

2022 FACT BOOK



Mason
County

A special publication of the
Ludington Daily News

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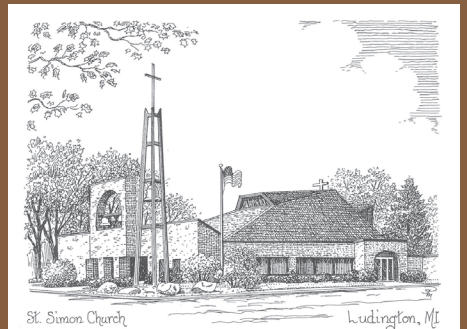


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Welcome to MASON COUNTY!

Our county has so much of what you're looking for, and there's so much to discover around every corner.

If you're seeking opportunities for recreation, they are there aplenty. From the swimming and fishing and more on Lake Michigan to enjoying our inland lakes and rivers for those plus canoeing and kayaking, our county has so much to give while having fun in the water.

Points of pride, though, can be found around our lands, too. The Manistee National Forest makes up a significant part of our county, but once you break free of the forest, there's a whole other set of trees to see — our incredible orchards of apples, cherries and more.

We enjoy a great agricultural sector, too. Our orchards provide much of that, but we grow so much more from asparagus, corn and other grains. Livestock is another major portion of what we have here. All of it can be discovered, and then some, through the Western Michigan Fair in August.

Inside this fact book, you'll get a glimpse of life in Mason County — our art fairs, our performances at such places as the Ludington Area Center for the Arts and West Shore Community College. You'll get the facts on the cities, villages, townships and county of which you're here to perhaps visit or perhaps make a permanent home.

Let this be your guide to Mason County, whether you're rolling along our roads or cruising the lake shore. And again, welcome to Mason County.

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Mason County departments

Mason County Board of Commissioners

CHAIR: Janet S. Andersen, sixth district
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FIRST DISTRICT: Nick Krieger
SECOND DISTRICT: Gary Castonia
THIRD DISTRICT: Charles Lange
FOURTH DISTRICT: Dr. Lewis Squires
SEVENTH DISTRICT: Ron Bacon

Mason County Offices and Departments

County Administrator

Fabian Knizacky is the Mason County Administrator. The administrator oversees the day-to-day operations of the county including developing and monitoring the county's budget; hires, disciplines and reviews employees in positions that are designated as those that report to the administrator; interprets county commission policy for officers, employees and the public; and more.

ADDRESS: 304 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington 49431
PHONE: (231)843-7999
EMAIL: fknizacky@masoncounty.net
WEBSITE: www.masoncounty.net/departments/administrators

County Clerk

Cheryl Kelly is the Mason County Clerk. The clerk is elected by the people, and maintains the records of the county including deaths, births, marriages, assumed business names, concealed weapons permits and voter registration records among others. The clerk is the chief election official in the county, and supervises all elections.

ADDRESS: 304 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington 49431
PHONE: (231) 843-8202

EMAIL: cakelly@masoncounty.net
WEBSITE: www.masoncounty.net/departments/clerk/

County Prosecutor

Lauren Kreinbrink is the Mason County Prosecuting Attorney, and she is the chief law enforcement officer in the county. She is elected to a four-year term.

ADDRESS: 304 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington 49431
PHONE: (231) 845-7377
EMAIL: prosecutor@masoncounty.net
WEBSITE: www.masoncounty.net/departments/prosecuting-attorney/

Register of Deeds

Diane L. Englebrecht is the Mason County Register of Deeds. The Register of Deeds records deeds, mortgage liens, surveys, plats, land contracts, condominiums, financing statements and other documents related to real estate.

ADDRESS: 304 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington 49431
PHONE: (231) 843-4466
EMAIL: register@masoncounty.net
WEBSITE: www.masoncounty.net/departments/register-of-deeds

Treasurer

Andrew Kmetz IV is the Mason County Treasurer, an elected position. The treasurer is responsible for all of the revenues received by the treasurer and the various officers, departments, agencies boards and commissions of the county.

ADDRESS: 304 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington 49431
PHONE: (231) 843-8411
EMAIL: akmetz@masoncounty.net

Animal Control

Sarah Colbrook and Alesha Miller are

the animal control officers for Mason County. The office hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

ADDRESS: 305 N. Meyer Road
PHONE: 843-8644

Mason County Airport

The Mason County Airport is a publicly owned and operated airport in Pere Marquette Township. The airport is available for use 24 hours a day, seven days per week. The airport is attended during the following hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays Oct. 16 through April 15 and every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 16 through Oct. 15. The airport manager is John O'Connor.

ADDRESS: 5300 W U.S. 10
PHONE: 843-2049
EMAIL: airport@masoncounty.net

Building Department

The Mason County Building Department handles electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits for all of Mason County. Building inspections in the City of Ludington and Pere Marquette Township are performed by their personnel. All other entities have their building inspections done by the county.

ADDRESS: 102 E. Fifth St., Scottville, 49454
PHONE: (231) 757-9345

Planning and Zoning

The Mason County Planning and Zoning Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the county's zoning ordinance in each township except for Hamlin, Pere Marquette and Grant. The department provides assistance and support to the county's planning commission and zoning board of appeals.

ADDRESS: 102 E. Fifth St., Scottville, 49454
PHONE: (231) 757-9272 or (231) 757-9345

Mason County departments

Drain Commission

The Mason County Drain Commission is responsible for the care and maintenance of more than 130 miles of drains. Maintenance on drains is funded by special assessments on properties that benefit along with municipalities. Daniel Rohde is the drain commissioner.

ADDRESS: 102 E. Fifth St., Scottville, 49454
PHONE: (231) 757-9366

Emergency Management

The Mason County Emergency Management Office is responsible for community preparedness and planning for natural and man-made disasters. The emergency management coordinator works with all of the local emergency responders to ensure training and equipment are ready to serve the county. Elizabeth Reimink is the emergency management coordinator.

ADDRESS: 408 Resseguie St. Suite 100, Ludington, 49431
PHONE: (231) 845-5911
EMAIL: emergencymanagement@mason-county.net

Equalization

The Mason County Equalization Department provides property descriptions and ownership; assessment roll processing for local governments; aerial maps and parcel maps; property tax exemption and abatement information and more services. Anthony Meyaard is the director of the department.

ADDRESS: 304 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington 49431
PHONE: (231) 845-6288
EMAIL: ameyaard@masoncounty.net

MSU Extension

The Michigan State University Extension services assists residents and visitors through education and infor-

mation. It is housed at West Shore Community College.

ADDRESS: 3000 N. Stiles Road, Scottville
PHONE: (231) 845-3361
EMAIL: msue53@msu.edu

Parks and Recreation

The department oversees the Mason County Campground, as well as areas for picnics, disc golf and snowshoeing. The 10-member parks and recreation commission oversees the department.

Public Works

The Mason County Department of Public Works is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Mason County Sewage Disposal System. This system provides sewer service to businesses and homes that are located on U.S. 10 between the cities of Scottville and Ludington. Daniel Rohde is the director/secretary.

ADDRESS: 102 E. Fifth St., Scottville
PHONE: (231) 757-9370

Sheriff

The Mason County Sheriff is Kim Cole. Cole was elected to his term in 2013. The Sheriff's Office employs more than 40 professionally trained deputies with expertises that range from a K-9 unit to accident reconstructionists, evidence technicians to divers. There are also nearly 50 mounted and reserve deputies along with a victim services unit, and the jail which can house more than 100 inmates.

ADDRESS: 302 N. Delia St., Ludington 494931
PHONE: (231) 843-3475

Veterans Affairs

The Mason County Veterans Service Office is open from noon to 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays to assist

local veterans and the families in applying for benefits earned via military service. John Cotten is the accredited veteran's service officer.

ADDRESS: 920 E. Tinkham Ave., Ludington 49431
PHONE: 231-583-2028

Oakview Medical Care Facility

The Oakview Medical Care Facility provides long-term health care services. It also has the Sutter Living Center, an Alzheimer's/dementia special care unit.

ADDRESS: 1001 Diana St., Ludington 49431
PHONE: 845-5185

District Health Department No. 10

The mission of the District Health Department is to promote and enhance the health of communities and the environment through protection, prevention and intervention.

The Mason County office of District Health Department No. 10 offers cancer screenings, as well as family planning clinics, flu clinics, sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing, immunizations, and WIC, a nutrition program. In addition, District Health Department No. 10 offers a maternal health program for women through the start of pregnancy up to two months after delivery and for infants from birth through one year of age. A full list of District Health Department No. 10 services can be found at the website.

WEBSITE: www.dhd10.org
ADDRESS: 916 Diana St., Ludington 49431
PHONE: (231) 845-7381
WIC: (231) 316-8584
HOURS: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Kevin Hughes, MA, Health Officer
(231) 876-3839

khughes@dhd10.org

Dr. Jennifer Morse, Medical Director
(989) 773-5921 ext 1427

jmorse@dhd10.org

Mason County services

West Michigan Community Mental Health

WCMCH provides mental health services to residents of Mason County on Medicaid, who are under-insured, or have private insurance. WCMCH treats mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders in Mason County, as well as Lake and Oceana Counties.

PHONE NUMBER, GENERAL QUESTIONS:

(231) 845-6294

PHONE NUMBER, MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES:

(800) 992-2061

ADDRESS: 920 Diana St., Ludington, 494931

HOURS: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday

FiveCAP

FiveCAP, Inc., serves Mason, Lake,





Manistee and Newaygo counties and is one of 29 Community Action Agencies in Michigan, offering a variety of services to help community members. It is a vital part of Mason County, providing indispensable help to the disadvantaged.

FiveCAP offers:


- Early Head Start, a home visiting/school preparation program for pregnant women in the third trimester and infants and toddlers ages 0 to 3 who meet the federal poverty guidelines
- Head Start, a federally funded pre-school.
- Weatherizing homes to help conserve energy.
- Single and multiple-family homes.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) /Mothers, Infants, and Children (MIC) — A USDA funded program that provides nutritional food supplements to senior citizens 60 and older, as well as families with children under 6 years of age not eligible for WIC. Recipients must meet income guidelines. Distributions are at the FiveCAP office on the third Wednesday of every other month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Emergency Food Assistance

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Mason County services

Program (TEFAP), a program providing federally purchased surplus food for low-income families. The income guidelines must be met. Distribution is at the FiveCAP office four times a year, on the first Thursday of every third month.

- The Emergency Food Pantry provides up to 30 days of food on an emergency needs basis. Call the Mason County office for more information.

- Training for families on gardening and food preparation including canning, drying and food freezing workshops.

FiveCAP Mason County office:

ADDRESS: 302 N. Main St., Scottville 49454

HOURS: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, but services are walk-in or by appointment.

PHONE NUMBER: (231) 757-9669

Ludington Area Senior Center

The Ludington Area Senior Center provides services and support groups to residents; information and referral assistance; a free 30-minute consultation with a representative from Palmenter Law Office; medicare/medicaid assistance; tax assistance; educational forums; tech assistance; low vision support group; diabetes support group; nutrition programs; medical loan equipment; foot care; social activities; exercises; special interest groups/clubs and the Angel Christmas Tree program.

Vickie Collins is the director.

ADDRESS: 308 S. Rowe St., Ludington 49431

PHONE: (231) 845-6841

Scottville Area Senior Center

The Scottville Area Senior Center provides services such as its homemaker program, medical transportation, respite care, support groups, the senior nutrition program, a Keep in Touch program, many activities and resources.

Bill Kerans is the director.

ADDRESS: 140 S. Main St., Scottville 49454

PHONE: (231) 757-4705

Tallman Lake Area Senior Center

The Tallman Lake Area Senior Center provides many activities and several services.

ADDRESS: 6765 E. Marshall Rd., Fountain, 49410

PHONE: 757-3306

Free Soil Senior Center

ADDRESS: 8480 N. Democrat St., Free Soil, 49411

PHONE: (231) 464-5885

Meals on Wheels

The food service department at Mason County Central receives funding through the Area Agency on Aging, the United Way, the Council on Aging and through customer donations. For more information, contact Mary Ann Nielsen, the program director, or Mary Alway, the program assessor, at (231) 757-5721 or (231) 757-4814.

51st Circuit Court

The Hon. Susan K. Sniegowski oversees the circuit court. The court handles all actions except those assigned to other courts.

Probate Court

The Hon. Jeffrey C. Nellis oversees Mason County Probate Court. The court has jurisdiction over guardianships and conservatorships; the commitment if needed and the course of treatment for the mentally ill, and the admission of wills, administration of estates and supervision of trusts.

79th District Court

The Hon. John Middlebrook oversees the district court, and Glenn Jackson III is the attorney magistrate. The court handles traffic violations, civil cases when the disputed amount is \$25,000 or less, landlord-tenant and land-contract matters and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony. The small claims division of the district court handles disputes involving \$3,000 or less. The court itself handles criminal proceedings from the disposition of misdemeanors, conducting preliminary exams for felony cases and appointing attorneys to defendants who may not be able to afford one.

Friend of the Court

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MAILING ADDRESS: 304 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington

Probation/Parole

The Mason County Probation/Parole Office is a part of the Michigan Department of Corrections. Matt Chitwood is the field supervisor for Mason, Oceana and Newaygo counties.

ADDRESS: 408 Resseguie St. Suite 101, Ludington, 49431

PHONE: (231) 845-1266



Mason County Schools

Mason County Road Commission

Mary Samuels, manager/director
Office: 510 E. State St., Scottville
49454
PHONE: (231) 757-2882.



Ludington High School

ADDRESS: 508 N. Wasington Ave., Ludington, 49431
PHONE: (231) 845-3880

Mason County Central Schools

Jeff Mount is the superintendent of Mason County Central Schools. Jeff Tuka is the Mason County Central High School principal and Robert Dennis is the Mason County Central Middle School principal.

Two elementary schools serve the district, plus an early childhood center:

Victory Early Childhood Center

DIRECTOR: Angie Taylor
ADDRESS: 4171 N. Stiles Road, Scottville, 49454

Mason County Schools

Ludington Area Schools

Kyle Corlett is the superintendent of Ludington Area School District. Dan Mesyar is the Ludington High School principal and Mike Hart is the O.J. DeJonge Middle School principal. Katie Eisinger is the K-2 principal at Ludington Elementary School, and Brian Dotson is the 3-5 principal. Sarah Cooper is the director of pre-kindergarten at Ludington Elementary School.

Ludington Elementary

ADDRESS: 5771 W. Bryant Road, Ludington, 49431
PHONE: (231) 845-3820

O.J. DeJonge Middle School

ADDRESS: 706 E.Tinkham Ave., Ludington, 49431
PHONE: (231) 845-3810

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Mason County Schools



PHONE: (231) 843-2410

Scottville Elementary

PRINCIPAL: Chris Etchison
ADDRESS: 201 W. Maple St., Scottville, 49454
PHONE: (231) 757-4701

Upper Elementary

PRINCIPAL: Kevin Kimes
ADDRESS: 505 W. Maple St., Scottville, 49454
PHONE: (231) 757-5720

Mason County Central Middle

School

ADDRESS: 310 W. Beryl St., Scottville, 49454
PHONE: (231) 757-3724

Mason County Central High School

ADDRESS: 210 W. Broadway, Scottville, 49454
PHONE: (231) 757-4748



Mason County Eastern Schools

Paul Shoup is the superintendent of Mason County Eastern. Mark Forner is

the principal.

ADDRESS: 18 S. Main St., Custer
PHONE: (231) 757-3733

Gateway to Success Academy

Gateway to Success Academy offers a second chance to students who struggle with traditional learning environments. The charter school, at 526 S. Scottville Road, houses students from sixth to 12th grade, offering innovative, hands-on learning. The school offers lessons in engineering, cooking, robotics, electronics and agriculture, to name a few. Attending G2S is free, and transportation services are provided.

The staff works closely with students to form relationships and guide children through their lessons. Counselors, a gym, meals and laundry services are available to students.

To learn more, call (231) 845-0922.



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Mason County schools

West Shore Educational Service District

West Shore Educational Service District West Shore ESD’s mission is to provide leadership and support to local school districts. The vision is success for all students. We believe that every aspect of our organization must focus on students, demonstrate servant leadership, and serve as a catalyst for collaborative communities. West Shore ESD serves most of Mason County, including students attending Ludington, Mason County Central and Mason County Eastern.

West Shore Community College

West Shore Community College is



a two-year school located in Victory Township with off-campus sites in Sherman Township and soon in the City of Manistee that offers comprehensive general education classes to meet students seeking occupational programs leading to immediate employment or students aiming to transfer to a four-year institution. Various associates de-

rees are available to be earned as well as one-year and two-year certifications. The college offers special events and cultural activities during the year. There is also a recreation center and ice arena on campus. The school also provides non-credit community service classes and adult lifelong learning classes. **WEBSITE:** www.westshore.edu

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Mason County

Ludington Mass Transit Authority

The Ludington Mass Transit Authority provides public transportation service inside the City of Ludington, the City of Scottville and Pere Marquette Charter Township. The rate to ride a bus is \$2 per person, ages 12 to 59; and \$1 for those 60 and older, 11 and younger and for the disabled. To get a ride, call (231) 845-6218. The service recommends giving the bus driver between 30 to 45 minutes ahead of your planned pick up. For those who are riding in the mornings, the service recommends call in the night before. The service accepts cash or tokens. The service in Ludington and Pere Marquette Township is 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mondays through Fridays; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays; and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays. The service in Scottville is from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The service is closed on New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The service ends at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve.

PHONE: (231) 845-6218

WEBSITE: www.dialaridelmta.com

Mason County Cities

City of Ludington

The City of Ludington is on the shore of Lake Michigan. It is known for its beach, the Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse and the home of the Lake Michigan Carferry's SS Badger. The city boasts a downtown shopping district and several parks.

CITY HALL ADDRESS: 400 S. Harrison St., Ludington 49431

PHONE: (231) 845-6237

CITY HALL HOURS: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday

through Friday

WEBSITE: www.ludington.mi.us

MAYOR: Steve Miller

CITY MANAGER: Mitch Foster

CITY CLERK: Deborah L. Lusk

CITY TREASURER: Mari Jo Lange

POLICE CHIEF: Tim Kozal

City of Scottville

The City of Scottville lies near the center of Mason County and the intersection of U.S. 10 and U.S. 31 as U.S. 10 heads east away from Lake Michigan and U.S. 31 north toward Traverse City. The city is home to Riverside Park, a campground with the grounds for the West Michigan Old Engine Club and a disc golf course.

ADDRESS: 105 N. Main St., Scottville

MAYOR: Marcy Spencer

CITY MANAGER: Jim Newkirk

CITY CLERK: Kelse Lester

CITY TREASURER: Kathy Shafer

POLICE CHIEF: Matt Murphy

PHONE: (231) 757-4729

Mason County

Amber Township

Amber Township is north of the Pere Marquette River and is between Scottville and Pere Marquette Township. The U.S. 10/31 corridor is one of the busiest stretches in the county, and it's in the township. Riverton Township is to the south, Custer Township is to the east and Victory Township is to the north.

ADDRESS: 144 S. Amber Rd., Scottville 49454

SUPERVISOR: James Gallie

CLERK: Theresa Rohde

TREASURER: Connie Rathbun-Anderson

TRUSTEES: Richard G. Alway, Thomas Alway

Branch Township

Branch Township is along the eastern edge of Mason County and includes the towns of Walhalla and Branch. It is bordered by Sheridan Township to the north, Custer Township in the west and Logan Township to the south.

ADDRESS: 6600 E. First St., Fountain, MI 49410

SUPERVISOR: Michael Shoup

CLERK: Kimberly Tenney

TREASURER: Ralph Razminas

TRUSTEES: Shirley Brayton, Joseph Fiers

Custer Township

Custer Township has all of the Village of Custer within it, and it shares a line with the City of Scottville. To the north is Sherman Township, to the east is Branch Township, to the south is Eden Township and to the west is Amber Township.

SUPERVISOR: Mark Anderson

CLERK: Staci Wood

TREASURER: Carey M. Jolly

TRUSTEES: George A. Allison, Larry A. Larr

Eden Township

Eden Township is along the south of Mason County, and it has such as lakes as Eden, Woodruff and Pleiness. It shares a border with Custer Township to the north, Riverton Township to the west and Logan Township to the east.

ADDRESS: 5327 S. Eden Lake Rd., Custer, 49405

SUPERVISOR: Roger Nash

CLERK: Julie Van Dyke

TREASURER: Sally J. Wittlieff

TRUSTEES: Michelle Beenen, Joseph Stickney

Free Soil Township

Free Soil Township is along the north of Mason County, and the village of Free Soil is within it. It shares a border with Grant Township to the west, Sher-

Mason County

man Township to the south and Meade Township to the east.

ADDRESS: 2691 E. Michigan St., Free Soil 49411

SUPERVISOR: Gregg Surma

CLERK: Lynda Papes

TREASURER: Lisa Stankowski

TRUSTEES: Philip Gajeski, Kenneth Savich

Grant Township

Grant Township is along Lake Michigan and has the federal Lake Michigan Recreation Area including the Nordhouse Dunes within it. To the south is Victory and Hamlin townships and to the east is Free Soil Township.

ADDRESS: 843 W. Hoague Road, Manistee

SUPERVISOR: Robert Rakowski

CLERK: Mary Jo Janowiak

TREASURER: Kristen Brandt

TRUSTEES: Allen Bufka, Brenda Kelly

Hamlin Township

Hamlin Township is along Lake Michigan and has famed Ludington State Park within it. Hamlin Lake a major resort area itself, also is within much of the township. The township is bordered by Pere Marquette Township to the south with Lincoln Lake and Lincoln River serving as a line. To the east are Victory and Amber townships.

ADDRESS: 3775 N. Jebavy Drive, Ludington

SUPERVISOR: Nancy Vandervest

CLERK: Catherine Lewis

TREASURER: Susan Ptaszenski

TRUSTEES: Larry Rees, Johnaine A. Gurzynski

Logan Township

Logan Township is in the southeast corner of Mason County and it has branches of the Pere Marquette River

and Carr Creek within it. Eden Township is to the west and Branch Township is to the north.

ADDRESS: 3975 Tyndall Road, Branch

SUPERVISOR: Bruce Burke

CLERK: John Kampfschulte

TREASURER: Tammy Bromley

TRUSTEES: Robert Burke, Daniel R. Stewart

Meade Township

Meade Township is in the northeast corner of Mason County. It is bordered by Free Soil Township to the west and Sheridan Township to the south.

ADDRESS: 5435 E. Free Soil/Larsen roads, Free Soil

SUPERVISOR: Lois Krepps

CLERK: Sue Hasenbank

TREASURER: Mary Hasenbank

TRUSTEES: Jimmy Lee Metzger, William K. Thomas



The light of the Big Sable Lighthouse shines over Lake Michigan within Ludington State Park.

Mason County

Pere Marquette Charter Township

Pere Marquette Charter Township surrounds the City of Ludington, and it includes the Mason County Airport, the fairgrounds and Historic White Pine Village along the Buttersville Peninsula. To the north is Hamlin Township, to the south is Summit Township and to the east are Amber and Riverton townships.

ADDRESS: 1699 S. Pere Marquette Highway, Ludington

SUPERVISOR: Gerald Bleau

CLERK: Rachele Enbody

TREASURER: Karie Bleau

TRUSTEES: Andrew Kmetz III, James T. Nordlund, Henry E. Rasmussen, Ronald Soberalski

Riverton Township

Riverton Township is situated between the Pere Marquette River and the county line with Oceana County. North

Oxbow and South Oxbow lakes are within the township. To the east are Eden and Custer townships. To the west are Summit and Pere Marquette townships. Amber Township is to the north.

ADDRESS: 2122 W. Hawley Road, Scottville

SUPERVISOR: Gary Dittmer

CLERK: Cindy Gerbers

TREASURER: Kristi Griffis

TRUSTEES: Scott A. Dittmer, Greg Thurow, Todd VanNortwick

Sheridan Township

Sheridan Township is along the east side of the county and it contains several lakes including Thunder, Ford and Round lakes. Meade Township is to the north, Sherman Township is to the west and Branch Township is to the south.

SUPERVISOR: Corliss T. Gulembo III

CLERK: Marlynn E. Gulembo

TREASURER: Jennie Borema

TRUSTEES: Jeff Cormany, Douglas Damkoe-

her

Sherman Township

Sherman Township contains the village of Fountain. Free Soil township is to the north, Victory Township is to the west, Custer Township is to the south and Sheridan Township is to the east.

SUPERVISOR: Joseph Mickevich

CLERK: Kurt D. Lubben

TREASURER: Rita Randle

TRUSTEES: Lori Cregg, Curt Jones

Summit Township

Summit Township is the smallest township in terms of area in the county, and it is in the southwest corner of the county. Bass Lake within the township, and it is along Lake Michigan. To the north is Pere Marquette Township and to the east is Riverton Township.

ADDRESS: 4879 W. Deren Road, Ludington

SUPERVISOR: Wayne Kelly

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Mason County

CLERK: Kay Deanda
TREASURER: Mary Bedker
TRUSTEES: Edward L. Chase, Todd Jorissen

Victory Township

Victory Township is home to West Shore Community College, and the township is bordered by Grant Township to the north, Hamlin Township to the west, Amber Township to the south and Sherman Township to the west.
ADDRESS: 2417 N. Victory Corner Road
 Scottville
SUPERVISOR: James Mazur
CLERK: Barbara Egeler
TREASURER: Patricia Geers
TRUSTEES: Robert W. Kesling, Jerome Papes

Mason County Villages

Village of Custer

The Village of Custer is along U.S. 10, just a few miles east of Scottville. The Pere Marquette Railway bisects the village.
PRESIDENT: Lyle Reene
CLERK: Margaret Griswold
TREASURER: Jody Baunoch
TRUSTEES: Caleb Whitaker, Stanley McCumber, Lon Reader

Village of Fountain

The Village of Fountain is situated near the Lincoln River, and a branch of the Pere Marquette Railway travels through the village.
PRESIDENT: Kenneth Budzynski
CLERK: Kathleen J. Soper

TREASURER: Jeanne VanSickle
TRUSTEES: Scott A. Fenner, Kathleen I. Sorenson

Village of Free Soil

The Village of Free Soil is in the northern portion of Mason County along Free Soil Road between Custer and Stephens roads. A spur of the Pere Marquette Railway travels through the village.
PRESIDENT: Vince Williams
CLERK/TREASURER: Mary Brown
TRUSTEES: Jason Brown, Duane Haiss, Carrie VanSlooten



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# Mason County facts

The county is named for Stevens T. Mason, Governor of Michigan. It was created by the Michigan Legislature in 1840 as Nottke County, then renamed Mason County in 1843. The county was administered by Ottawa County prior to the organization of county government in 1855.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 1,242 square miles, of which 495 square miles is land and 747 square miles (60%) is water.

The estimated population is 29,100. 12,115 households.



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# Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

The mission of SPLKA is to preserve, promote and educate the public and make our light houses accessible to all.



Standard admission rates to climb the towers are as follows: All lighthouses are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 17 and under. Our height requirement to climb all of our lighthouses is 40 inches. The admission prices help our effort to meet the goal of preserving our majestic lighthouses. We hope your visit will spur your interest to join our organization or a lighthouse organization near you. Bus Day to Big Sable: Round trip bus transportation from noon to 5 pm is offered from the building next to the park office to the Big Sable Lighthouse.



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# Lake Michigan Carferry

## National Historic Landmark

The SS Badger Carferry is Designated as a National Historic Landmark

The S.S. Badger is the last coal-fired passenger steamship in operation in the United States. She has provided a fun, reliable and affordable shortcut across beautiful Lake Michigan for more than 60 years and has transported millions of passengers since her re-birth in 1992. In 2016 she received the nation's highest historic honor when the Department of Interior officially designated the Badger as a National Historic Landmark.

The SS Badger offers the largest cross-lake passenger service on the Great Lakes and an authentic steamship experience. The relaxing four-hour, 60-mile cruise takes passengers, autos, RVs, tour buses, motorcycles, bicycles, and commercial trucks across Lake Michigan between Ludington, Michigan and Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

The Badger experience allows a rare opportunity to explore a little history - and a lot of fun by taking a step back into the past on a journey that's as important as the destination.



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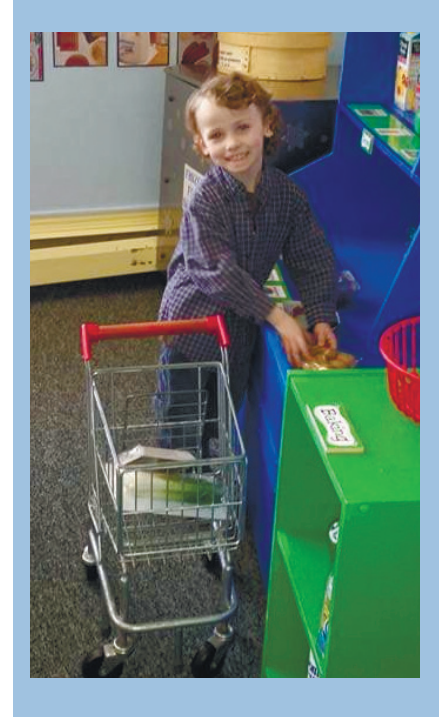
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# Sandcastles Children's Museum



The mission of Sandcastles Children's Museum is to create an environment that encourages and inspires children and families to explore their world. Sandcastles Children's Museum is a non profit, hands-on, educational children's museum. Sandcastles' mission is to encourage and inspire children and families to explore their world through hands-on exhibits and programs that stimulate creativity, curiosity, the love of learning, cultural awareness, and positive interactions within and among families.



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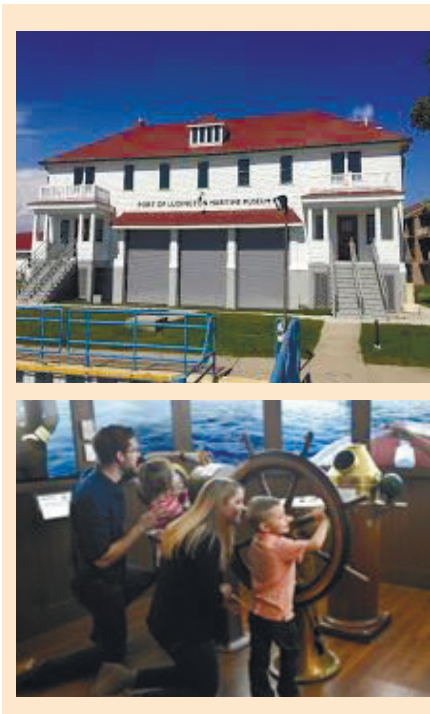
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# Port of Ludington Maritime Museum



The Port of Ludington Maritime Museum brings history to life with digital storytelling, authentic images and artifacts, and engaging interactive exhibits that entertain, enlighten and inspire a deeper appreciation for the region’s maritime history. Located in the former U.S. Coast Guard Station, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this family-friendly, three-story museum overlooks Lake Michigan’s wild shoreline, Ludington’s iconic North Pier Light, and the historic carferry (SS Badger carferry) Badger, extending the maritime experience beyond its doors in this vacation wonderland. The museum is operated by the Mason County Historical Society, which also operates the nearby Historic White Pine Village.



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FEBRUARY 2022

**EVERY SUNDAY**, Family Fun Day Sunday, Sandcastles Children's Museum

**EVERY MONDAY**, Monday Music & Movement with Marlene and Friends, Sandcastles Children's Museum

**EVERY MONDAY**, Shifting Landscapes, Ludington Area Center of the Arts, 7-8:30 p.m.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**, Kid After School Clay Class, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 3:30-5 p.m.

**EVERY FRIDAY**, Toddler Time, Sandcastles Children's Museum

**EVERY FRIDAY**, Fun Family Family Crafts, Ludington and Scottville libraries, 11 a.m.

**FEB. 4**  
**ADULT CRAFT**, Ludington Library, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**FEB. 6**  
**CLAY GOBLET** Workshop, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 3-5 p.m.

**FEB. 8**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten in the Courtyard, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.

**FEB. 9**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.

**FEB. 11**  
**WHEEL THROWING** Workshop, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.

**FRED KNAPP** Quintet, WSCC Performing Arts Series, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, Manistee, 7:30 p.m.

**FEB. 18**  
**TEEN CRAFT**, Ludington Library, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**VISUAL ARTS** Critique Group, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**WHEEL THROWING** Workshop, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.

**FEB. 22**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten in the Courtyard, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.

**FEB. 23**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.

**RACIAL EQUITY** Club, Ludington Library, Zonta Room, 11 a.m. to noon; 6-7 p.m.

**FEB. 25**  
**WHEEL THROWING** Workshop, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.

**FEB. 26-27**  
**SALMON SCHOOL**, Captain Chucks II, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**MARCH 2022**  
**EVERY MONDAY**, Shifting Landscapes, Ludington Area Center of the Arts, 7-8:30 p.m.

**EVERY MONDAY**, Monday Music & Movement with Marlene and Friends, Sandcastles Children's Museum

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.

**EVERY FRIDAY**, Fun Family Family Crafts, Ludington and Scottville libraries, 11 a.m.

**MARCH 1-5**  
**SPRING COMMUNITY** Auction, Ludington &



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- Scottville Chamber of Commerce, online
- MARCH 3**  
**KIDS AFTER** School Clay Class, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 3:30-5 p.m.
- CLAY GARDEN** Flowers, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- MARCH 4**  
**ADULT CRAFT**, Ludington Library, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- MARCH 8**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-8 p.m.
- MARCH 9**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- MARCH 10**  
**CLAY GARDEN** Flowers, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- MARCH 14**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- MARCH 16**  
**LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**, Ludington Meat Company, 5-7 p.m.
- MARCH 18**  
**TEEN CRAFT**, Ludington Library, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- VISUAL ARTS** Critique Group, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- MARCH 19**  
**IRISH JOG** 5K/10K, Legacy Plaza, 9 a.m.
- ST. PATRICK'S** Day in Downtown Ludington, parade at noon, scavenger hunt, live music, kids' games
- MARCH 22**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- MARCH 23**  
**RACIAL EQUITY** Club, Ludington Library, Zonta Room, 11 a.m. to noon; 6-7 p.m.
- UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- MARCH 24**  
**CLAY TILE** Workshop, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- MARCH 31**  
**CLAY TILE** Workshop, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- APRIL 2022**  
**EVERY MONDAY**, Monday Music & Movement with Marlene and Friends, Sandcastles Children's Museum
- EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- MAY 9**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- MAY 10**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- MAY 11**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- MAY 12**  
**SS BADGER** first day of sailing season for 2022, 701 Maritime Drive, 9 a.m.
- MAY 15**  
**MASON COUNTY** Saddle Club show, Mason County Fairgrounds
- MAY 20-22**  
**LUDINGTON HOBBIES** RC Event, Mason County Fairgrounds
- MAY 20**  
**VISUAL ARTS** Critique Group, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- APRIL 8**  
**THE ACCIDENTALS**, WSCC Performing Arts Series, Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, Manistee, 7:30 p.m.
- APRIL 11**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- APRIL 12**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- APRIL 13**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- APRIL 15**  
**VISUAL ARTS** Critique Group, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- APRIL 26**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- APRIL 27**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**, Western Land Services, 5-7 p.m.
- APRIL 29-30**  
**MASON-LAKE CONSERVATION** District Tree Sale, Mason County Fairgrounds
- MAY 2022**  
**EVERY MONDAY**, Monday Music & Movement with Marlene and Friends, Sandcastles Children's Museum
- EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- MAY 21**  
**HARBOR RUN** 5K/10K, Waterfront Park, Ludington, 7:30-8:45 a.m.
- MAY 24**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- MAY 25**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**, OxyChem, 5-7 p.m.
- MAY 28-29**  
**LAKESHORE BEEF** Classic, Mason County Fairgrounds
- MAY 30**  
**VETERANS PARADE** from Mason County Courthouse to Stearns Park, Mason County Allied Veterans Council, 10:15 a.m.
- MEMORIAL DAY** ceremonies, Mason County Allied Veterans Council, Stearns Park, 11 a.m.
- JUNE 2022**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- JUNE 5**  
**LAKESHORE HOG** Spectacular, Mason County Fairgrounds
- JUNE 8**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- JUNE 11**  
**LUDINGTON LAKESTRIDE**, 5K, 10K and half marathon, races start at Nader's Motel & Suites, Ludington, 8 a.m.
- JUNE 13**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- JUNE 14**  
**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- JUNE 17**  
**VISUAL ARTS** Critique Group, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- JUNE 18-19**  
**LUDINGTON GUS** Macker 3-on-3 Charity Basketball Tournament, Stearns Park, Ludington
- SUMMER CIZZLER** Series horse show, Mason County Fairgrounds
- JUNE 22**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Com-**

merce Business After Hours, Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 5-7 p.m.

**JUNE 23**

**PURE LUDINGTON** Sunset Beach Bonfire, Stearns Park Beach, Ludington, 8-10 p.m.

**JUNE 25**

**COAST TO COAST** Gravel Grinder bicycle race, Stearns Park Beach, Ludington. Either 210-mile race from Lake Huron at sunrise to Ludington or an 100-mile loop at Ludington.

**MASON COUNTY** Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2022 Unveiling Ceremony, Historic White Pine Village, 12 p.m.

**MASON COUNTY** Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2022 Induction Banquet, Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 6 p.m.

**JUNE 28**

**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.

**JULY 2022**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.

**JULY 1-9**

**HARBOR CLASSIC** horse show, Mason County Fairgrounds

**JULY 2-3**

**WEST SHORE** Art Fair sponsored by Ludington Area Center for the Arts, Rotary Park, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday

**JULY 4**

**LUDINGTON AREA** Jaycees Freedom Festival parade, downtown Ludington, 1 p.m.

**LUDINGTON AREA** Jaycees Freedom Festival fireworks show, Stearns Park/Lake Michigan shoreline, dusk

**JULY 7-9**, 12-16, 19-23, 26-30

**SCENES FROM** Epworth, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays)

**JULY 11-17**

**LUDINGTON OFFSHORE** Classic Fishing Tournament

**JULY 11**

**P.M. ROCK &** Mineral Club, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.

**JULY 12**

**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.

**JULY 13**

**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.

**JULY 15**

**VISUAL ARTS** Critique Group, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**JULY 16-17**

**SUMMER CIZZLER** Series horse show, Mason County Fairgrounds

**JULY 16**

**BUCCANEER BASH** to benefit Alzheimer's Association, Hosted by Lakeshore Pyrate Heads at Ludington Boat Club, 4 p.m.

**JULY 23-24**

**4 SEASONS** Equestrian Association Open Show, Mason County Fairgrounds

**JULY 26**

**KNITTIN' AT** the Mitten, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.

**JULY 27**

**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.

**JULY 28-31**

**LISA TERRY** Memorial Show, Mason County Fairgrounds

**JULY 28**

**PURE LUDINGTON** Sunset Beach Bonfire, Stearns Park Beach, 8-10 p.m.

**AUGUST 2022**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8

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- p.m.
- EVERY SATURDAY**, Scenes from Epworth, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- AUG. 8**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- AUG. 9-13**  
**WESTERN MICHIGAN Fair**, Mason County Fairgrounds
- AUG. 9**  
**KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- AUG. 13-14**  
**GOLD COAST Artisan Fair** sponsored by Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Park, Ludington
- AUG. 17**  
**LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**, Larsen's Landscaping and Smith & Eddy Insurance, 5-7 p.m.
- AUG. 19**  
**VISUAL ARTS Critique Group**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- AUG. 20**  
**SUDS ON the Shore Craft Beer Festival** to benefit United Way of Mason County, Rotary Park, 12-5 p.m.
- AUG. 21**  
**MASON COUNTY Saddle Club show**, Mason County Fairgrounds
- AUG. 23**  
**LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Golf Classic**, Lincoln Hills Golf Club, 11:30 a.m.
- KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- AUG. 25**  
**PURE LUDINGTON Sunset Beach Bonfire**, Stearns Park Beach, 8-10 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- EVERY SATURDAY**, Scenes from Epworth, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- SEPT. 3-4**  
**SHORELINE ALL Breed Youth Show**, Mason County Fairgrounds
- SEPT. 12**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- SEPT. 13**  
**KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- SEPT. 14**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- SEPT. 16**  
**VISUAL ARTS Critique Group**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- SEPT. 27**  
**KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- SEPT. 28**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**, Todd & Brad Reed Photography and Ludington Beverage
- SEPT. 29**  
**LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner**, Lincoln Hills Golf Club
- SEPT. 30**  
**OCTOBERFEST PUB Crawl**, Downtown Ludington
- OCTOBER 2022**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- EVERY SATURDAY**, Scenes from Epworth, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- OCT. 1**  
**OCTOBERFEST IN** Downtown Ludington, Legacy Plaza, 1-6 p.m.
- OCT. 10**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- OCT. 11**  
**KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- OCT. 12**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- OCT. 16**  
**SS BADGER** final day of sailing for 2022, 701 Maritime Drive, 9 a.m.
- OCT. 21**  
**VISUAL ARTS Critique Group**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- OCT. 25**  
**KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- OCT. 26**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- LUDINGTON & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**, Safe Harbor Credit Union and Ludington Bay Brewing, 5-7 p.m.
- OCT. 29**  
**RUN FOR Your Lives 5K/10K**, Legacy Plaza, Ludington, 9 a.m.
- NOVEMBER 2022**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- EVERY SATURDAY**, Scenes from Epworth, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- NOV. 8**  
**KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- NOV. 9**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- NOV. 14**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- NOV. 18**  
**VISUAL ARTS Critique Group**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- NOV. 23**  
**UKULELE GROUP**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 1-3 p.m.
- NOV. 26**  
**AGLOW ON the Avenue Holiday Parade**, downtown Ludington, 6 p.m.
- DECEMBER 2022**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY**, Evening Music Jam Session, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6-8 p.m.
- EVERY SATURDAY**, Scenes from Epworth, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- DEC. 1-27**  
**DECK THE Halls: Mason County Decorating Contest**, Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce.
- DEC. 12**  
**P.M. ROCK & Mineral Club**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 6:30-8 p.m.
- DEC. 13**  
**KNITTIN' AT the Mitten**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts courtyard, 6-9 p.m.
- DEC. 16**  
**VISUAL ARTS Critique Group**, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- DEC. 31**  
**PURE LUDINGTON New Year's Eve Ball Drop**, Legacy Plaza, 9 p.m. to 12:15 a.m.

# Mason County charities and how to give

## AAUW

Beginning in 1935 with just six members, the Ludington Chapter of the American Association of University Women has been in operation for more than 80 years.

The AAUW is a nationwide network of more than 100,000 members and donors, with 1,000 branches and 600 college/university partners. The organization's mission is to advance equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The Ludington Chapter of the AAUW provides scholarship funds to students and sponsors a number of monthly events, including public debates, informative open meetings regarding community education and mental health and presentations from other organizations and local agencies. The group assists with the Petunia Parade and Fourth

of July Freedom Festival Parade.

The AAUW has an elected board of directors and holds meetings monthly, and also sponsors young women to attend leadership training. Funds for the group are raised largely through an annual book sale in the summer and a sugar plum auction in the fall.

For more information or to make a donation, call Patricia Otto at (231) 845-7665 or visit [www.ludington-mi.aauw.net](http://www.ludington-mi.aauw.net).

## AFFEW

Good environmental stewardship, recycling and mitigating ecosystem damage are just a few priorities of Ludington nonprofit AFFEW, or A Few Friends for the Environment of the World.

The group's mission is to provide Mason County's visitors and residents with information about environmental

issues by promoting public awareness, recognizing good environmental practices, hosting panels and sponsoring events like beach clean-ups and invasive species removal days.

The organization also awards local businesses who support green practices, hosts forums and speakers and sponsors an annual Earth Day seminar at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts, which features speakers on organic farming, native landscaping and the importance of recycling and sustainability. The group also participates in planting for the Petunia Parade, hosts an annual Hazardous Waste Day and performs monitoring of local waterways.

To learn more, get involved or donate, check out [www.affew.org](http://www.affew.org) or contact Julia Chambers at [earthmuffin56@gmail.com](mailto:earthmuffin56@gmail.com).

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# Mason County charities and how to give

## American Legion

Founded in 1919, the Edwin H. Ewing Post 76 was named after a decorated World War I veteran.

The post is based at 318 N. James St., Ludington, and is open to members and guests for social events and meetings throughout the year. Several groups are part of the Legion, including the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, the Honor Guard and the Color Guard. The Honor Guard takes part in funerals and memorial events, and the Color Guard often performs in ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The legion also offers the opportunity to consult with a Veterans Affairs officer every Wednesday.

The Post houses a museum featuring war memorabilia from local veterans.

Membership is open to any veteran or immediate family member of a veter-

an who served from Dec. 7, 1941 to the present. The legion is actively recruiting new members.

The Post Commander is Pete Probst. For more information about how to join or to make a donation, visit the Post or call 845-7094.

## American Red Cross

Blood drives are just one program the local branch of the American Red Cross offers.

The Red Cross offers and installs smoke detectors for free for both homeowners and renters, and hosts first aid and CPR training classes. Another Red Cross program, Pillowcase, teaches second- through sixth-graders how to prepare for fires and home disasters.

Along with financial contributions, those looking to help are encouraged to donate blood.

Nationally, the Red Cross supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood, along with shelter, food, funds and other support to victims of disasters. The organization also provides support to military members and their families.

For more information about services, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-REDCROSS to make an appointment. A blood donor card, driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

For information about upcoming blood drives, call (231) 256-3624.

## Area 24 Special Olympics

The mission of the Area 24 Special Olympics is to provide year-round

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# Mason County charities and how to give

sports training and athletic competition to children and adults with disabilities. Programs span a variety of sports and activities — those starting now include basketball and winter sports, like cross-country skiing. The program is free to participate in and includes food, room and board while traveling.

Athletes are given continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness and athletic skill, demonstrate courage, experience joy and share gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

For questions or to make a donation, contact Area 24 Director Jerry Shangle, (231) 843-4416, or Assistant Director Gary Boerema, (231) 845-7604.

Financial help and donations of equipment are welcome, as well as volunteers.

## Church Women United

Church Women United is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the community.

Founded nearly 70 years ago, Church Women United supports causes like monthly birthday parties at Oakview and Tendercare, a May friendship luncheon, continued donations to the Salvation Army and collecting items for the food pantry. The organization also hosts the annual Mitten Tree event.

To get involved, donations can be made to participating churches or to Church Women United directly by calling (231) 843-3523 or (231) 843-2901.

## Circle Rocking S Children’s Farm

At Circle Rocking S Children’s Farm, special needs children are in the spotlight.

The farm, at 5487 N. Tuttle Road, Free Soil, offers the chance for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities to learn more about farm animals and participate in events tailored for them, including sheep-shearing demonstrations, a Blessing of the Animals event that welcomes pets, a barn dance and potluck and the annual farm olympics.

Circle Rocking S is dedicated to providing animal touch therapy and recreation to people with disabilities — always free of charge. Each year, the farm welcomes more than 3,000 guests for public events and tours.

Tours are available by appointment every weekday, and last about an hour to an hour and a half, depending on group size. One chaperone is required for every five children. For more information, visit [www.circlerockingsfarm.org](http://www.circlerockingsfarm.org).



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# Mason County charities and how to give

The farm's programming is funded solely through donations. To donate or learn more, contact Nancy Supran at [circlerockingsfarm@att.net](mailto:circlerockingsfarm@att.net) or see [www.circlerockingsfarm.org](http://www.circlerockingsfarm.org).

## Community Cats TNR

Community Cats TNR is a local, non-profit group of volunteers, caregivers and veterinarians working to reduce and stabilize the number of free-roaming, abandoned, homeless and feral cats in Mason County through a humane program called Trap-Neuter-Return.

Volunteers work with caregivers to feed and provide fresh water and shelter to homeless cats, before trapping them and bringing them to a veterinarian for treatment.

Community Cats works with the help of two local veterinarian's offices, Country Veterinary Clinic and Animal Hospital of Ludington. Each cat receives a general health check, parasite treatments, vaccines against rabies and distemper/respiratory virus and pain medication. The tip of the left ear is clipped so the cat, once returned to her caregiver, can be identified as a TNR (spayed/neutered) cat. After surgery, cats are cared for by volunteers.

After TNR, cats are healthier, and there is less fighting and less spraying. Their quality of life is improved and the distressing signs of domestic animals suffering from neglect are curtailed.

Since October 2019, Community Cats has TNR'd 981 cats and prevented the birth of 221,000 kittens.

For more information or to donate to the cause, see [www.communitycatstnr.org](http://www.communitycatstnr.org) or call (231) 845-7888 or (231) 843-9312. The organization is in need of donations of funds and cat food. Building materials for winter cat shelters are also welcome. Donations may be directed to P.O. Box 384, Ludington, MI 49431.

## Community Foundation

### for Mason County

At the Community Foundation for Mason County, collaborating with donors, grantees, advisors and individuals to identify issues that are important to local communities is the goal. By bringing people together around a common mission and creating links between resources and a vision for the future, the organization helps to ensure that communities remain vital and strong.

Every year, the foundation awards grants and scholarships that benefit student education, the arts, community development, the environment, health and human services and other emerging community needs. Projects the Community Foundation has supported include the City of Ludington Pickleball Courts, an accessible state park playground, the Lakeshore Resource Network, Rotary Park, an early childhood museum discovery zone, regional recreational trails, backpack food and more than \$76,500 yearly in scholarships that continue to enhance life throughout Mason County. Gifts from community members support these projects.

Donations to the Community Foundation are invested for long-term growth, providing grants back into the community. If everyone leaves 5 percent of their estate to a Foundation fund, more than \$136 million will be invested in Mason County by 2055.

More information is available by calling (231) 845-0326, emailing [alarge@cffmc.org](mailto:alarge@cffmc.org) or visiting [www.mason-foundation.org](http://www.mason-foundation.org).

### COVE

COVE — which stands for Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters — has been the safety net for women, men and their children who are experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault in Mason, Oceana and Lake counties for more than 40 years.

The nonprofit, located at 906 E. Lud-

ington Ave., offers a temporary shelter for those who need to leave dangerous situations, a crisis hotline, a sexual assault nurse examiner unit, victim resources and speakers and events to raise awareness about the prevalence of domestic violence and how to help friends and family members in those situations.

The organization operates in Mason, Lake and Oceana counties, and offers support groups and other resources, including clothing and necessities. All money donated to COVE stays in west Michigan. COVE serves men, women and children in need.

COVE is accepting tax-deductible donations of funds — one-time and recurring — and appreciates stock and items like clothing.

Contact COVE in person or by mail at 906 E. Ludington Ave., Ludington, MI 49431. Make donations by credit or debit, or get more information by calling (231) 843-2541.

See [www.callcove.com](http://www.callcove.com) for more information, and check out COVE's Facebook page for upcoming events.

If you or someone you love needs help, call the 24-hour crisis line at 1-800-950-5808.

## Custer Veterans of Foreign Wars

The Custer VFW Gold Bar Post is located at 2022 E. U.S. 10 in Custer. Social events and fundraisers for the post, such as steak dinners and dances, are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend — see times in your daily community calendar.

In addition, the post houses an Auxiliary group for those who have a parent or grandparent who was a veteran and an Honor Guard, which provides military honors at veteran funeral services.

For more information or to make a donation, call (231) 757-9665.

## Custer Sculpture

# Mason County charities and how to give

The Custer Sculpture Committee recently purchased and installed a brass sculpture commemorating Johnny's Bandstand. The sculpture was installed in the fall, but the committee is still accepting donations to complete the final portions of the project, including construction of a gazebo to protect it from the elements, and installation of interactive on-cell technology so people can learn about the history of Johnny's Bandstand while viewing the sculpture.

Contributions can be sent to Community Foundation for Mason County (CFFMC), P.O. Box 10 Ludington 49431, with "Custer Sculpture" on the check. Or send a check to Custer Sculpture, P.O. Box 37 Custer, MI 49405.

## Disability Network West Michigan

Disability Network West Michigan helps provide independent living re-

sources for people with disabilities in Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Lake and Mason counties.

Walkways from the Stearns Park beach parking lot to Lake Michigan are in place thanks to community members who gave donations toward the cause, through Disability Network (formerly Disability Connections).

The organization is based in Muskegon. Call (231) 722-0088 for more information.

## Fin & Feather Club of Mason County

The Fin & Feather Club of Mason County is a local conservation club.

The club was founded in 1937 and was one of the founding organizations of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. The Fin & Feather Club has more

than 900 members.

Among the club's activities are funding a college scholarship to a person studying natural resources sciences, two scholarships to the West Shore Community College law enforcement training program in the name of Trooper Paul Butterfield and numerous fully paid scholarships for youth to MUCC summer camp. It also contributes to outdoor education programs in local schools and presents a safety-oriented Eddie Eagle program, developed by the NRA. It provides a basic message for young children — if you see a gun, Stop, Don't Touch, Tell an Adult. The club also contributes funds, aid and facilities to the area 4-H shooting programs and offers facilities for use by area law enforcement free of charge.

Fin & Feather Club offers hunter safety classes, basic pistol training classes and concealed pistol license training.



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# Mason County charities and how to give

The club operates skeet, trap, pistol, rifle and both 3-D and indoor archery ranges for the use of members and the public.

For more information, visit the club's website at [www.finandfeatherclub.org](http://www.finandfeatherclub.org)

## FiveCAP

The purpose of FiveCAP, Inc. is to motivate the poor through public and private resources to achieve economic and social independence.

FiveCAP acts as an advocate, catalyst and administrator of more than 40 programs to promote individual and family self sufficiency, utilizing federal, state and local resources to assist in the group's efforts. FiveCAP, a private nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation, is one of 29 Community Action Agencies in the State of Michigan.

The main FiveCAP office is located at

302 N. Main St. in Scottville. Other locations are in Manistee, Baldwin and White Cloud. To donate to the cause or learn more, call (231) 757-3785 or email [fivecap@fivecap.org](mailto:fivecap@fivecap.org).

## Fixing Furry Friends

Fixing Furry Friends works in Mason County by providing certificates to local residents who have dogs or cats to help with some of the cost of spaying and neutering their companion animals. All pet owners are welcome to request assistance.

The organization has issued more than 4,500 certificates as of August 2014.

To learn more or make a donation, see [www.fixingfurryfriends.org](http://www.fixingfurryfriends.org) or call (231) 757-4470.

## Free Soil Senior Center

Senior citizens from Free Soil and all over Mason County are invited to come to lunch and other activities at Free Soil Senior Center. Senior activities take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Free Soil Community Center, 8480 N. Democrat St. in Free Soil. Hot home-cooked meals are served for lunch at noon. A nurse comes to the center once a month to give free blood pressure checks.

For more information, or to rent the venue, call (231) 464-5885.

## Friends of the Ludington State Park

Friends of the Ludington State Park was founded in 1992 with the mission of helping the Ludington State Park in any way it can.

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# Mason County charities and how to give

FLSP is a volunteer, 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to preserving, enhancing and promoting the park. It has about 100 members and/or volunteers.

Friends of Ludington State Park provides volunteer support and funding for improvements the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is unable to provide for. FLSP works closely with the Ludington State Park’s management team to identify needs and seek solutions. Volunteer activities have included the new Hamlin Lake beach area playground, planting trees, pulling invasive species, hosting lantern-lit snowshoe hikes in January and February and roadside, trail and beach cleanups. FLSP sponsors the summer music, nature and entertainment programs, split with the DNR the cost of an accessible walkway at the Lake Michigan beach, paid for a cross-country ski trail groomer, beach wheelchairs, wildlife mounts, sig-

nage and more. Donations and a returnable bottle and can collection effort in the park make all this possible.

To learn more, join or donate to the cause, see [www.ludingtonfriends.com](http://www.ludingtonfriends.com) or look for Friends of Ludington State Park on Facebook. Donations for the playground or for other activities can be mailed to Friends of Ludington State Park, P.O. Box 123, Ludington, MI 49431. Email FLSP at [ludingtonstateparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:ludingtonstateparkfriends@gmail.com).

## Friends of Nordhouse Dunes

Friends of Nordhouse Dunes was founded in 2019 with the mission of helping the Nordhouse Dunes Area of the Manistee National Forest.

Friends of the Nordhouse Dunes is not a part of the U.S. Forest Service, but the group’s goal is to assist in clean-up events as well as eradicating invasive species within the Nordhouse Dunes

area in Grant Township.

To learn more, search Friends of Nordhouse Dunes on Facebook.

## Friends of the Mason County Sheriff’s Office

Keeping Mason County’s youth safe is the goal of the Friends of the Mason County Sheriff’s Office.

The organization works under the umbrella of the Community Fund for Mason County, with the purpose of fostering a relationship between the community and local law enforcement. It tries to distribute funds mainly toward causes impacting the community’s youth.

City and state police are also involved with the organization, and can request funds from the organization for projects.

Donations can be payable to “Friends of the Mason County Sheriff’s Office”

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# Mason County charities and how to give

and mailed to P.O. Box 10, Ludington MI 49431. For more information, contact Mason County Sheriff Kim Cole at the sheriff's office, (231) 843-3475.

## Friends of the Pere Marquette Conservation Park

Friends of the Pere Marquette Conservation Park was founded in 2021 with the mission of helping to assist with the needs of the Pere Marquette Conservation Park in Pere Marquette Township.

To learn more, contact PM Township Parks Manager Kelly Smith at parksmgr@pmtwp.org or (231) 907-1298.

## Habitat for Humanity of Mason County

Habitat for Humanity works with local communities to improve, maintain and build housing for those in need. The organization has partnered with the Pennies from Heaven Foundation to create a Neighbor to Neighbor neighborhood revitalization program. The program identifies neighborhoods with owner-occupied homes in need of exterior home repairs, and in the spring and fall, volunteers work to complete these repairs with the help of the homeowner.

Founded in 1996, Habitat for Humanity has built more than 23 homes in the Mason County area by partnering with individuals, congregations, businesses and other organizations to lend a hand up, not a hand out, to those in need of better housing. The organization also runs a ReStore, which sells donated, used furniture and building materials at low prices.

To volunteer or donate to the cause, contact Jamie Healy at hfh.masoncounty@gmail.com or (231) 843-7888.

## HELP Ministry

HELP Ministry, or Hands Extended Loving People, works to provide furni-

ture, appliances and household goods to families and individuals in need. As resources allow, HELP assists clients with rent, utilities and medical bills in collaboration with area social service agencies and churches. The group also helps with minor home repairs, including the construction of handicap ramps, and provides transportation for medical purposes.

HELP is a nonprofit, faith-based service ministry. The primary focus of HELP is to meet needs in cooperation with other agencies, ministries and churches in Mason County.

Volunteers of HELP are the greatest asset of the ministry, and are the key to meeting needs. People with many and varied talents willing to share their time and resources are the "unsung heroes" of our community. In showing the love of God in their unselfish acts of kindness, they are demonstrating their faith by putting feet to it, says Director Larry Lange.

To learn more, volunteer or donate to HELP, contact Lange at (231) 843-6811 or see [www.help-ministry.org](http://www.help-ministry.org).

## Hospitality in the Name of Christ

Hospitality In the Name of Christ, or Hospitality INC, operates a Christ-centered shelter for men at the Salvation Army, 1101 S. Madison St. in Ludington, from November through April. The shelter provides meals and a warm, safe place to sleep, and the group focuses on building Christ-loving relationships with guests. We believe that trust is the most important motive for establishing these relationships.

The organization's first priority is to make sure that guests have a safe place to go for food and shelter, and to give its struggling guests love and respect. The ministry also provides opportunities for shelter attendees to connect with religion, if they so choose.

For more information or to donate to Hospitality INC, email [hospitalityinc1@gmail.com](mailto:hospitalityinc1@gmail.com), see [www.hospitalityinthe-nameofchrist.org](http://www.hospitalityinthe-nameofchrist.org) or call (231) 852-4236 or (231) 510-4591. The shelter is open from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. from November through April.

gmail.com, see [www.hospitalityinthe-nameofchrist.org](http://www.hospitalityinthe-nameofchrist.org) or call (231) 852-4236 or (231) 510-4591. The shelter is open from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. from November through April.

## Jericho House of Mason County

The Women's Jericho House of Mason County (under J&J Mission, Inc.) is a nonprofit home for single, homeless women.

The organization provides free room and board for women that are homeless and works with them to deal with the issues that led them to homelessness. Women are welcome to stay in the house for up to one year. The women come from all over Michigan and sometimes out of state.

Women housed at the shelter range from age 18 to older. Past guests have been as old as 77 — all women older than 18 are welcome. For more information or to make a donation, stop by 912 E. Ludington Ave. or call (231) 843-3044.

## Lakeshore Animal Friends

For more than 25 years, Lakeshore Animal Friends has been advocating for Mason County's animals.

The nonprofit provides spay/neuter services for animals adopted from Mason County Animal Control, lends a hand and raises funds for the shelter and fosters dozens of local animals in need. Lakeshore Animal Friends has sponsored projects like roofing over the shelter's outdoor kennels.

The organization raises funds through annual events like a Memorial Day weekend yard sale, a Best Friends Fun Fest in October and a Home for the Holidays open house and Christmas bazaar at Mason County Animal Control, held earlier this month.

Lakeshore Animal Friends also provides educational materials on animal care for school-age children and adults

# Mason County charities and how to give

and participates in local activities where animals, animal adoption and animal care are featured. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Ludington Library. New members are always welcome.

Lend a hand by volunteering at Mason County Animal Control, fostering or giving a donation by contacting the group by going to its Facebook page by searching Lakeshore Animal Friends.

## Lakeshore Food Club

Healthy, balanced food options are a vital need in any household. For those struggling to make ends meet, there's the Lakeshore Food Club.

A subsidiary of the Lakeshore Resource Network at 920 E. Tinkham Ave. in Ludington, the food club offers \$10 monthly memberships to those in need. Set up like a grocery store, shoppers are

able to spend weekly points on different items — healthy items, like fresh fruits and vegetables, cost fewer points than snacks like cookies and granola bars.

The food club focuses on education, nutrition and financial literacy, and the buy-in and point system are ways to give shoppers more control.

Contact Executive Director O'Nealya Gronstal at (231) 480-4334 or [ogronstal@lakeshorefoodclub.org](mailto:ogronstal@lakeshorefoodclub.org) to donate or get involved. Financial contributions and food donations are welcome, as well as non-food products like hygiene items and cleaning supplies. Those looking to donate food are encouraged to consider things like hot chocolate, tea, coffee and soups. Diapers, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes are also needed.

To volunteer or for more information, visit [www.lakeshorefoodclub.org](http://www.lakeshorefoodclub.org).

## Lakeshore Pyrate Heads

Since 2002, the Lakeshore Pyrate Heads — formerly the Parrot Heads — have been doing justice to their motto of “partying with a purpose.”

The organization is a group of Jimmy Buffet fans who seek to emulate his laid-back lifestyle, love of tropical music and the beach and support for the Alzheimer's Association.

The club holds a Buccaneer Bash each July to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association, Great Lakes Chapter, and also hosts fundraisers for the Salvation Army. Other causes taken up by the Pyrates include homeless shelter breakfasts, Salvation Army bell ringing, supporting the library and Sandcastles Children's Museum's reading programs, a Lakestride water station and collection donations for Toys for Tots.

The Pyrates and their ship, “The



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# Mason County charities and how to give

Adventure,” also take part in many downtown Ludington events and hold “Pirate” programs at schools.

For more information or to make a donation, visit the group’s Facebook page.

## Lakeshore Resource Network

The Lakeshore Resource Network is Mason County’s largest hub for services.

The building, at 920 E. Tinkham Ave., Ludington, houses several service organizations under its roof, including the American Red Cross, Lakeshore Food Club, AARP Foundation, Habitat for Humanity Mason-Lake Adult Education, Michigan Works! West Central, the Pennies from Heaven Foundation, Staircase Youth Services, True North Community Services and the United Way of Mason County.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Monica Schuyler at [monica.schuyler@pfhf.org](mailto:monica.schuyler@pfhf.org).

## Ludington Area Center for the Arts

The primary purpose of the Ludington Area Center for the Arts is to promote Ludington’s art scene.

To do this, LACA offers gallery displays, music, performances and dinner events, craft shows, concerts and art sales, to name a few.

The center, at 107 S. Harrison St. in Ludington, is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

Call (231) 845-2787 or contact [info@ludingtonartscenter.org](mailto:info@ludingtonartscenter.org) for more information or to donate to LACA.

## Ludington Area Charter Boat Association

Year after year, Ludington ranks as the No. 1 salmon fishing port in Michigan. To champion that title is the Ludington Area Charter Boat Association,

a chapter of the Michigan Charter Boat Association. The group brings local charter captains together and is involved closely in the Department of Natural Resources’ fish stocking plans and other programs.

More than 45 captains belong to the association.

For more information, contact [info@ludingtonsalmon.com](mailto:info@ludingtonsalmon.com) or call 1-800-927-3470.

## Ludington Area Schools Oriole Foundation

The Ludington Area Schools Oriole Foundation was established in December 2003 with the goal of enriching the LASD tradition of excellence. The mission of the Oriole Foundation is to raise public support for innovative programs and activities sponsored by the school district, enhance and strengthen the education of all individuals and groups within the school district, find resources to assist the development of exceptional educational programs not normally funded through regular fiscal resources and help to fill the community’s unique educational needs.

The foundation raises money through donations as well as fundraisers.

To learn more about the foundation or make a donation, visit [www.lasd.net/district/oriole-foundation](http://www.lasd.net/district/oriole-foundation).

## Ludington Area Senior Center

The Ludington Area Senior Center aims to promote healthy aging by providing an opportunity for the productive and satisfying use of leisure time, create an environment where individual differences and needs are recognized, develop quality programs and services and serve as a bridge to other services for those 55 and older.

The center’s goals are to provide opportunities for socialization and a sense of belonging, and develop recreational

activities, educational programs, creative activities and programs, and to facilitate self-expression.

Volunteers are welcome to lend a hand at the center. For more information about the center and volunteering, or to make a donation, contact Director Vickie Collins at (231) 845-6841. Donations of funds are welcome, along with coffee, Kleenex and paper towel. See a weekly schedule of events every Friday in your Daily News. A schedule can also be found at the senior center’s Facebook page.

## Ludington Area Jaycees

The Ludington Area Jaycees is the premier leadership organization for young professionals ages 21 to 40 in Mason County. Celebrating its 70th year in 2017, the Jaycees have always been dedicated to offering community service opportunities, personal and professional development, networking, and social activities to their members.

The group hosts the Fourth of July Freedom Festival celebration, which includes the Children & Pet Parade, Grand Parade and fireworks over Lake Michigan. The group’s other community events include its annual Easter Egg hunt, providing school supplies to children in need, working with local businesses to provide low-income families with complete Thanksgiving meals, and hosting monthly bingo for the residents of Oakview Medical Care Facility.

The club also owns and operates a mini golf course at Stearns Park with 30 percent of proceeds donated back to local nonprofit causes and organizations every year. The mini golf facility, which was renovated in 2014, has been a staple of the community for both tourists and residents for more than 50 years. Unlimited passes are available for \$100 per family. The mini golf business is solely run to support other community needs and the club garners no profits from its operation.

# Mason County charities and how to give

The club also provides members with social and networking opportunities, as well as personal and professional trainings both locally and through the Michigan Jaycees.

Donations to the Jaycees can be made by visiting [www.ludingtonareajaycees.org/resources/donate](http://www.ludingtonareajaycees.org/resources/donate). Those interested in joining the Jaycees are encouraged to email [info@ludingtonareajaycees.org](mailto:info@ludingtonareajaycees.org).

## Ludington Baseball Club

The mission of the Ludington Baseball Club is to provide advanced training and play for boys interested in playing baseball outside of Ludington. The organization participates in a travel baseball league, offering four teams: ages 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 13 and under and 17 and under.

Training for this summer begins in January. Play runs April through July. This year's tryouts are already closed. For next summer's teams, tryouts will be held in July 2020.

For more information or to make a donation, contact President Dan Mesyar at (231) 233-5350 or [danmesyar7@yahoo.com](mailto:danmesyar7@yahoo.com). Donations go toward equipment, tournament fees and uniforms.

## Ludington High School Resource Center

The Ludington High School's Resource Center offers neighbor-to-neighbor hospitality to struggling local families.

Struggling students are welcome to come to the center for food for their families, clothing and other necessities. Other students volunteer to keep the center running, donating outgrown clothing and food items. Food, clothing, toiletries and household items are free to those in need. Some struggling students are able to shower at the school and have clothes washed through the

program, as well.

Students and families that need help with basic necessities can access the center by contacting LHS' Mark Boon through [www.lasd.net](http://www.lasd.net) or calling (231) 845-7303 for more information.

## Ludington Petunia Parade

The Ludington Petunia Parade has been an annual tradition since 1988.

Each year, hundreds of volunteers join together for the community beautification project, which involves planting and nurturing 30,000 petunias along some downtown streets.

Project planning for the event begins in the fall and winter seasons with soil testing, ordering the petunias and recruiting block captains and crews. Planting day is a community celebration of spring.

To get involved with the Petunia Parade, call (231) 843-9225 or (231) 794-9023, or email [ludingtonpetuniaparade@gmail.com](mailto:ludingtonpetuniaparade@gmail.com)

Each planting season costs about \$10,000. Donations can be directed to Ludington Petunia Parade, P.O. Box 5, Ludington, MI 49431.

This year, block captains, planters and weeding assistants are needed. The group encourages donations of time or funding in lieu of equipment.

## Optimist Club of Ludington

The Optimist Club of Ludington combines the efforts of its community-minded membership to bring out the best in kids.

Membership offers opportunities to mentor students and provide safe and positive experiences for children in the community. Through strength in unity, the club provides increased benefits to the youth of the community through combined thinking and manpower. The organization includes the Childhood Cancer Campaign. To donate to that cause, contact Tom or Patricia Ezdeb-

ski.

The Optimist Club meets weekly on Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. at the American Legion, 318 N. James St., Ludington.

Meetings will not be held if the Ludington Area School District is closed due to weather.

To donate to the club, contact Annette Quillan at (231) 690-7670 or [annettequillan@yahoo.com](mailto:annettequillan@yahoo.com).

## Ludington Rec Soccer

Ludington Rec Soccer is a nonprofit organization that supports the community and its children through the game of soccer.

The group aims to give every child the opportunity to get out and learn to play the game, as well as learn teamwork and respect for each other.

Each season, Ludington Soccer has 300 to 400 players from 4 to 19 years old. Roughly 30 to 50 volunteers help out with coaching, concessions and other various tasks. The organization is largely volunteer-based, and relies heavily on help from parents and the community. The goal is to increase player participation, player and parent knowledge of the game of soccer, improving skills and increasing opportunities to play year-round. During the past two years, Ludington Soccer has added new goals and equipment from the help of the community.

To make a donation, the mailing address is PO Box 455 Ludington, MI 49431. Volunteers are also welcome.

To volunteer, email [ludingtonrecsoccer@gmail.com](mailto:ludingtonrecsoccer@gmail.com).

## Ludington Writers

Ludington Writers is a nonprofit organization founded by the late George Dila. The group is dedicated to enhancing access to the literary arts in Ludington and the surrounding area, working closely with the Ludington Area Arts

# Mason County charities and how to give

Council.

The Ludington Writers gather every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts for events like movie viewing and discussion, writing workshops and education nights, hosted by Mary Wickwire. Anyone interested is welcome to stop by — there are no formal memberships or dues, but a \$2 donation is requested for each attendee to cover the cost of copying, coffee and tea.

The group also supports a Carol Bennett Memorial Scholarship, which it offers each year to local high school seniors. Events like an annual Writer's Rendezvous, Writer in Residence and other workshops are also sponsored by the Ludington Writers.

Ludington Writers welcomes donations, which will be used for educational activities and scholarships. Donations

can be made in person at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts or by contacting westshorewords@gmail.com.

## Ludrock

Ludrock is more than one of Ludington's biggest musical extravaganzas — it's a community.

Ludrock Nation includes its namesake festival in July, Girls Rock, Night of Fright and Ludrock All Stars.

The nonprofit started as a crazy idea between co-founders Ed Santarelli and Jess Stubs, who used to hold a similar, multi-band jam session in friends' garages. Now, the events grace downtown spots and raise money for local nonprofits, including Hospitality in the Name of Christ, Sandcastles Children's Museum, the Ludington Area Center for the Arts and the Lakeshore Resource

Network.

For more information or to donate, see the Ludrock Facebook page or contact edwardsantarelli@hotmail.com.

## Mason County Animal Control

Mason County Animal Control works to provide the area's lost, abandoned and surrendered pets a second chance.

The shelter, at 305 N. Meyers Road in Amber Township, is Mason County's only animal shelter.

Mason County Animal Control urges those who lose pets to check the shelter first. It also provides advice and tips for pet owners on its Facebook page.

Unwanted animals can also be surrendered to the shelter, and Mason County Animal Control provides euthanization for ill or old, suffering animals. Complaints of neglected or abandoned ani-

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- Oriole Work Based Learning Academy
- Dual-enrollment courses (WSSC)
- 24 Varsity Sports Teams
- Ludington Robotics
- Wind Symphony
- Marching Band
- Concert Choir
- Drama Club
- Jazz Band
- Quiz Bowl

LASD offers a variety of other clubs and organizations for student interests and a number of academic student support services and programs.



**Come soar higher with us at Ludington Area Schools!**  
For all the latest Oriole News visit [www.lasd.net](http://www.lasd.net)

# Mason County charities and how to give

imals can be made to the shelter as well.

Pets available for adoption are listed on the organization's website, Facebook page and at [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com). Volunteers are always welcome to stop by and walk dogs, socialize with kittens and, if you feel adventurous, clean up after the dogs and cats.

For more information or to donate, contact [animalcontrol@masoncounty.net](mailto:animalcontrol@masoncounty.net). Donations of paper towels, laundry detergent, dish soap, dishwasher detergent, dry sheets, bleach, cleaning products and dog and cat food, including kitten and puppy chow, are always welcome.

## Mason County Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts of America is an organization devoted to serving the community and turning young men into future leaders.

The two Boy Scout troops in Mason County — Troop 1190 and Troop 1193 — contribute thousands of volunteer hours to local services and organizations, including the American Legion, Church Women of Mason County, Historic White Pine Village and many more.

The Boy Scouts also contribute to activities such as Relay for Life and the annual Memorial Day parade in Ludington.

Donations to Troop 1190 can be made through the Community Church of Ludington at 109 N. Harrison St. Contact the church at (231) 843-9275 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for more information about donating.

For information about joining the scouts, call Troop 1190 Scoutmaster Richard Boes at (231) 843-3369.

## MCC Educational Foundation

The Mason County Central Educational Foundation, created in 1989, works to preserve and enhance educational and extracurricular opportunities to Mason County Central students. Led by a board of volunteer directors, the foundation's objectives are to give funds in

the form of grants and scholarships to create new educational opportunities, bring in new equipment and facilities, advance student education and assist the community and school to develop a higher standard of education.

The foundation meets these goals primarily through donations. Donations and gifts can be given to the foundation for any specified purpose, or as an unrestricted donation. For more information or to donate, see [www.mccedfoundation.org](http://www.mccedfoundation.org) or call (231) 757-3713.

## Mason County Eastern Athletic Boosters

The Mason County Eastern Athletic Booster program supports the school's sports and athletic programs. All money raised goes directly into the athletic programs for supplies, uniforms and travel to state tournaments. Grades five through 12 are served. The boosters meet on the first Monday of each month and anyone can join by contacting the school. Volunteers from the boosters help organize the fundraisers, including a craft bazaar, silent live auction and baked good sale. They also help take tickets at athletic events. For more information, see [www.mceschools.com](http://www.mceschools.com).

## MCE Educational Foundation

The Mason County Eastern School District's Educational Foundation supports scholarships for students and funds teacher classroom grants. This program runs through MCE schools and meets quarterly. Schedules vary, so contact the administration office for details and to make a donation. The Foundation accepts monetary donations that can be specified to either the grant program or scholarship program. In the scholarship portion, scholarships can be set up for specific types, like students entering the medical field, attending a particular college or general scholarships for students. For more information, see [www.mceschools.com](http://www.mceschools.com).

## MCE Robotics Program

The Mason County Eastern Robotics Program supports the school's robotics club.

This club serves ninth through 12th grade students. The volunteer advisors are Sarah McDonald and Mike Dilworth. Any high school student at Mason County Eastern is eligible to join. This club is part of the robotic competition through the Michigan Department of Education.

Volunteers are welcome, and monetary donations for travel, lodging, entry fees and parts for the robot to help students participate at competitions throughout the state are vital for maintaining the program. For more information, see [www.mceschools.com](http://www.mceschools.com).

## Mason County Family Events

Whether it's horseback riding, knitting lessons or learning to cook, the nonprofit Mason County Family Events aims to give local children opportunities they otherwise wouldn't have.

The group hosts several classes, including horseback riding, which includes two horse shows at the Mason County Fairgrounds every year for children to show their skills. MCFE also offers a domestic arts program, which includes sewing and crafts.

The organization hosts fundraisers for those in need in the community as well, and participates in Scottville's Summerfest and Harvest Festival.

Programs are free or low-cost.

Volunteers and financial donations are welcome — community donations and grants are the sole supporters of MCFE programming.

For more information, email [mcfamilyevents@gmail.com](mailto:mcfamilyevents@gmail.com) or search Mason County Family Events on Facebook. Donations can also be sent by mail to P.O. Box 64, Scottville, MI 49454.

## Mason County Girl Scouts



# Mason County charities and how to give

The Mason County Girl Scouts have 15 active troops, from Daisy — kindergarten through first grade — through Ambassador — high school juniors and seniors. With around 150 girls and more than 40 active adult volunteers, the Girl Scouts are a formidable charity organization that believes in backing and supporting its community on local and global levels.

Troops work together wrapping gifts for the Salvation Army's Toys for Tots program, collect socks for seniors and group homes, march in local parades for Memorial Day and the Scottville Harvest Festival. They also contribute to the annual Aglow on the Avenue Christmas celebration in Ludington, and acted as greeters when the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall came to Ludington in 2014. The girls have also raised funds for COVE, the Shop With a Cop pie auction and the American Red Cross.

Troops are supported by product sales and cookie sales in the fall. Some troops collect dues, while others are supported by a sponsor.

For more information, visit [www.gsmists.org](http://www.gsmists.org).

## Mason County Garden Club

For 90 years, the Mason County Garden Club has been more than a way to trade tips — the organization also takes on dozens of local beautification projects.

Starting by planting Iris on Iris Road in Pere Marquette Township to now caring for Leveaux Park in Ludington and Historic White Pine Village, club members focus on what they love — gardening.

A group of flower arrangers meets monthly to fill coffee cups with flowers and take them to nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and members also host regular meetings that all are welcome to attend.

A Garden Therapy program has volunteers meet monthly at Ludington Woods to help residents with garden-re-



lated crafts or outdoor gardening. The club has also adopted a block to plant and maintain for the Petunia Parade.

To recognize area businesses that have gone “over the top” in landscaping and beautifying their locations, annual Landscape Design and Civic Beautification awards are given to several businesses.

The garden club holds a spring and fall plant exchange/sale and an annual Garden Walk, showcasing local home gardens, and a bi-annual Standard Flower Show.

For more information or to join the Mason County Garden Club, contact Gig Rose at [grose@charter.net](mailto:grose@charter.net).

## Mason County Historical Society

Mason County is an area with a rich history. The goal of the Mason County Historical Society is to preserve and honor that history, by engaging the community and visitors with experiences that will enhance understanding of

the county's past and help build a better future.

In accordance with this mission, the society maintains and runs Ludington's Historic White Pine Village, an interactive, educational historic turn-of-the-century village housing more than 30 buildings, including a trapper's cabin, the original courthouse of Mason County, a general store and a farmstead. The village hosts historical events and demonstrations during its summer season. The Society also operates the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, which documents the area's seafaring history, including replicas of ships and lighthouses, authentic artifacts from local carferries and other vessels, and offers visitor-rich, interactive exhibits. The historical society also houses an extensive research library covering West Michigan and Mason County history.

The Mason County Historical Society welcomes new members and volunteers. It also seeks donations toward its continued projects.

# Mason County charities and how to give

To donate, volunteer, join the society or learn more, call (231) 843-4808 or email Rebecca Berringer at [rebecca@mchshistory.org](mailto:rebecca@mchshistory.org).

## Mason County Jail Ministry

The Mason County Jail Ministry hosts weekly worships, Bible studies and one-on-one visits for inmates of the Mason County Jail. Chaplain Jerry Thorne leads a Rejoice and Reentry Bible study and worship time Sunday night and visits men on Thursdays one-on-one. Laurie McKinven-Copus coordinates worship and Bible studies for female inmates.

The organization also runs a reentry program to prepare those incarcerated for release.

The Mason County Jail Ministry also recently implemented programs to follow up with inmates once released.

The programs are offered to inmates at minimal cost, but donations are greatly appreciated. Local churches are also encouraged to make donations.

The Mason County Jail Ministry is a project implemented by the Oceana County Jail Ministry.

The Ministry is working on implementing a family worship program as well. Those interested are encouraged to reach out.

For more information, or to get involved or donate, contact Jerry Thorne at (231) 425-3693.

## Mason County Mutts

The Mason County Mutts, a group of volunteer pet lovers, have one goal — to make Mason County more pet-friendly.

The nonprofit works to provide community-oriented projects, education and animal welfare. Its latest project has been working to install waste stations downtown to encourage people to clean up after their pets. The Mutts are also collaborating with the Lakeshore Resource Network to create a pet food pantry.

The Mason County Mutts also volun-

teer regularly at the local shelter and foster and rescue animals in need. It also works to promote the dog-friendly opportunities and establishments in the county, through an interactive online map guiding pet owners to dog parks, dog beaches, veterinary offices and pet-friendly walking trails.

On its Facebook page, Mason County Mutts encourages local owners to post lost and found animals, as well. To raise money, the group sells car decals and magnets.

Donations to the organization go toward furthering rescue efforts, medical care, food, education materials and community projects.

For more information or to donate, visit [masoncountymutts@gmail.com](mailto:masoncountymutts@gmail.com) and see [www.masoncountymutts.org](http://www.masoncountymutts.org).

## Mason County PAWS

Mason County PAWS is dedicated to giving local animals another chance at life, through fostering and other efforts.

On the organization's Facebook page, animals available for adoption and looking for homes are listed to increase exposure.

The group is also dedicated to creating a no-kill shelter, to prevent any healthy cat or dog from being euthanized in Mason County. Mason County PAWS intends to fill the gaps and develop an active, working volunteer base and a fostering community.

To learn more or donate to the cause, contact Jacklyn Osgood at [osgoodjm@hotmail.com](mailto:osgoodjm@hotmail.com) or call (231) 757-9219. The group is currently seeking volunteers and board members.

Donations can be sent by mail to P.O. Box 132, Scottville, MI 49454.

## Mason County Sports Hall of Fame

The Mason County Sports Hall of Fame is a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to sports. It is currently housed at His-

toric White Pine Village.

For more information or to make a donation, contact [vburwell@floracraft.com](mailto:vburwell@floracraft.com).

## Mason County Veterans Endowment Fund

In 2009, Budde Reed and Rick Plummer, both Vietnam veterans, established the Veterans Endowment Fund. Since then, Michelle Hemmer and Gary Ferguson have also become board members. The fund helps veterans and their families who have "fallen through the cracks," and been unable to obtain help through other agencies. Through the program, funds are available for emergency needs to Mason County veterans faster and with less red tape. Money for the fund is raised primarily through donations. If you are a veteran in need of help, or wish to donate, contact Rick Plummer at (231) 852-0685.

## Mason County Walleye Assoc.

Each spring, the Mason County Walleye Association cares for thousands of walleye fry before they are introduced into local lakes.

In 25 years, the Mason County Walleye Association has raised more than a ton of walleye for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, planting more than 3.5 million of the fish in area lakes.

For more information about how to support the association, contact Carter Koles at (231) 357-1557.

## Miss Ludington Area Scholarship Pageant

The Miss Ludington Area Scholarship Pageant is an official preliminary pageant to the Miss Michigan and Miss America Organization. The pageant is held annually, and women age 17 to 24 from Mason, Manistee or Oceana counties are eligible to compete. Contestants will take the stage and compete

# Mason County charities and how to give

in interview, talent, fitness and evening wear categories for a chance to win the title of Miss Ludington Area and take home scholarship money and awards. The program is funded through generous sponsors and donors who believe in investing in our area young women. To learn more, visit [www.missludingtonarea.org/](http://www.missludingtonarea.org/) To make a donation, email [missludington@gmail.com](mailto:missludington@gmail.com)

## Pere Marquette Watershed Council

The Pere Marquette Watershed Council is a grassroots conservation organization founded in 1970 dedicated to preserving one of Michigan's priceless natural resources.

The organization's mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the inherent natural values of the Pere Marquette River Watershed through gathering and dissemination of information and by working with other organizations or agencies to accomplish mutual goals.

For more information or to make a donation, see [www.peremarquette.org](http://www.peremarquette.org).

## PoWeR! Book Bags

PoWeR! Book Bags is a nonprofit organization that works to get books into the hands of children in lower Northern Michigan, including Mason, Lake, Oceana and Manistee counties.

It began in March 2016, and it has literacy give-away locations throughout the area. A bag is created where books, a puppet and writing materials are inserted, and the bags are available for pick up at various food pantries, including the Lakeshore Food Club. The goal is increase children's language and literacy experiences and grow book collections.

Donations are accepted for PoWeR! Book Bags through the organization's website [www.powerbookbag.org](http://www.powerbookbag.org) via PayPal. More information about PoWeR! Book Bags can be found on the website, by emailing [powerbookbags@gmail.com](mailto:powerbookbags@gmail.com) or by searching for it on Facebook.

## Quality Deer Management

The goal of the local chapter of Quality Deer Management is to maintain good hunting through practices that promote good deer gender ratios and size.

Deer age is an important factor — older deer have better racks and are generally larger. It's one of the organization's bigger goals right now, which it hopes to achieve by promoting the hunting of 2-and-a-half, 3-and-a-half and 4-and-a-half-year-old deer, compared to one-and-a-half-year-old bucks.

The organization works for research and advocacy to improve hunting, and includes dozens of members throughout the area.

For the West Shore Branch of QDMA, contact Don Schwass via email at [dschwass87@gmail.com](mailto:dschwass87@gmail.com) or via telephone at (231) 794-8447.

## Rotary Club of Ludington

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.

The club meets at noon every Thursday at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts. Those interested in the club are welcome to stop in for lunch.

The club's goals are to focus on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club, using vocational service to encourage Rotarians to serve others and practice high ethical standards and perform community service to improve life in the community.

For more information or to donate, see [www.ludingtonrotary.org](http://www.ludingtonrotary.org) or email [ludingtonrotary@gmail.com](mailto:ludingtonrotary@gmail.com).

## Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association

Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association operates Big Sable, Ludington North Breakwater, Little Sable and White River Light Station, all along Lake Michigan.

They are open to the public seasonally.

During this holiday season, SPLKA offers an opportunity to "Leave a Print in the Sand" in a campaign to raise funds for major repairs, which need to be done at our four lighthouses. Personalized walkway boards cost \$100 and are installed to help improve access to the light, all while raising money for the cause.

The proceeds are added to the SPLKA Capital Campaign Fund at the Community Foundation for Mason County, which has been set up to collect funds needed at all four lighthouses.

Each board can be engraved with up to 25 characters on one line, including commas and spaces with a two-line maximum. These could also be holiday gifts for anyone who has an interest in lighthouses. A tax donation slip for a portion of the gift will be provided to the donor as SPLKA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Order forms can be picked up at the SPLKA office located at 905 E. Ludington Ave., downloaded on line on at [www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org) or by calling the office at (231) 845-7417.

## Sandcastles Children's Museum

Sandcastles Children's Museum, at 129 E. Ludington Ave., lets little imaginations grow.

The nonprofit offers a variety of programs and interactive exhibits for children of all ages.

The organization, established in 2006, offers a three-story recreational facility for children, including a musical stage and instruments, a real airplane and dozens of games and interactive elements. The facility also hosts events like Messy Mondays, runs crafts and things like ukulele lessons, holiday

# Mason County charities and how to give

events, indoor tennis and children's concerts.

Admission is \$7, with children younger than 1 getting in free. Memberships are also available.

To learn more about Sandcastles or make a donation, contact Kristin Korendyke, executive director, at sandcastleschildrensmuseum@gmail.com or (231) 233-9326, or see [www.sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com](http://www.sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com).

## Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, an international organization, is an evangelical part of the Universal Christian Church. The local branch of the organization serves Mason and Oceana counties.

Ludington's branch was first opened in April 1894, and has worked to serve struggling residents ever since.

The organization's mission is to meet human needs and lend a helping hand without discrimination.

The cause helps struggling locals with food and personal care items, utility bills, emergency shelters, rent and mortgage assistance, medical expenses, furniture and clothing.

The Family Social Service Center is located at 1101 S. Madison St., Ludington. For more information, to donate, or to get help, see [www.saludington.org](http://www.saludington.org) or call (231) 843-3711.

## Scottville Optimist Club

The Scottville Optimist Club formed in 1953 with the goal of supporting community and youth programs — and still does today.

Club activities include Editor's NOTE: The Senior Center does this now, hosting track and wrestling meets, offering sports-related scholarships to youth, operating as a Toys for Tots distribution center and hosting a Christmas party for area children. The Optimists support other groups in need as well.

The organization welcomes new

members and financial contributions to support its ongoing commitment to support area youth.

Learn more at [www.scottvilleoptimistclub.com](http://www.scottvilleoptimistclub.com). For membership and donation information, contact Diane Watts at (231) 462-3623.

## Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Project

The Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Project is a plan by the Scottville Downtown Development Authority to develop the Optimist Grounds on Green Street into a community park, complete with a sculpture to commemorate the Scottville Clown Band, open green space and a refurbished Clown Band Shell and Optimist Hall. The project is accepting donations through the Community Foundation for Mason County. To make a donation, visit [www.masonfoundation.org/give/give-now](http://www.masonfoundation.org/give/give-now), select "Scottville Optimist Park and sculpture project" from the dropdown menu and choose the donation amount and the frequency, with one-time and monthly options available.

Checks can be mailed to the Community Foundation for Mason County, P.O. Box 10, Ludington, MI 49431. Check donations should be marked "Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Project."

For more information about making a donation, call Knowles at (231) 690-7374, email [joe@smith-eddy.com](mailto:joe@smith-eddy.com) or visit the Scottville Optimist Park Fund Facebook page.

## Scottville Senior Center

The Scottville Senior Center, located at 140 S. Main St., is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The center's mission is to provide a place where seniors can meet, receive services and participate in activities that will enhance their dignity, support their independence and encourage their involvement with the community. The

center has been in operation since 1973. The center provides a homemaker program, medical transportation, respite care and support groups. The Scottville Senior Center also runs activities like bingo, crafts, day excursions and entertainment, among others.

For more information or to make a donation, call (231) 757-4705, or contact Bill Kerans at [director@scottvillese-niorcenter.com](mailto:director@scottvillese-niorcenter.com).

## Shoreline Cycling Club

Shoreline Cycling Club seeks to educate cyclists, elected officials and the general public of the benefits of cycling, including health and environmental responsibility.

The club works with land managers and municipalities to help maintain and increase access to cycling opportunities and holds fun events/rides in Oceana, Mason, Lake, Manistee and Benzie counties.

The club offers regular activities for riders of all levels, with information available at both bike shops in downtown Ludington.

The club has become very active in grooming for winter fat biking. Volunteers groom the Ludington School Forest, M-55 Trail Park and two loops at Big M near Wellston, and they post trail conditions on their website during the winter grooming season.

In recent years, the club has taken on projects like building trails, grooming fat bike trails, teaching bike safety to children and promoting the area as a cycling destination. The club is funded through memberships, corporate sponsors and the Singletrack Showdown mountain bike race held annually in Ludington each Saturday after Thanksgiving.

To learn more about the club, join or make a donation, check out [www.shorelinecyclingclub.org](http://www.shorelinecyclingclub.org).

## Spectrum Health Ludington

# Mason County charities and how to give

## Hospital Foundation

The Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital Foundation is a nonprofit organization and the charitable arm of the hospital.

The foundation was founded in 2003 and since its inception generous donors have helped directly impact local health care through the funding of new facilities, programs, equipment, and patient assistance funds. All funds stay local and directly impact our greater local community.

The foundation team is committed to building long-standing, meaningful relationships with patients and donors. Funds are raised through a variety of means including memorials and tribute gifts, planned giving, pledged donation, sponsorship, events and endowments.

All gifts matter and make a difference. Currently the funding priority is the Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital Cancer Patient Assistance Fund, which is a local fund that is used to help cancer patients experiencing financial hardship and in need of support for items like transportation, food assistance, medication costs, utility bills, and other financial stressors. To make a donation and learn more please visit [www.spectrumhealth.org/foundation/ludington-foundation](http://www.spectrumhealth.org/foundation/ludington-foundation) or call the office directly at (231) 845-2233.

## St. Simon Bargain Center

The St. Simon Bargain Center, 5782 W. U.S. 10, offers those in need a way to shop for gently used clothing and household items. The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

This is a Christian service opportunity to share proceeds with those in need. Donations of clothing and appliances are welcome.

## Stage Left Theatre Co.

The Stage Left Theatre Company is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which strives to provide a variety of unique theatre experiences to the community and acting opportunities and education to people of all ages.

The company produces its annual Stratford on the Avenue Theatre Festival to benefit community offerings such as Youth Theater Program, educational scholarships and acting workshops.

The company is always seeking new actors as well as sponsors for the organization. For more information, visit [www.stageleftofmi.org](http://www.stageleftofmi.org), call (231) 818-8368, email [stagelefttheatreco@gmail.com](mailto:stagelefttheatreco@gmail.com), or find Stage Left Company on Facebook.

## Staircase Youth Services

Staircase Youth Services is dedicated to assisting at-risk, runaway and homeless youth in west Michigan.

The organization, founded in 1979, takes referrals from friends, family members, teachers, police or any member of the community with genuine concern for an at-risk youth. Staircase works with youth from 12 to 21 years of age.

With early intervention, the organization's staff can help youth and their parents prevent the trauma that a crisis or runaway situation creates, through counseling services, helping to develop effective coping skills and offering a safe place to discuss problems in confidence.

To donate to the organization or learn more, see [www.staircaseyouthservices.org](http://www.staircaseyouthservices.org).

## Tallman Senior Center

The Tallman Senior Center, at 6765 E. Marshall Road, in Fountain, is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Among the center's activities are Bingo Thursdays, an exercise room, a Wii

console, holiday celebrations, pool table, shuffleboard and auxiliary classes. The Tallman Center also provides blood pressure and blood sugar screening, a hot meal and salad bar at noon, flu shots and medical equipment loans.

For more information about the center or to make a donation, call (231) 757-3306.

## United Way of Mason County

United Way's annual fundraising campaign is underway. Those funds aid community members in need, by offering job searching services, help with financial planning and success coaches.

To learn more about United Way or make a donation, see [www.unitedway-masonco.org](http://www.unitedway-masonco.org).

## Western Michigan Fair Association

While a blanket of snow covers the West Michigan Fairgrounds, the Western Michigan Fair Association is plenty busy.

The greatest need on the WMFA Christmas list would be additional volunteers. Anyone who wishes to learn more about what opportunities are available or where the greatest need is, see the WMFA website at [www.masoncountyfairgrounds.com](http://www.masoncountyfairgrounds.com) or contact the volunteer coordinator at (231) 843-2280.

The Mason County Fairgrounds is located at 5302 W. U.S. 10., Ludington

## West Shore Community College Foundation

The West Shore Community College Foundation works to support the college's students and surrounding community.

The foundation provides resources like scholarships, program development funds and activities.

The WSCC Foundation was estab-

# Mason County charities and how to give

lished in 1971 to promote, establish, conduct, maintain and operate educational activities, including the annual Muddy Fox Trot, Alumni Picnic, Donor/Student Breakfast and College for Kids.

To learn more about the foundation or give a donation, see [www.westshore.edu/about/foundation/our\\_purpose.html](http://www.westshore.edu/about/foundation/our_purpose.html).

## West Shore Family Support

West Shore Family Support is a non-profit organization that seeks to protect life, strengthen families and educate the future.

This is done by partnering with women and families in the community with children 4 years old and younger. West Shore Family Support offers material assistance such as diapers, clothing and other baby items, parenting classes, and peer mentoring to help lead parents to positive, life-affirming choices for their children.

The organization, formerly known as West Shore Pregnancy Care Center, is located at 603 E. Tinkham Ave., Ludington, MI. The P.O. Box is 364. The center also provides support for those who have been impacted by abortion. The center's services are not limited to mothers — fathers and grandparents raising a young child are also welcome to contact the center. All services are free and confidential.

For more information, see [www.wspcc.org](http://www.wspcc.org) or contact executive director Heather Bush at (231) 843-7094.

## West Shore Wolves Amateur Hockey Association

The West Shore Wolves Amateur Hockey Association collaborates with the West Shore Community College's Community Ice Arena to offer a hockey league for local children. Age groups available span three to 14 years old.

Under-6, under-8, under-10, under-12 and under-14 age groups are available.



All players are welcome to try out during the try-out season.

More information can be found at [www.westshorecia.com/icearena](http://www.westshorecia.com/icearena), or by contacting Jason Austin at (231) 690-5127.

## Western Michigan Old Engine Club

The Western Michigan Old Engine Club is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Scottville's Riverside Park.

The club includes about 180 members and their families.

The Old Engine Club began on Feb. 10, 1974 for families interested in restoring and running old gas and steam engines, or tractors and equipment. The club hosts an annual show every August.

It also puts on an education day each fall for fifth-graders in local schools, and the club is currently looking for funding to sponsor that endeavor. To volunteer or to become a club member, contact Sharon McCumber at (231) 898-3518.

Donations can be sent to the Club ad-

dress, 5443 S. Custer Road Custer, MI 49405. See [www.oldengineclub.org](http://www.oldengineclub.org) for more information.

## Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Ludington is a service organization that aims to improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women worldwide.

Ludington is one of the club's 1,200 international chapters. The organization was founded in 1919 in New York, and takes its name from the Lakota Sioux Indian word meaning "honest and trustworthy."

Locally, the club hosts events like seminars, a Ladies Night Out, the Zonta Sneak Peek and an annual retired women's reception.

To learn more, see [www.zonta15.org/ludington.html](http://www.zonta15.org/ludington.html), the organization's Facebook page or call or email (231) 245-3500 or [ludingtonzontaclub@yahoo.com](mailto:ludingtonzontaclub@yahoo.com).



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# Don't miss these great sites

## Eleven must-see places to visit in Ludington State Park



### Lake Michigan

Enjoy swimming, sunbathing and sunsets along seven miles of sugar-sand beaches that line the Lake Michigan shoreline in Ludington State Park. More than three miles of these beaches are but a short walk from your vehicle, providing easy access to Lake Michigan's waters.

### Big Sable River

Gently gliding through the park for a mile from Hamlin Lake to Lake Michigan, this short stretch of tree-lined river is home to some of the best wildlife viewing in the park.

Fishing is a popular activity on the Big Sable and tubing the river is a wonderful way to spend a hot summer day.



### Big Sable Point Lighthouse

A 2-mile hike or bike ride north of the park entrance, this iconic structure stands watch over Lake Michigan and the freighters that ply its waters. Tour the museum or climb to the top for breathtaking views of the park's dunes and waters.

### Lost Lake

Shallow Lost Lake is separated from Hamlin Lake by a series of islands and peninsulas. The Lost Lake and Island Trails circumnavigate this kayak-friendly lake, allowing hikers to experience its serenity. Fishing can be good, so bring along a pole.

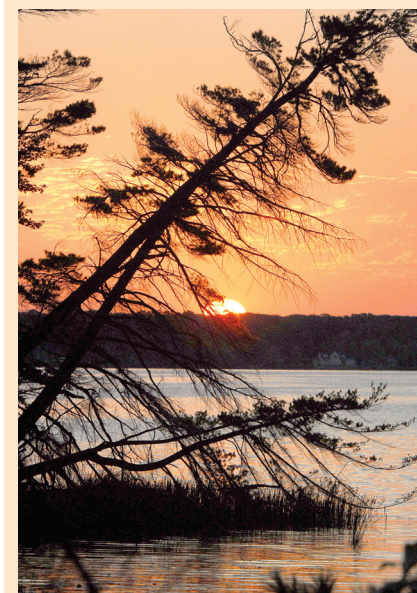
### Skyline Trail

An elevated boardwalk guides visitors for a half mile along the ridge of a large sand dune south of the Big Sable River. South facing vistas overlook the southern half of the park, its dunes and jack pine barrens, and the community of Ludington.

### Hamlin Dam

Holding back the waters of Hamlin Lake, this popular location is an excellent place to begin a short kayak or tubing trip downstream during the summer.

Boardwalks below the dam are fine fishing spots and the walkway across





the top of the dam provides a great view of salmon fishing action in the fall.

## Canoe Trail

Want to get away and discover one of the quieter areas of the park?

This four-mile trail takes paddlers along Hamlin Lake and into the wetlands, ponds and marshes that line its shore. Signs guide paddlers through the waterways and over four short portages. Wildlife abounds.

## Amphitheater

After a day spent enjoying the park's beaches and trails, unwind during the evening while enjoying programs at the park amphitheater. Musicians, magicians, storytellers and wildlife rehabilitators provide entertainment for visitors of all ages at this outdoor stage set in the pines on the south side of the river.

## Trail Shelters

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps as the park's trails were being created, these stone structures provide visitors with a sheltered place to rest while exploring the park's interior. Three shelters remain of the original seven. Can you find them all?

## Lake Michigan Beach House

In 1935, Camp Ludington Civilian Conservation Corps members built the Lake Michigan beach house just north of the Big Sable River outlet using Mason County lumber and repurposed bricks from the old Morton Salt factory in Ludington.

Their work has stood the test of time, as this beautiful building continues to provide views of Lake Michigan sunsets at the end of the day.

## Historic Town of Hamlin

Before there was Ludington State Park, there was the small lumber town of Hamlin. Founded by lumber baron Charles Mears, this community thrived along the Big Sable River before floods destroyed it in the early 1900s.

Remnants of the town are still present. Join up with one of the park's guided hikes through this area to learn about the town's fascinating history.



# Lake Michigan water safety

Each year, Ludington State Park's visitors are drawn to the coastal dunes and sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. On a hot summer day, there is nothing better than jumping into this wonderful, unsalted sea to cool off.

The big lake can be dangerous. Conditions can change with little notice. Throughout the day, all summer, park staff monitors the lake conditions and fly flags indicating the swimming hazard.

These flags are located at the park entrance and on the beach side of the Lake Michigan beach house.

The park's beaches do not have life guards and all visitors swim at their own risk; however, rescue throw buoys and life jackets are located at points

along the designated swim beach in the event of an emergency.

A limited number of loaner life jackets are also available for use by visitors.

Days when waves are large can be fun, but they come with the possibility of long-shore or rip currents being present.

Before entering the water, visitors should learn how to react to getting caught in one of these currents. Signs located along the beach and at life-saving equipment kiosks explain the best methods for getting out of rip or long-shore current. See sidebar for more details.

To learn more about Great Lakes beach safety, visit [www.dangerouscurrents.org](http://www.dangerouscurrents.org), and to learn the latest beach

forecast for Ludington State Park, visit the beach forecast page of the Grand Rapids National Weather Service Office.

Have an enjoyable and safe beach season.

## IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

**STAY CALM:** Don't panic. Focus on breathing and keeping your head above water.

**SWIM TO** the side, parallel to shore, then back to the shore: If tired, switch between swimming and floating until you reach shore.

**IF IN** danger: Face the shore and call for help.

**IF SOMEONE** else is caught in a rip current, call 911 and use the rescue equipment to assist them. Wear a life jacket if you must enter the water.

## Stay Safe

### Attention: Flag Warning System

There are dangerous currents at this beach, and fatalities have occurred.



**Red = Stop.**  
Stay on the beach and out of the water.



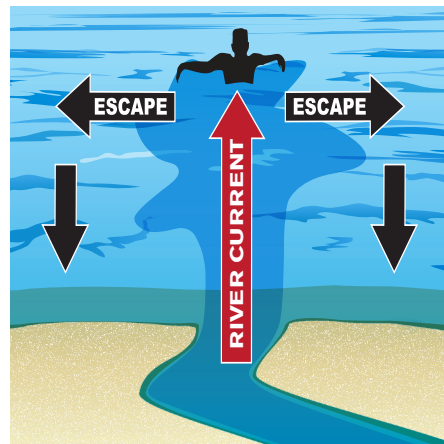
**Yellow = Caution.**  
Watch for dangerous currents and high waves.



**Green = Go.**  
But stay aware of changing conditions.

- A red flag means that there is a high risk of drowning.
- Swimmers: Stay away from piers and other structures.
- Even an Olympic swimmer couldn't win a race with a dangerous current.
- Absence of flags does not assure safe waters.

## Dangerous Current Beware of Strong River Outlet Current

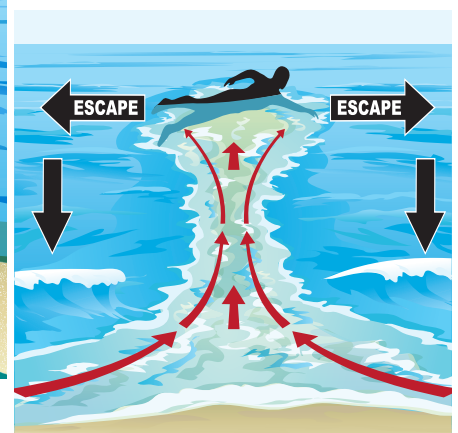


### Caution, fatalities have occurred

- If trapped in a dangerous current:**
- Swim to the side, out of the current, and then to shore.
  - If in danger, call for someone to throw a life ring or anything that floats.

## Dangerous Currents Avoid Dangerous Areas:

- Stay in designated swim areas.
- Avoid swimming near piers and breakwalls. Many fatalities have occurred.



- If trapped in a dangerous current:**
- Swim to the side, out of the current, and then to shore.
  - If in danger, call for someone to throw a life ring or anything that floats.

# State officials

## Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

Gretchen Whitmer, Democrat, Michigan's 49th governor, was sworn into office Jan. 1, 2019. A native of west Michigan, she is a lawyer, educator, former prosecutor, state representative and state senator. Gov. Whitmer was first elected to office in 2018.

**PHONE:** (517) 373-3400 or

Constituent Services, (517) 335-7858

**FAX:** (517) 335-6863

**WEBSITE:** [www.michigan.gov/whitmer](http://www.michigan.gov/whitmer)

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Governor Gretchen Whitmer,  
P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909

## State Senator Curt VanderWall

Curt VanderWall, Republican, was elected to the Michigan State Senate in 2018 for the 35th District that serves Manistee County in addition to Benzie, Crawford, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Lake, Mason, Missaukee, Ogemaw, Osceola, Roscommon and Wexford counties. He is the owner of Turf Care Mole Man of Ludington. Before being elected to the Michigan House in 2006, Rep. VanderWall served as commissioner and chairman for the Mason County Board of Commissioners. Curt is currently chair of the Women's Jericho House Board.

**PHONE:** (517) 373-1725

**EMAIL:** [sencvanderwall@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sencvanderwall@senate.michigan.gov)

**WEBSITE:** [www.senatorcurtvanderwall.com](http://www.senatorcurtvanderwall.com)

**OFFICE ADDRESS:** 201 Townsend St.,  
Suite #4500, Lansing, MI 48933

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Senator Curt VanderWall  
P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536

## State Rep. Jack O'Malley

Jack O'Malley, Republican, was elected to the State House of Representatives in 2018 for the 101st district. The district includes Manistee, Leelanau, Benzie and Mason counties. Before going into public service, O'Malley spent 40 years in broadcasting on radio and TV, most of which as a morning show host on WTCM-FM in Traverse City.

**PHONE:** (517) 373-0825

**EMAIL:** [JackOMalley@house.mi.gov](mailto:JackOMalley@house.mi.gov)

**OFFICE ADDRESS:** Anderson House Office Building, S-1385 House Office Building, Lansing, MI 48933

**MAILING ADDRESS:** S-1385 House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909

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