



Mason County, Michigan

Monthly Update: September 2016



Michigan Vacant Property Campaign Visits Mason County

On Thursday, September 1, the Mason County Housing Task Force hosted the Michigan Vacant Property Campaign on a site visit of the Ludington and Scottville areas. The Michigan Vacant Property Campaign is a collaborative comprised of four different non-profit organizations providing expertise and resources around the issues of community development, housing and blight remediation, and redevelopment opportunities. The partnering organizations include: The Center for Community Progress, Michigan Community Resources, the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan, and the Michigan Municipal League. As a part of the site visit, these resource partners sat down with members of the business community, government agencies, and community activists to gather community input.

The goal of this site visit was to demonstrate the various issues that Mason County is currently facing with respect to housing, blight, and redevelopment, and for the MVPC

to make recommendations and connect the local community with resources that can help start to address these issues. The Housing Task Force hopes to have a report complete with recommendations from the MVPC in the next few months.



LEAD Civic Forum Set for November 3rd

The Northern Collaborative, made up of Mason, Lake, Oceana, and Newaygo counties, has scheduled an open Civic Forum for Thursday, November 3rd from 1PM to 5PM. The meeting will take place at the Hart Community Center in downtown Hart, MI. This is part of the Leaders in Economic Alliance Development (LEAD) program administered jointly by MSU Extension and USDA Rural Development which aims to increase cooperation and coordination between rural communities in order to create economic opportunity. The purpose of this civic forum is to engage community stakeholders in order to identify projects that are broadly supported across all four counties. Following the civic forum, the Collaborative will reconvene to process the input and create a formal action plan. This plan will also identify resources and funding opportunities to assist with implementation.

The Civic Forum is open to the general public, and the Growth Alliance would like to encourage all interested parties to attend. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please contact Spence Riggs at 231-845-6646 or spencer@ludington.org.

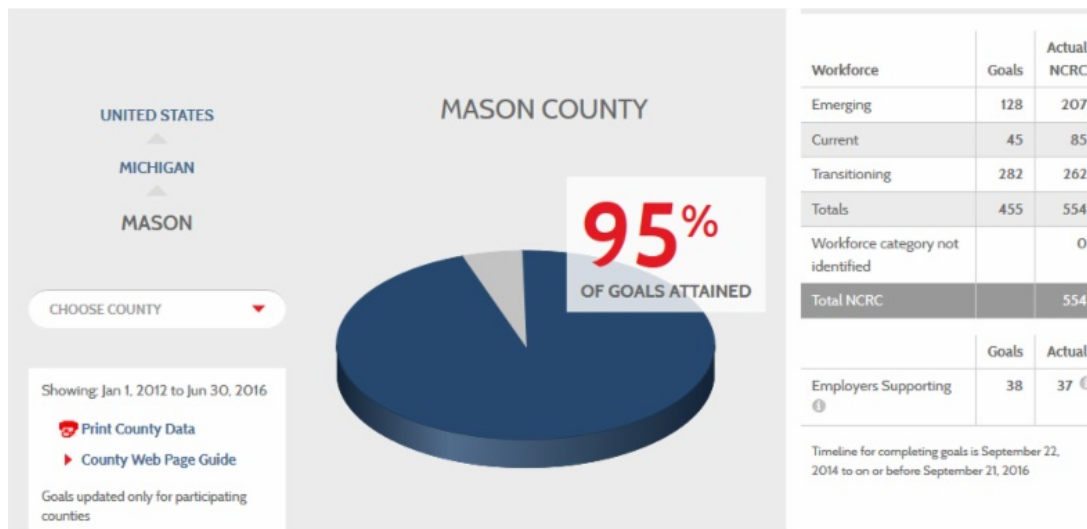
Mason County Manufacturers Association Annual Meeting

On Thursday, October 20th, the Mason County Manufacturers Association will be teaming up with the Ludington & Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce to host its Annual Meeting from 10 AM to 2 PM. The event's keynote speaker will be Lou Rabaut of Warner, Norcross & Judd, who will be giving a talk on "White Collar Rules", talent attraction and retention, and societal changes and how they affect business and law. Following Lou's presentation, Crystal Young of West Shore Community College will be giving a talk on generational communication.



The event is open to members of the Mason & Manistee County Manufacturers Association as well as members of the Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce. For more information on this event or to reserve your spot, [click here](#).

Work Ready Community Progress Tracker



About the Mason County Growth Alliance:

The Mason County Growth Alliance was created in 2006 to support economic growth and community development in Mason County. Its mission is to nurture a more dynamic economy to support a vibrant quality of life in the community. The Growth Alliance believes its efforts must be devoted to building on its business base, encouraging entrepreneurship, and capitalizing on the local community assets.



Mason County Growth Alliance

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