



Mason County, Michigan

Monthly Update: May 2017



Connected 2.0 Seeks to Improve Broadband Access

On Tuesday, May 9th Mason County launched its Connected 2.0 broadband campaign. This campaign is intended to collect information about broadband internet access, adoption, and use throughout the county. Information collected as a result of this process will help guide efforts to increase broadband infrastructure, with the ultimate goal of increasing quality and affordable internet access to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Mason County.

To assist with the information gathering process, the Growth Alliance is asking residents, businesses, and other organizations to fill out the survey at the following link: www.connectmycommunity.org/mason-county.

For more information on Connected 2.0 and the Connected Nation initiative, visit www.connectednation.org or contact the Mason County Growth Alliance.



MDARD Awards MCGA Grant for Regional Trails Planning

At the end of April, the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development awarded the Mason County Growth Alliance a Rural Development Fund Grant in the amount of \$35,000 to assist with the planning, coordination, and development of regional trail networks. This award was granted to the Growth Alliance in support of the regional economic development efforts stemming from the Leaders in Economic Alliance Development (LEAD) collaborative, which includes Lake, Mason, Newaygo, and Oceana Counties. These grant funds aim to promote the sustainability of land-based industries and support infrastructure that benefits rural communities.

"MDARD is proud to help support these important projects," said Director Jamie Clover Adams. "This is a great opportunity for us to give Michigan businesses a boost, improve local infrastructure around the state, and ultimately open the door for the creation of more good-paying jobs."

The LEAD collaborative is scheduled to carry out this planning process over the course of the next year. For more information on the LEAD program or the MDARD grant, contact Spence Riggs at spencer@ludington.org.



Consumers Energy Offers Economic Development Tools

Consumers Energy has long been a significant member of the Mason County business community. Now, Consumers is pleased to announce that they will also be playing a more active role in economic development, offering a number of services geared towards helping business & industry grow and prosper in Michigan. Services include competitive rate analysis, energy efficiency incentives, and partnership opportunities on a wide range of business growth and development projects. Moreover, many of these programs are available to small businesses and large corporations alike.

So if your business is gearing up for a multi-million dollar expansion project, or if you are just looking to save money on your monthly energy bills, contact your account manager and ask them about the various programs they have to help your business continue to grow and thrive in Mason County.

Work Ready Community Progress Tracker

MASON COUNTY



Workforce		Goals	Actual NCRC
Emerging	✓	128	210
Current	✓	45	89
Transitioning		282	273
Totals		455	572
Workforce category not identified			0
Total NCRC			572

	Goals	Actual
Employers Supporting	38	42 ⓘ

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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