 1976-1992	4	9
Mailings - working people and retirees no date	4	10
Mailings - business circa 1975-1990	4	11
Mailings - ballot proposal explanations 1976-1992	4	12
Mailings - Hispanic 1980	4	13
Mailings - miscellaneous	4	14
Elections no date	3	1
Election 1982	3	2
Election 1984	3	3
Election 1986	3	4
Election 1988	3	5
Election 1990	3	6

Gubernatorial Appointments

Election 1992	3	7
Election 1994	3	8
Vote totals 1970-1990	4	1

Series III. Gubernatorial Appointments 1982-1990**Scope and Contents note**

Correspondence relating to appointments made by the governor.

	Box	Folder
Gubernatorial appointments 1982	2	5
Gubernatorial appointments 1983	11	1
Gubernatorial appointments 1984	2	6
Gubernatorial appointments 1985-1986	2	7
Gubernatorial appointments 1987-1990	2	8

Series IV. Memorabilia 1973-2010**Scope and Contents note**

Programs and Invitations

This series contains programs and invitations, awards and honors presented to Mathieu and house bills signed by the governor. Also included are letters of appreciation received by Mathieu, Oaths of Office for each term, Mathieu's autobiography and other miscellaneous items.

	Box	Folder
Autobiography "An Impelling Desire to Serve" 2010	10	12
Letters of appreciation 1985-1994	4	2
Letters of appreciation 1995-1998	4	3
Memorabilia - miscellaneous	9	1
Oaths of Office 1981-1993	9	2
Kent Community Action Program Annual Reports 1973 1974	11	8
John F. Kennedy poster	16	6
Programs and Invitations		
	Box	Folder
Opening day programs Michigan House of Representatives 1975-1997	9	3
Inaugural invitations (Blanchard 1983; Clinton 1993) 1983, 1993	11	9
Invitation Inauguration of President Clinton 1993	16	4

Awards and Honors

Program Ground Breaking Ceremony Gerald R. Ford Museum (Jerry and Betty Ford signatures) 1979	11	10
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Awards and Honors

	Box	Folder
Photographs and certificates from frames	12	28
Print "At Night" by Ralph A. Misiak	16	1
Resolutions/tributes honoring Mathieu 1991 1998 and 1999	16	3
Proclamation honoring Mathieu Kent County Board of Commissioners no date	16	5
Signed photograph Grand Rapids Symphony	16	7
Plaque Friend of Local Public Health Award 8/4/1993	17	x
Plaque Honoring Mathieu Alumni of the CCC and MCC 6/6/1998	17	x
Plaque Resolution to rename Camp Vanderbilt in honor of Mathieu 12/1998	17	x

Signed Bills

	Box	Folder
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Speeches

Enrolled House Bill No. 6139 1976	15	3
Enrolled House Bill No. 4963 1976	15	4
Enrolled House Bill No. 5417 (Home Repair Bill) 1978	15	9
Enrolled House Bill No. 4243 1983	15	5
Enrolled House Bill No. 4410 (Home Heating Assistance) 1981	15	6
Enrolled House Bill No. 4371 (1977) and No. 4978 (1984) 1977, 1984	15	7
Enrolled House Bill No. 4010 1987	15	8
Pens from bill signings	18	x
Series V. Speeches 1975-1998		
Scope and Contents note		
Speeches given by Mathieu at various events, arranged by year.		
	Box	Folder
Speeches 1975	5	1
Speeches 1976	5	2
Speeches 1977	5	3

Speeches

Speeches 1978	5	4
Speeches 1979	5	5
Speeches 1980	5	6
Speeches 1980	5	7
Speeches 1981	5	8
Speeches 1982	5	9
Speeches 1983	6	1
Speeches 1984	6	2
Speeches 1984	6	3
Speeches 1985	6	4
Speeches 1986	6	5
Speeches 1987	6	6
Speeches 1987	7	1
Speeches 1989	7	2

Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps

Speeches 1990	7	3
Speeches 1991	7	4
Speeches 1992	7	5
Speeches 1993	7	6
Speeches 1994	8	1
Speeches 1995	8	2
Speeches 1996	8	3
Speeches 1997	4	4
Speeches 1998	8	4
Statement March 4 1998	8	5

Series VI. Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps 1983-1998

Scope and Contents note

Newspaper clippings, correspondence, reports and other papers relating to Mathieu's work with the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps. The papers also provide information on the history of the CCC in Michigan.

Box

Folder

Senior Citizens

Newspaper clippings circa 1983-1997	11	7
Correspondence and papers 1983-1998	9	4
CCC Museum	9	5
History	9	6
Funding	9	7
Legislative	9	8
Reports 1983-1993	9	9
Residential Camp Vanderbilt Biweekly Progress Reports 1997-1998	9	10
Miscellaneous	9	11
Series VII. Senior Citizens 1985-1991		
Scope and Contents note		
Newspaper clippings, press releases, analysis and papers relating to Mathieu's work with senior citizen issues, including the Older Michigianians Pharmaceutical Assistance Program, a Senior care/Medicaid reform package and the Senior Prescription Drug Bill.		
	Box	Folder
Older Michigianians Pharmaceutical Assistance Program circa 1986-1991	10	1

Senior Prescription Drug Bill

Senior care/Medicaid reform package circa 1985-1986	11	4
Senior Prescription Drug Bill		
	Box	Folder
Newspaper clippings and press releases circa 1986-1990	11	2
Newsletters circa 1986-1989	11	3
Research booklet no date	10	2
Mailings	10	3
Analysis	10	4
Cost analysis	10	5
House Bills 4141 and 5659	10	6
Veto	10	7
Miscellaneous	10	8
Series VIII. Michigan Veterans Facility 1980-1993		
Scope and Contents note		

Photographs

Newspaper clippings, press releases, correspondence and papers relating to Mathieu's work with the Michigan Veterans Facility, in particular the building of the Outpatient Center.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence 1984-1992	11	5
Newspaper clippings circa 1980-1992	11	6
Outpatient center	10	9
Press releases 1980-1993	10	10
Miscellaneous	10	11

Series IX. Photographs 1970s-1990s

Scope and Contents note

The photographs are arranged into five broad categories: publicity photos; bill signings and announcements; people and events; buildings and miscellaneous. There are many unidentified photographs. It may be possible to identify some of these by referencing other papers in the collection, such as newspaper clippings. Many local and state politicians are included in the photographs.

Publicity Photographs

	Box	Folder
Publicity photographs circa 1978	12	1

Bill Signings/Announcements

Publicity photographs 1978-circa 1990s	12	2
Photographs for campaign ads (not Matheiu)	12	3
Publicity photographs no date	13	1
Publicity photographs no date	13	2
Bill Signings/Announcements		
	Box	Folder
Home Repair bill 1978	13	3
Heating bill 1978	13	4
Bill signing 1985	12	4
Bill signing S.E.T. Legislation 1986	12	5
HB 4010 bill signing (PA 285/1987) February 1988	12	6
House bill 4538	13	5
Bill signing (Mathieu Blanchard Drasin)	13	6
Bill signing unidentified	13	7

People and Events

Bill signing House Bill No 4634	13	8
Gast-Mathieu bill	13	9
Michigan CCC announcement	13	10
People and Events		
	Box	Folder
Mathieu speaking 1977	12	7
Mathieu speaking May 1986	12	8
Mathieu speaking at Michigan CCC Museum dedication 6/7/1986	12	9
Mathieu speaking unidentified event	13	11
Mathieu receiving recognition award from Bobby Crim	13	12
Michigan CCC tree planting circa 1984	13	13
Michigan CCC kick off	13	14
Michigan Department of Natural Resources project	13	15
Mathieu presenting award to Al Dzierwa CWA 1976	13	16

People and Events

Slides circa 1976	14	17
'5th Annual 39th' birthday party 12/1/1979	12	10
Range fire Arlington Oregon 7/16/1981	13	17
Award unidentified early 1980s	13	18
Legislative tour Camp Grayling circa mid-1980s	13	19
Mathieu with Olympic athletes 9/11/1984	12	11
Mildred Irene Clark Woodman 1986	13	20
Mathieu with Norma Calborn (Grand Rapids Area Educational Technology Council) August 1986	13	22
Community College workshop with Phil Ward Traverse City 1987	13	22
Northwestern Michigan College with Phil Runkel August 1987	13	23
Mathieu presenting check to John LaPorte Creston Neighborhood Association June 1988	13	24
Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis visits GVSU 1988	12	12
Grand Rapids Junior College golf outing fundraiser 1989	13	25

People and Events

Marvin 'Red' Brummel Memorial Golf Outing 1992	14	1
UFCW Local 951 40th Anniversary circa 1992	14	2
Presentation of check to Civilian Conservation Corps Endowment 1993	12	13
Mathieu Congressman David Bonior 1998	14	3
Mathieu with AFL-CIO President Frank Garrison 1998	14	4
Pig roast at the home of Robert and Lucy Rasmussen	12	14
Joe Sypniewski and Mathieu	12	15
Mathieu with Frank Martin West Side store owner	12	16
Tour of Kent County fruit farms	12	17
Speech Grand Valley State College Grand Rapids Center (Eberhard Center groundbreaking)	12	18
Mathieu with Roy Schmidt Dennis Kolenda Mike Sak and Ben Logan	14	5
Don William's retirement	14	6
Mathieu with Robert Kolt WZZM	14	7

Buildings

Mathieu with President Kennedy's sister	14	8
Mathieu with Milton Berle and Ms. Michigan	14	9
Mathieu visiting with retirees	14	10
Event unidentified	14	11
Event unidentified	14	12
Miscellaneous events	14	13
Miscellaneous events	12	19

Buildings

	Box	Folder
Grand Valley State University Eberhard Center	12	20
Grand Valley State University Fieldhouse 1983	12	21
Grand Rapids Community College Applied Technology Center	12	22
Belknap Park (sign)	12	23
Grand Rapids Art Museum	12	24

Miscellaneous

Grand Rapids Public Museum	12	25
Michigan Veterans Facility	12	26
Gerald R. Ford Museum	12	27
Miscellaneous		
	Box	Folder
Sign Mathieu's Road Show Appropriations committee	14	14
Billboards for Mathieu	14	15
Leitelt Iron Works mid-1960s	14	16
Michigan House of Representatives group portraits 1975-1986	15	1
Michigan House of Representatives group portraits 1987-1998	15	2
Reopening of restored House Chambers 4/24/1990	16	2