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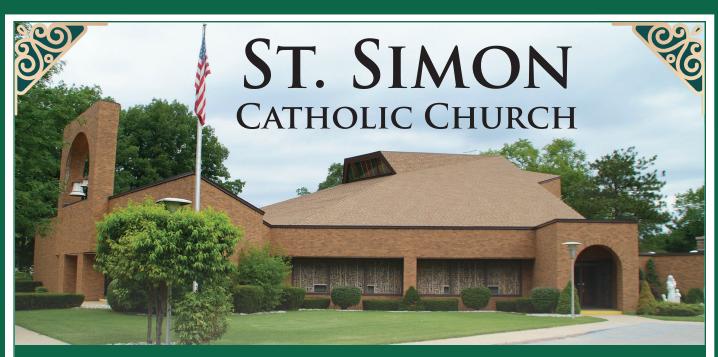


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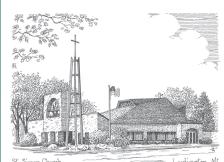


St. Simon Catholic Church + 702 E Bryant Road, Ludington + (231) 843-3188

St. Simon Catholic Church

Weekend Mass Saturday 5:30PM and Sunday 8:30 & 10:30AM, Daily Mass M-Th 8:30AM and Communion Service Friday at 8:30AM. Confession Tuesday at 9:15AM and Saturday from 4:30-5:00PM.

www.stsimonchurch.com







Ludington Area Catholic School is dedicated to a Catholic-centered education which allows students to develop their relationship with God, enhance their unique talents, and strive for academic excellence in a safe environment.



Ludington Area Catholic School + 700 E Bryant Rd, Ludington + (231) 843-3188

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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BYRON CENTER 7440 Clyde Park Ave. SW Byron Center, MI 49315 **616-281-6684** FOREST HILLS 850 Forest Hills Ave., Suite C Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-727-0909



LUDINGTON AREA SCHOOLS

Additional points of pride -

- 24 varsity sports
- Athletic opportunities for students in grades 7-12
- Business Professionals of America
- Drama Club
- Show Choir

FOR ALL THE LATEST ORIOLE NEWS VISIT WWW.LASD.NET

Ludington Area School District offers a topnotch quality education to our students while maintaining a unique small town feel. Our community supported technology bond allows us to put a device in the hands of every LASD student and offers our students the chance for a 21st century education and access to the global community.

Our partnerships with the community allow us to provide innovative opportunities beyond the traditional Michigan Merit Curriculum - expansive AP offerings, dual enrollment course with West Shore Community College, Career/Technology Education (CTE) and Oriole Work Based Learning Academy.

- Concert Choir
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band
- Concert Band
- Wind Symphony
- Quiz Bowl

- We the People Civic Group
- Community Service Club
- Ludington Robotics
- Eighth Grade Camp
- Pere Marquette Early Childhood Center for our littlest "0's"

Planning for the Future – In 2019 our community approved a bond proposal of \$100,935,000 to complete districtwide building improvements. We expect to welcome our students to a new elementary building complex Fall 2021 and a reconstructed middle/high school complex Fall 2024.



Mason County departments

Mason County Board of Commissioners

CHAIR: Janet S. Andersen, sixth district VICE-CHAIR: Steven Hull, fifth district 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 diasters. 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@masoncounty.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 information. 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 reconstrutionists, 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. Jim Wincek 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 Facilityprovides 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

WMCMH provides mental health services to residents of Mason County on Medicaid, who are under-insured, or have private insurance. WMCMH 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 EMER-GENCIES: (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,

FiveCAP, Inc.

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.

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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

 \cdot Head Start, a federally funded preschool.

 \cdot Weatherizing homes to help conserve energy.

 \cdot 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 and Rayma Burgett is the program coordinator/ assistant to 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-tennant 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

SUPPORT INFORMATION PHONE: 1-877-543-2660

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.

Mason County Schools

Ludington Area Schools

Jason Kennedy is the superintendent of Ludington Area School District. Dan Mesyar is the Ludington High School principal and Mike Hart is the O.J. De-Jonge Middle School principal.

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

Pere Marquette Early Childhood Center

ADMINISTRATOR: Sarah Cooper ADDRESS: 1115 S. Madison St., Ludington, 49431 PHONE: (231) 845-3850

Lakeview Elementary

PRINCIPAL: Jenn Mackey **ADDRESS:** 502 W. Haight St., Ludington, 49431 **PHONE:** (231) 845-3840



Franklin Elementary

PRINCIPAL: Katie Eisinger ADDRESS: 721 E. Anderson St., Ludington, 49431 PHONE: (231) 845-3830

Foster Elementary

PRINCIPAL: Brian Dotson ADDRESS: 505 E. Foster St., 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

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 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





Oakview Medical Care Facility strives to create a home-like environment that upholds each resident's quality of life, with a skilled medical staff, pleasant surroundings, carefully prepared meals, engaging social activities, a variety of rehabilitative therapies, a family support center and much more.







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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 fouryear institution. Various associates degrees 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

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 callin the night before. The service accepts cash or tokens. The service in Ludington and Pere Marquette Township is 6 a.m.

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Mason County

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. Luskin 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: Courtney Magaluk CITY CLERK: Debbie Howe CITY TREASURER: Kathy Shafer POLICE CHIEF: Matt Murphy PHONE:)231)757-4729

Mason County Townships

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:** Brenda Knizacky **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:** Ann Larr **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 Stick-

ney

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, Sherman 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

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

Mason County

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

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: Rachelle Enbody TREASURER: Karie Bleau TRUSTEES: Andrew Kmetz III, James T. Nordlund, Henry E. Rasmussen, Ronald Soberalski



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

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Mason County

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

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 Damkoehler

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 **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



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Mason County

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:** Stanley McCumber, Lon Reader, Caleb J. Whitaker

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 Notipekago 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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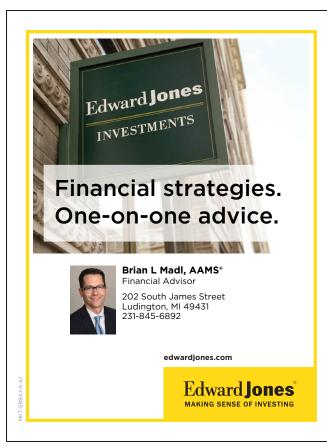
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White Pine Village



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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.





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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Mason County charities and how to give

AAUW

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.

AFFEW

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. To learn more, get involved or donate, check out www.affew.org or contact Julia Chambers at earthmuffin56@gmail.com.

American Legion

Membership is open to any veteran or immediate family member of a veteran 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. For information about upcoming blood drives, call (231) 256-3624.

Area 24 Special Olympics

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. To get involved, donations can be made to participating churches

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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's programming is funded solely through donations. To donate or learn more, contact Nancy Supran at circlerockingsfarm@att.net or see www. circlerockingsfarm.org.

Community Cats TNR

Community Cats TNR is a local, nonprofit 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.

For more information or to donate to the cause, see 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 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 call-

ing 231-845-0326, emailing alarge@ cffmc.org or visiting www.mason-foundation.org.

COVE

COVE 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.

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 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,



West Michigan Community Mental Health is a coordinator and provider of high-quality care for children and adults experiencing mental illness, intellectual and developmental disorders, and substance use disorders. We serve Mason, Lake, and Oceana County communities with a person-first approach. Our integrated behavioral health care improves individual recovery outcomes and long-term overall wellness. Ludington, MI 49431

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such as steak dinners and dances, are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend — see times in your daily community calendar. For more information or to make a donation, call (231) 757-9665.

Disability Network West Michigan

Disability Network West Michigan helps provide independent living resources for people with disabilities in Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Lake and Mason counties. 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. Fin & Feather Club offers hunter safety classes, basic pistol training classes and concealed pistol license training. 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

FiveCAP

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

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 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.

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. To learn more, join or donate to the cause, see 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.

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. Donations can be payable to "Friends of the Mason County Sheriff's Office" 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.

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, handson 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 donate to the school or learn more, call (231) 845-0922.

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

Hospitality in the Name of Christ

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 In the Name of Christ, email hospitalityincl@gmail.com, see www.hospitalityinthenameofchrist.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 non-profit home for single, homeless women. 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. 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. Contact O'Nealya Gronstal at (231) 480-4334 or ongronstal@lakeshoreresourcenetwork.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.

Lakeshore Food 4 Kids

Lakeshore Food 4 Kids is a non-profit food program for food insecure students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade at Ludington Area School District. For more information, email lakeshorefood4kids@gmail.com or search for the organization on Facebook.

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. 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.

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 though 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 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 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.

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. 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. Donations to the Jaycees can be made by visiting www.ludingtonareajaycees. org/resources/donate. Those interested in joining the Jaycees are encouraged to email 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. For more information or to make a donation, contact President Dan Mesyar at (231) 233-5350 or 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. Students and families that need help with basic necessities can access the center by contacting LHS' Mark Boon through www.lasd.net or calling (231) 845-7303 for more information.



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Ludington Petunia Parade

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

To get involved with the Petunia Parade, call (231) 843-9225 or (231) 794-9023, or email 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 communityminded membership to bring out the best in kids. 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.

Ludington Rec Soccer

Ludington Rec Soccer is a nonprofit organization that supports the community and its children through the game of soccer. To make a donation, the mailing address is PO Box 455 Ludington, MI 49431. Volunteers are also welcome. To volunteer, email 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 Council. 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. For more information or to donate, see the Ludrock Facebook page or contact edwardsantarelli@hot-mail.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. For more information or to donate, contact 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. 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 MCC 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 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.

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.

MCE Robotics Program

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

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. For more information, email 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

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 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.

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. 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.

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. The Mason County Historical Society welcomes new members and volunteers. It also seeks donations toward its continued projects. To donate, volunteer, join the society or learn more, call (231) 843-4808 or email Rebecca Berringer at rebecca@mchshistory.org.

Mason County Jail Ministry

The Mason County Jail Ministry hosts weekly worships, Bible studies and oneon-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. For more information, or to get involved or donate, contact Jerry Thorne at (231) 425-3693.



5722 W. US 10, LUDINGTON (Behind Little Caesars and Bela Floral)

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. 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 and see 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 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 Historic White Pine Village.

For more information or to make a donation, contact 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 Assoc. 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 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/ To make a donation, email 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.

PoWeR! Book Bags

PoWeR! Book Bags is a non-profit organization that works to get books into the hands of children in lower Northern Michigan, including Mason, Lake, Oceana and Manistee counties. Donations are accepted for PoWeR! Book Bags through the organization's website www.powerbookbag.org via PayPal. More information about PoWeR! Book Bags can be found on the website, by emailing 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. 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 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. For more information or to donate, see www.ludingtonrotary.org or email 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. Each board can be engraved with up to 25 characters on one line, including commas and spaces with a twoline 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 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. 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.

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 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. The organization welcomes new members and financial contributions to support its ongoing commitment to support area youth. Learn more at www.scottvilleoptimistclub. com. For membership and donation information, contact Diane Watts at (231) 462-3623.

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. For more information or to make a donation, call (231) 757-4705, or contact Bill Kerans at director@scottvilleseniorcenter.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. To learn more about the club, join or make a donation, check out www.shorelinecyclingclub.org.

Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital Foundation

The Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital Foundation is a non-profit organization and the charitable arm of the hospital. 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 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 non-profit 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 another non-profit organization each year.

The company is always seeking new actors as well as sponsors for the organization. Contact Stage Left at stageleftheatreco@gmail.com, call (231) 480-1590, or find the group on Facebook by searching Stage Left Company.

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 atrisk youth. Staircase works with youth from 12 to 21 years of age. To donate to the organization or learn more, see 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.unitedwaymasonco.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 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. To learn more about the foundation or give a donation, see www.westshore. edu/about/foundation/our_purpose. html.

West Shore Family Support

West Shore Family Support is a nonprofit organization that seeks to protect life, strengthen families and educate the future. 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 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, 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 address, 5443 S. Custer Road Custer, MI 49405. See 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, the organization's Facebook page or call or email (231) 245-3500 or ludingtonzontaclub@yahoo.com.V

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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 sugarsand 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 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.

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.

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.

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 kayakfriendly lake, allowing hikers to experience its serenity. Fishing can be good, so bring along a pole.

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

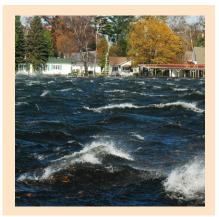
In 1935, Camp Ludington Civilian Conservation Corps members built the Lake Michigan beach house just north of the Big Sable River outlet using Mason County lumber and repurposed bricks from the old Morton Salt factory in Ludington.

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 lifeguards 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 longshore current. See sidebar for more details

To learn more about Great Lakes beach safety, visit 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

Yellow = Caution.

Watch for dangerous currents and high waves.

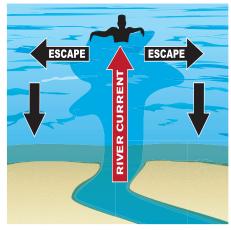
Green = Go.Green

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
MAILING ADDRESS: Governor Gretchn 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 WEBSITE: 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
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