



GRATIOT AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2018
COMMUNITY
GUIDE

MORE SPECIALIZED REHABILITATION = MORE DAYS ON THE RIVER



Whether you're recovering from an injury or illness such as stroke, heart attack, sports-related injury, joint replacement, spinal cord injury or neurological condition, MidMichigan Health's specialized rehabilitation staff are dedicated to helping you achieve the highest level of function and performance possible. We offer full range of inpatient and outpatient services for patients of all ages and our team of experienced physical, occupational and speech therapists deliver comprehensive care customized to meet each patient's individual needs.

For more information visit www.midmichigan.org/rehabilitation



Excellence in all Fields

ITHACAMI.COM

ITHACASCHOOLS.NET



Sharing Life's Journey



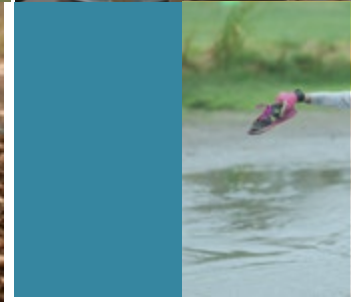
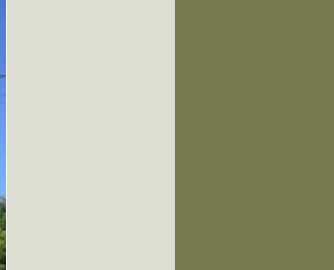
ARBOR GROVE
Assisted Living

As your needs change,
we change with you.
It is our privilege and honor
to share in life's journey.

1320 Pine Ave.
Alma, MI 48801

989-463-3074
arborgroveassistedliving.com


Leisure Living
MANAGEMENT



The Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us for our 5th Annual Agri-Fit Challenge on Saturday, September 22, 2018 at McNabb Park in Ithaca! Every year we host our Agricultural Obstacle 5K in Ithaca to bring you a one of a kind experience! From mud crawls to climbing over large round hay bales, carrying bags of seed, a trail run, a muddy pond and more! Each year we bring in new and old obstacles. If you enjoy a fun atmosphere with a tough run you will enjoy this race! Bring the whole family! We kick off the race with a Kids Run first thing at 8:30am! Register early at www.runsignup.com/agrifitchallenge or visit our website, www.gratiot.org for more information!



WELCOME TO GRATIOT COUNTY

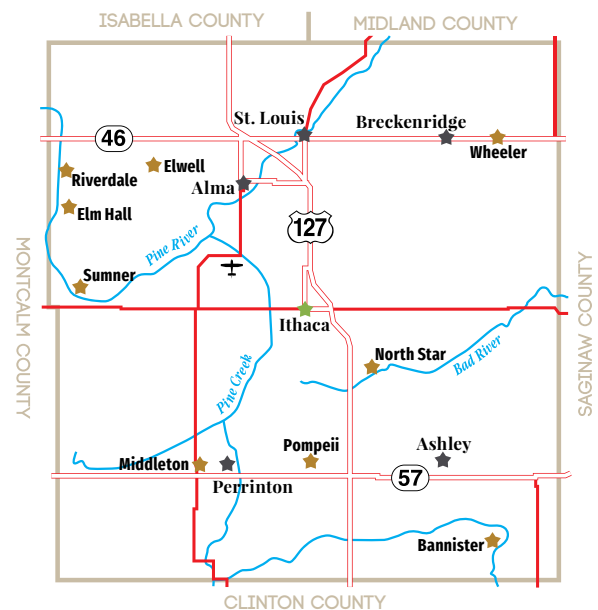
the Heart of the Lower Peninsula

More than 185 years ago, our County was carved out of the vast Michigan forest by strong and determined pioneers. Located in the heart, or the geographic center of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and named for US Army Captain Charles Gratiot, Gratiot County was founded on March 2, 1831. Although the City of Alma is the most populous in Gratiot County, the County Seat is located in the City of Ithaca. The Gratiot County Courthouse was built in the classical revival style by Claire Allen, a prominent Southern Michigan architect. It is one of seven sites in the county listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Geographically, Gratiot County covers 571.62 square miles, of which 570.13 is land and 1.48 is water. The average temperature is 70° F during the summer and 25° F in the winter. Annual precipitation includes 30 inches of rainfall and 42 inches of snowfall. As of the 2014 American Community Survey, Gratiot County's population was estimated to be 42,057 residents, 14,705 households, and 10,063 families residing in the county. The population had 24.3% under the age of 19, 8.3% from 20 to 24, 25.2% from 25 to 44, 26.8% from 45 to 64, and 15.5% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39.0. The median income for a household in the county was \$41,833 and the median income for a family was \$51,792.

To advocate the partnership of business and community to preserve, enhance and promote those unique qualities that make Gratiot County a great place to live, work and visit is our mission.

110 West Superior Street
Alma, MI 48801
989.463.5525

www.gratiot.org



LETTER FROM TARYN & CHRISTINE

Executive Director & Board President

Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce

Welcome to our annual Community Guide from the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce. This publication showcases Gratiot County and all the things that make it a great place to live, work and visit. Our county's biggest asset is the amazing individuals it's filled with who demonstrate time and time again that when we join forces with each other we can accomplish big things for our community.



2017 was an exciting year for the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce as the Village of Breckenridge officially joined the county wide Chamber. The synergy that has been created by our individual communities joining forces under one umbrella organization is certainly exciting. Gratiot County being united is truly a larger force than the cities of Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca and Breckenridge can add up to individually. We look forward to the addition of our Breckenridge community members to our Chamber board and all of us working together for our common goal of keeping Gratiot County a vibrant and healthy community while preserving the unique attributes of our individual Mid-Michigan communities and strengthening them for the future.

Alongside of the exciting merger of the Breckenridge Chamber with the Gratiot Area Chamber we had plenty of new businesses with ribbon cuttings! 23 to be exact! These took place all over the County. Some of our Members also hosted Networking Events and we are so grateful and thankful, it's such a great way to get people into your business and network with others from your community!

The last quarter of the year the Chamber board of directors began a strategic planning process. Assessing both where we have been and what the Chamber's role in the community will be in the future. Goals for 2018 have been set for the Chamber and as we move forward in the planning process we will be setting goals for future years as well. This process means change. Not for the sake of change but for the sake of progress and remaining relevant. The world around us continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace especially in the area of technology and services and it's important that the Chamber be a fluid organization that can rapidly adapt to these forces of change.

After a full year for the Chamber in 2017, we are excited to offer you even more in 2018! We are already working out our events and can't wait for you to be a part of it! Of course, if you wish to host an event at your establishment you can contact Taryn, our Executive Director, to get that on the calendar! If getting involved with one of our Promotional Committee's such as; the Ithaca Promotional Committee, Alma Action Association, Breckenridge Area Action Committee or Middle of the Mitten Association in St. Louis, is something you want to take part in, let us know! We are always looking to get more people involved in all the wonderful events offered around the community!

Please join us at the Chamber as we work to "preserve, enhance, and promote those unique qualities that make Gratiot County a great place to live, work and visit." Working together we can continue to accomplish big things.

Taryn Blanshan & Christine Crumbaugh
Executive Director & Board President
Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce

Executive Committee

Christine Crumbaugh, President, Crumbaugh Legacy
Heather Todd, President Elect, Pleasant Graphics
Joy O'Neill, Treasurer, Mercantile Bank
Phil Hansen, Vice President, City of St. Louis
Harmony Nowlin, Vice President, Consumers Energy
Jim Wheeler, Vice President, Greater Gratiot Development

Promotional Committee Chairpersons

Alma Action Association

Garth Anderson, Commerical Bank

Breckenridge Area Action Committee

Brian Goward, Isabella Bank

Ithaca Promotional Committee

Sherry Walter, Tractor Supply Company

Middle of the Mitten Association

Todd Albee, Chemical Bank

General Board

Shelly Buschle, Alma College

Tracey Cordes, County of Gratiot

Barbara Fandell, City of Ithaca

Charmian Fletcher, Ithaca Public Schools

Kelsie Kuflewski, Breckenridge Insurance Agency of MI

Bridget McPherson, Village of Breckenridge

Gary Melow, Freelance Solutions

Todd Moeggenborg, Masonic Home

Jeff Naessens, Alma True Value Hardware

Matt Schooley, City of Alma

Brian Sheets, Avalon & Tahoe

Kirsten Simmons, Alma Highland Festival & Games

Audra Stahl, Child Advocacy

Wes Wickes, Central Michigan Youth for Christ

Doug Wright, Gratiot County Sheriff

Committee Chairpersons

Finance

Joy O'Neill, Mercantile Bank

Legislative

Gary Melow, Freelance Solutions

Ambassadors | Event | Marketing & Membership

Taryn Blanshan, Executive Director

Chamber Staff

Taryn Blanshan, Executive Director

Sheila Blishop, Executive Assistant

Cover Photo Credit Greater Gratiot Development



GRATIOT COUNTY QUILT TRAIL

Over 61 beautifully unique wooden quilt squares hang on local farms and businesses in Gratiot County. This agri-tourism attraction celebrates both the art of quilting and the history of the local farms and businesses. Made up of local volunteers the committee consists of local artists and quilters who work with owners to help design the blocks with high quality materials. Each square is individually designed for the farm or establishment it will represent and many have a story with significant meaning to the owners. Gratiot County Quilt Trail is a self-guided tour and helpful, colorful trail guides can be picked up at the Gratiot County Chamber Office. 2018 will see additional blocks being added to the trail. Please check out the website for the trail at www.gratiotcountyquiltrail.com or like us on facebook Gratiot County Quilt Trail. For additional information contact Cathy McCune at mccunefamilyfarm@yahoo.com or Becky Roslund at bjroslund@gmail.com



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

CITY OF ALMA

City Hall | 525 E. Superior St. 989-463-8346
 City Police | 525 E. Superior St. 989-463-8317
 City Fire | 525 E. Superior St. 989-463-8359

CITY OF ST. LOUIS

City Hall | 300 N. Mill St. 989-681-2137
 City Police | 300 N. Mill St. 989-681-5285
 City Fire | 220 S. Main St. 989-681-8394

CITY OF ITHACA

City Hall | 129 W. Emerson 989-875-3200
 Gratiot County Sheriff's Department | 226 E. Center St. 989-875-5211
 City Fire-Rescue | 129 W. Emerson 989-875-3968

VILLAGE OF BRECKENRIDGE

Village Office | 104 E. Saginaw 989-842-3109
 Village Police | 104 E. Saginaw 989-842-5657
 Village Fire

VILLAGE OF ASHLEY

Village Office | 114 W. Oak 989-847-3050
 Volunteer Fire | 114 W. Oak St. 989-847-3050

VILLAGE OF PERRINTON

Village Office | 118 S. Robinson 989-236-5161
 Village Fire-Rescue | 108 N. Robinson 989-236-5512

TOWNSHIPS & SUPERVISORS

Arcada - 3290 W. Tyler Road - Douglas Merchant 989-875-2827
 Bethany - 9558 N. Blair Road - Donald Long 989-681-4981
 Elba - P O Box 209 (no building) - Roger Slavik 989-847-2210
 Emerson - 2976 N. Baldwin Road - James Weburg 989-875-2273
 Fulton - 3425 W. Cleveland Road - Denise Rossman 989-236-5102
 Hamilton - 7914 E. Johnson Road - Matt Ahearn 989-847-4060
 Lafayette - 4426 N. Ransom Road - Justin Stoneman 989-620-0813
 New Haven - 3027 S. Warner Road - Dirk Longanbach 989-620-7870
 Newark - 4691 S. Alger Road - Becky Roslund 989-875-3310
 North Shade - 11666 W. Cleveland Road - John Peck 989-584-3049
 North Star - 2840 E. Buchanan Road - John Hardman 989-875-2586
 Pine River - 1495 W. Monroe Road - Kevin Beeson 989-681-5523
 Seville - 8143 Madison Road - David Owens 989-463-2471
 Sumner - 8644 W. Polk Road - Ronald Hunt Jr. 989-576-0914
 Washington - 8989 S. Baldwin Road - Donald Cook 989-847-2641
 Wheeler - 8510 E. Monroe Road - Jerome Rohde 989-842-3428

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DHS | 201 Commerce Drive, Ithaca 989-875-5181
 Secretary of State | 1586 Wright Avenue, Alma 888-767-6424

TRANSPORTATION

Dial-A-Ride | 1105 Willow Run, Alma 989-463-6016
 Gratiot Community Airport | 3999 W. Seaman Road, Alma 989-463-5430

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MSU Extension | 219 N. State Street, Alma 989-466-5071
 Parks & Recreation | 214 E. Center Street, Ithaca 989-875-5278

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Alma | 233 N. State Street 989-463-8311
 Ashley | 120 S. Sterling Street 989-847-4981
 Breckenridge | 307 E. Saginaw Street 989-842-3414
 Elwell | 6477 Pingree Road 989-463-5925
 Ithaca | 120 N. Pine River Street 989-875-4165
 Middleton | 116 S. Newton Street 989-236-7773
 North Star | 107 W. Gratiot 989-875-2331
 Perrinton | 128 S. Robinson 989-236-7354
 Pompeii | 103 E. Fulton 989-838-2226
 Riverdale & Elm Hall | 6728 N. Lumberjack Road 989-833-7988
 Saint Louis | 217 W. Center Street 989-681-3131
 Sumner | 10674 W. St. Charles Road 989-833-7409
 Wheeler | 8254 N. Wheeler Road 989-842-5224

WASTE SERVICES

Granger | 2355 Michigan Avenue, Alma 989-463-3680
 Waste Management | 401 E. Superior Street, Alma 989-941-0109
 Dent Refuse Services | 5079 E. Buchanan Road, Ithaca 989-875-6222





VOLUNTEER IN GRATIOT COUNTY



What makes our community an exceptional place to live is our people. There is a collaborative, engaging spirit that literally flows into our non-profit organizations. You will find volunteering for one of our community's charitable organizations rewarding and you will be able to see how your time and energy makes an impact. No matter your personality or time commitment, there are opportunities that will fit you. There are opportunities for one-time service, recurring jobs and long-term commitments. Some people will volunteer their time and talent by actively serving on one of our great boards or committees. Board volunteers provide direction, ideas and oversight of an organization while ensuring it is serving its mission. There are board positions on almost all of our high functioning non-profit organizations such as the United Way of Gratiot County, Gratiot County Community Foundation, Big Brothers /Big Sisters and Gratiot County Fair for Youth. There are also great community committees that plan exceptional events like our community's Rural-Urban Days. There are opportunities for volunteers to provide leadership and mentorship to our young people. Organizations such as Gratiot County 4-H, Scouts and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters pair caring adults with young people. Service can be many things including organizing a youth 4-H club, being a long-term mentor to a child or serving as a chaperone at a youth conference. Our great organizations

Gratiot County is a special place.

provide you the tools you will need to be successful. There are always opportunities for that one-time helper. Whether it is cheering on a runner at a community fundraising race, creating products for a community bake sale, setting up for a fair event or raking leaves for a neighbor in need, your help is always appreciated. In my experience as a non-profit manager I have learned not to underestimate this community's people. They have a generous spirit and give of their time, talents and resources. It is people like you who make Gratiot County a special place.

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

Gratiot County has historically been a leader in agricultural production and that tradition continues to this day. "Diverse" and "abundant" remain the most apt descriptors of agriculture in Gratiot County. The fertile soils throughout the county and the moderate local climate are ideal for the production of a variety of grains, forages, beans, and specialty crops as well as the livestock that feed on many of these commodities and their by-products. In total, agriculture accounts for over 78% of the county's land use. It is apparent that agriculture is a tremendous source of wealth generation for our community, and therefore, it is essential to our local economic health. The United States Department of Agriculture reports there are nearly 1,000 farm families in Gratiot County. The value of the products they raise in the county is estimated at approximately \$300 million. Nearly all of these farmers grow soybeans and corn, which are grown on over 160,000 acres and account for two-thirds of the total cropland in the county. Other important crops include sugar beets, wheat, dry beans, and alfalfa. Livestock and dairy also play an important role

in Gratiot County. Milk alone accounts for nearly one quarter of the total gross dollar value of agriculture products raised in the county. Approximately 50 million gallons of milk are produced annually on Gratiot County dairy farms. Cattle and hogs also make strong economic contributions to the value of commodities produced locally. The production of poultry, pickling cucumbers, fresh vegetables, and organic crops also contributes to the diversity of Gratiot County agriculture. Gratiot County is fortunate to have a strong agriculture allied industry. The local large efficient grain elevators, full service equipment dealers, fertilizer dealers, and input suppliers, specialty crop receiving stations are all vital to the local farmer's success. Professional consultants, agriculture advisors, and USDA offices also contribute to the success of the local producers of agriculture products. Finally, a new soybean processing facility being constructed in 2017 and 2018 will greatly enhance the agriculture sector of the regional economy.



GRATIOT COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS



DRIVING DISTANCE

From Ithaca, our County Seat, to:

St.Louis	8 miles
Alma	10 miles
Mt.Pleasant	28 miles
Clare	43 miles
Saginaw	42 miles
Midland	44 miles
Lansing	45 miles
Grand Rapids	75 miles
Ann Arbor	105 miles
Traverse City	138 miles
Detroit	130 miles
Mackinaw City	177 miles
Marquette	355 miles
Sault Ste Marie	245 miles

TOP 20 EMPLOYERS

- 496 International Automotive Components (IAC)
- 496 Masonic Pathways
- 494 MidMichigan Medical Center-Gratiot
- 411 Central Michigan Correctional Facility
- 333 Alma College
- 328 St. Louis Correctional Facility
- 320 Avalon & Tahoe Mfg., Inc.
- 273 Alma Public Schools
- 191 Alma Products Company
- 176 Wal-Mart
- 168 Clover Technologies Group (Cartridges Are Us)
- 163 Gratiot County Courthouse
- 161 Meijer
- 148 Hutchinson Aerospace & Industry
- 145 Consumers Energy Company
- 142 Garr Tool Company
- 135 Ithaca Public Schools
- 130 Apex Marine
- 129 Shiloh Industries
- 122 Merrill Fabricators

MAJOR PRODUCTS

Corn 13.15 M bu.	Dry Beans 140,000 cwt.
Soybeans 4.416 M bu.	Milk 414.6 M cwt.
Wheat 1.515 M bu.	Hogs 140,000 hd.
Sugar Beets 230,000 T	Cattle 32,000 hd.

This estimate does not include commodities such as alfalfa, turkeys, and other vegetable crops.

MEDIA COVERING GRATIOT COUNTY

Gratiot County Herald
(weekly newspaper) • Ithaca
123 N. Main St. • (989) 875-4151

Morning Star Publishing
Morning Sun (daily) • Alma
Mid-Michigan Buyers Guide (weekly shopper)
311 E. Superior St. • (989) 463-6071

Saginaw Valley News
(weekly newspaper) • Breckenridge
221 E. Saginaw St. • (989) 842-3164

MacTV Network
(public access station) • St. Louis
122 N. Mill. • (989) 773-9730

WCFX 95.3 FM

5847 Venture Way • Mt. Pleasant • (989) 772-4173

Z 92.5 FM
"The Castle"

103 N. Washington St. • Owosso • (989) 725-1925

WCZY-104.3 FM

4895 E. Wing Rd. • Mount Pleasant • (989) 772-9664

WQBX-104.9 FM
WFYC-1280 AM

5310 N. State Rd. • Alma • (989) 463-3175

WMLM Radio-1520 AM

4170 N. State Rd. • Alma • (989) 463-4013

WQAC-90.9 FM

Alma College • Alma • (989) 463-7301

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alma Elks Lodge #1400 | Kiwanis |
| Alma Woman's Club | Knights of Pythias |
| American Legion | Lions Club |
| American Red Cross | Masonic Lodge |
| Bannister ZCBJ Lodge #225 | Moose Lodge |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters | Oddfellows |
| Czechoslovak Society of America (CSA) | Optimist Club |
| Harmony Arbor Gleaners | Rotary International |
| MidMichigan Medical Gratiot Auxiliary | Salvation Army |
| | Veterans of Foreign Wars |
| | United Way |

MANUFACTURING IN GRATIOT COUNTY

Gratiot County's Vigorous Manufacturing Sector

Adding value by converting something via manufacturing is one of only three ways of creating wealth (the others are mining and agriculture). By definition, manufacturers form an important part of the diversified Gratiot County economy. The county has a wide variety of automobile suppliers, including a cargo trailer manufacturer, but the manufacturing base is much more diverse. Gratiot County businesses produce jet aircraft engine components, locomotive parts, wooden building trusses, pontoon boats, carbide cutting tools, picture frames, grain cleaning equipment, injected, rotational and extruded molded plastics and printer ink cartridges. A variety of coatings providers and agri-businesses of all types rounds out the list. These companies are collaboratively supported by Greater Gratiot Development and the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce, both of which work closely with local government and State of Michigan partners. The Chamber hosts a vigorous Industry/Education Roundtable forum where manufacturers and educators work together to address mutual challenges, currently focusing on workforce development. Such partnership led to the formation of the Central Michigan Manufacturers Association, which has over 50 member companies representing more than 3000 employees. Five Michigan Certified Business Parks and one commercial park offer many options for business and industry location in the cities of



Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca and the Village of Breckenridge. The Gratiot community also understands the unique needs of agri-

businesses and has designated areas for the sector. Companies engaged in international business may find Gratiot County's inclusion in Foreign Trade Zone #275 to be helpful. Together tax incentives, trade services and assistance programs make Gratiot County a great place for business. Transportation methods to and from Gratiot County are abundant. Road access is served by a major north-south divided highway, U.S. 127, and two east-west thoroughfares, M-46 and M-57, which connect to north-south routes I-75 and U.S. 131. The Gratiot Community Airport provides small jet and commercial aircraft service, while two larger commercial and passenger service airports are less than an hour away. Additionally two railroads make worldwide expansion of the Gratiot market possible. Whatever the development requirements, Gratiot County is known for making things happen. Successful and growing collaboration amongst municipalities reduces bureaucracy and makes a better business climate. *Article by Bill Henderson, Aircraft Precision*



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN GRATIOT COUNTY

Wind Development is Powerful in Gratiot County

True to its renewable nature, wind development has assisted in reinvigorating Gratiot County. During the “Great Recession,” the Gratiot Community came together to find new opportunities for economic growth. Gratiot County was presented with the possibility of wind development due to its flat, open areas and collaborative nature. Leaders in the county made the two wind farms possible by creating Michigan’s first countywide model wind energy ordinance. The county is now home to two wind farms: Beebe Renewable Energy, LLC (55 turbines) and Gratiot County Wind, LLC (133 turbines). Gratiot County Wind, LLC is the state’s largest wind farm! Wind development has unquestionably brought increased economic prosperity to the county. Since construction began in 2011, Gratiot County government, townships, and schools realized a total of \$16.61 million in new tax revenue. The local economy is also directly and positively affected by land payments to 350 families and 22 permanent full-time jobs at the new maintenance and operations facilities for each company. In addition to the direct economic benefits, Gratiot citizens have also experienced a number of indirect benefits. Wind investment was used to leverage a grant to complete infrastructure for the Breckenridge Industrial, Technology and Agribusiness Park, where there are currently over 100 new FTE positions. Additionally, due to necessary electrical transmission upgrades and the construction of four new substations, the entire Mid-Michigan area has increased power reliability. Finally, production agriculture, a crucial part of Gratiot’s economy, has been ensured through careful placement of the wind turbines. Perhaps the most significant benefit that wind development has offered Gratiot County is a renewed drive toward the future with new opportunities. The wind farms have increased awareness of Gratiot County in the areas of increased manufacturing possibilities and wind tourism. As a result, Gratiot County has been appropriately identified as a forward-looking community that continuously positions itself for a successful future.

Article by Kasey Zehner, Greater Gratiot Development





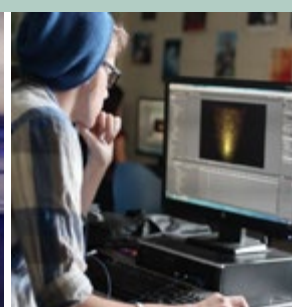
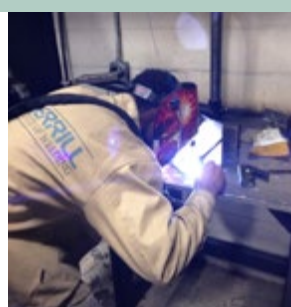
...for location, expansion, and entrepreneurial support

300+ acres available for industrial and agribusiness projects

...for a diverse and growing economy



Home to Michigan's largest wind farm



...for education opportunities beyond the traditional classroom

Excellent public, private, and vocational education centers

...for cultural and recreational activities



A superior quality of life

One-stop assistance for locating and growing your business



- Building/equipment expansions
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Entrepreneurial assistance
- Employee recruitment/training
- Foreign Trade Zone assistance
- Site selection
- State & local incentives
- General consultation
- Strategic planning

HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN GRATIOT COUNTY

Improving the Health of Our Community



Located in Alma, MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot has been serving the health care needs of residents throughout Gratiot, Montcalm and Isabella Counties since 1955. In addition to a convenient urgent care and state-of-the-art emergency department, the Medical Center offers a full range of specialty services including heart and vascular care, cancer care, orthopedics, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, maternity care, mental health, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services, wound treatment, medical and surgical weight management and treatment for sleep disorders. In addition to these services, the Medical Center also has a Simulation Lab, offering a new, leading-edge way to train staff and area nursing students in patient assessment skills in a low-risk environment. The lab has life-like adult and pediatric manikins™ that actually breathe, talk, cry, and have a pulse. A new Family Medicine Residency Program is also planned to begin in 2016 based at MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot. In caring for our communities, each year, the Medical Center supports local schools, organizations and agencies, as well as provides a variety of free health fairs, educational seminars and low-cost screenings. MidMichigan Medical Center – Gratiot is an affiliate of MidMichigan Health, a non-profit health system headquartered in Midland, Mich. The system covers a 15-county region with medical centers in Alma, Clare, Gladwin and Midland, as well as urgent care centers, home care, nursing homes, physicians, and other specialty services. MidMichigan has more than 5,900 employees, physicians and volunteers. Last year, MidMichigan provided \$76 million in charity care and other benefits to improve the health of the communities MidMichigan serves. In the summer of 2013, MidMichigan Health affiliated with the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS). This partnership is intended to expand access and enhance the level of quality care provided for patients who live in our 15-county region. Additionally, MidMichigan and UMHS are working together to provide expedited access to clinical specialists and treatments not available in the region. Those interested in more information about MidMichigan Health may visit www.midmichigan.org.



GRATIOT AREA FARMERS MARKETS

MAY - OCTOBER

ALMA WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

7 AM - 1 PM

ST. LOUIS THURSDAYS

2 - 6 PM

ITHACA SATURDAYS

8 AM - 1 PM

PROVIDING QUALITY SENIOR CARE IN GRATIOT COUNTY

For those who wish to continue living independently in Gratiot County, yet desire the emotional security of a community environment, Arbor Grove Assisted Living and Masonic Pathways CCRC are two beautiful options. Both have much to offer, including various levels of assistance in personal care, medication administration, housekeeping, laundry, meals and social activities. If you seek greater levels of care, Gratiot County is home to five of Michigan's highest rated skilled nursing and short-stay rehabilitation centers, including the Laurels of Fulton, Masonic Pathways Health Care Center, Pine River Health Care Center, Schnepf Senior Care & Rehab Center and Warwick Living Center. Based upon health inspections, staffing and quality measures, each has earned a Four or Five-Star rating, the highest possible, from Nursing Home Compare the Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare. All offer state-of-the-art rehabilitation programs, providing a bridge between the hospital and home for those who require intense therapy after joint replacements, stroke, or extended stays in the hospital. Through physical, occupational and speech therapy, these health centers make it possible for their short-stay patients to reclaim their vitality, return to their homes and resume their daily lives. Each of these centers can also become a "home away from home," where memory and long term care residents receive around-the-clock nursing care, therapeutic activities and nutritional support while enjoying a home-like atmosphere. Physician, dental, optometry and podiatry are provided within each center. Additionally, in answer to a critical need for long-term ventilator dependent care, Masonic Pathways recently opened a specialized Assisted Breathing unit. Gratiot County is truly fortunate to have some many high quality options for our Seniors. For more information on Nursing Home Compare ratings, visit medicare.gov.

Arbor Grove Assisted Living

1320 Pine Avenue
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-3074



The Laurels of Fulton

4735 Ranger Road
Perrinton, MI 48871
(989) 236-5433



Masonic Pathways CCRC & Health Care Center

1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-3141



Schnepf Senior Care & Rehab Center

427 Washington
St. Louis, MI 48880
(989) 681-5721



Pine River Health Care Center

1149 Monroe Road
St. Louis, MI 48880
(989) 681-3852



Warwick Living Center

842 West Warwick Drive
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-2200



CONNECTING GRATIOT COUNTY A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

To learn more about Alma College,
visit these online resources:

Main Website www.alma.edu

Campus Events Calendar <http://events.alma.edu>

Athletics <http://AlmaScots.com>

Recreation Center <http://www.alma.edu/stone-center/>

Heritage Center Box Office

<http://www.alma.edu/heritage-center/>



For 130 years, Alma College has connected students with a world of ideas and opportunities. A four-year residential liberal arts college, Alma College offers each student a personalized education emphasizing high-impact experiential learning opportunities, such as internships, research fellowships, study abroad and engagement with the local community. Alma College is proud of its community linkages. Collaborations between the college and community include mutually beneficial research projects, volunteer opportunities and community partnerships such as the annual Highland Festival.

The attractive 128-acre campus features a combination of historic and contemporary buildings within walking distance from downtown Alma. The campus is bordered by the 41-mile Fred Meijer Heartland Bike Trail. The Alma College Bookstore with Starbucks is a popular destination for both community members and students who seek Alma apparel or a coffee beverage. College athletics facilities, including the Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation and the McClure Natatorium, offer wellness education, swimming instruction and recreational opportunities to community members and local businesses. Cultural and sports events are offered throughout the year.

The Oscar E. Remick Heritage Center for the Performing Arts is the region's premiere performing arts facility, with concerts, lectures, plays and other events scheduled throughout the year. Alma's Division III athletics program offers intercollegiate competition in 25 varsity sports.



GRATIOT COUNTY

A DYNAMIC OFFERING OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The residents of Gratiot County recognize that a quality education is the basis for a successful life. Walk into any school in Gratiot County, and you will get a sense not only of personal friendliness but also of seriousness about education.

The six school districts have been able to preserve their small-town values while keeping up-to-date with the latest in educational practice and technology. A dynamic offering of educational opportunities is available to students of all ages. Preschools and developmental kindergarten programs, both public and private, are available. Elementary and secondary schools perform at a high level under the direction of dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff members. Also critical to this mission are involved parents and a supportive community. Several private parochial schools blend traditional education with religious values for elementary-age children.

Career Technical Education (CTE) centers at Alma High School and Mt. Pleasant High School provide students with programs ranging from welding and agriculture to culinary arts and nursing. CTE course offerings are gaining in popularity and importance, as our region continues to experience a welcome increase in the manufacturing sector. In November of 2013, voters in the Gratiot-Isabella RESD service area voted to support a 1.0 mil tax increase dedicated to enhancing CTE course offerings. This millage will be used to upgrade facilities and support new course offerings such as Mechatronics at the Alma Technical Center.

The graduation rate of Gratiot high school seniors is 95 percent. Many graduates go on to further education at two- and four-year colleges and also at technical schools. Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (GIRESD) provides essential programming for special-needs students. GIRESD offers training in curriculum and instruction for teachers and administrators, and provides data processing and technology support across all area school districts.



Several districts offer opportunities for students who have not finished high school. Adult education classes are available to those wishing to complete a high school diploma or a general education degree.

Opening their doors to all students are Mid-Michigan Community College (Harrison and Mt. Pleasant), Montcalm Community College (Sidney), Delta College (Bay City) and Lansing Community College (Lansing), all within commuting distance for Gratiot students. These community colleges provide associates degrees and credits, many of which transfer to universities and colleges in the state.

Alma College, a highly-rated private liberal arts school, is home to over 1,400 students from across Michigan, the United States, and abroad. In addition to offering a quality education on-campus, Alma College offers opportunities for students to study abroad and encourages volunteerism at the local level.

Other universities are within an easy driving distance: Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan State University in East Lansing, Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, and Northwood University in Midland.

SCHOOL POPULATION

Alma Public Schools
2109

Ashley Public Schools
257

Breckenridge Community Schools
677

Fulton Area Schools
726

Ithaca Public Schools
1154

St. Louis Public Schools
1045

GIRESD
213

GRATIOT COMMUNITY AIRPORT

The Gratiot Community Airport, located at 3999 W. Seaman Road, between Alma and Ithaca, offers flight services to business, individual, and freight patrons. The airport features a 5,000 foot east-west primary runway and a 3,200 foot north-south cross wind runway. The runways handle commercial aircraft and small jets. The facility also provides private charters. In total, the airport oversees 9,500 operations per year. Three Point Aviation, LLC is the Fixed Base Operator at the airport and handles the day-to-day operations. Self-serve fuel 100LL and Jet A is available at the airport twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Courtesy cars are available, as well as hangar and aircraft rentals. Please consider utilizing the Gratiot Community Airport for fast and easy service to and from the Gratiot area.

GRATIOT COUNTY EXPLORATION

Gratiot County is extremely fortunate to have a multitude of recreational opportunities to serve a diverse and active population. Perhaps two of Gratiot's greatest offerings are Paul Hubscher County Park in Sumner Township (west of Ithaca) and Reed County Park in North Star Township (south of Ithaca). Open to the public, both parks offer a swimming beach, a playground, nature trails, various sports fields, pavilions, and picnic tables & grills. In addition to these major county parks, cities and villages within Gratiot County have a selection of local parks that offer a variety of amenities. For a complete listing of these parks, please visit each city's website. Outdoor enthusiasts are sure to enjoy Gratiot County's offering of trails. The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail is 42 miles long and runs from Alma, Michigan to Greenville, Michigan. It is a smooth asphalt trail that can be used for walking, biking, skating, and other non-motorized traffic. The Alma Mountain Bike Trail, located in Alma's Pine River Park & Outdoor Center, offers a more exhilarating and scenic ride. Finally, a paved 6.6-mile non-motorized pathway was recently constructed along the east side of US Highway 127 from Ithaca to Alma. This trail is part of the efforts of Mid-Michigan Community Pathways, a community group that seeks to establish a cohesive non-motorized route from Ithaca to Clare. Gratiot County is home to the Pine and Maple rivers. The Pine River boasts a 30-mile canoe/kayak trail that runs from Riverdale to Alma with multiple access points. The trail is wheelchair accessible at Luneack County Park in Alma, Michigan, which also offers multiple parking spaces for easy access. Maple River, located in the southern portion of Gratiot County, is surrounded by three state game areas. Additional outdoor recreational activities include 9-hole and 18-hole golf courses, a



splash park, public swimming pools, shooting ranges, paintball courses, and soccer fields. Indoor recreational opportunities are also available throughout Gratiot County. Various live theater and music performances occur at the Strand Theatre in Alma and the Gem Theater in St. Louis. Additionally, all three cities offer beautiful downtown settings with a variety of dining options and unique shopping opportunities. Other indoor recreational options include a movie theater, public libraries, bowling alleys, indoor swimming pools, arcades, health clubs/gyms, and dance lessons. Suffice it to say that Gratiot County has a great variety of recreational activities that are sure to meet anyone's needs and interests. For a detailed listing of recreational opportunities, please visit gratiot.org.



PARKS & RECREATION

ALMA

Call City - 989-463-8346

King Park
Hampton Park
Pine River Park
Holiday Park
Riverside Park
Wright Park
Scotland Yard
Euclid Ball Fields
Mill Street Park
Highland Park

ITHACA

Call City - 989-875-3200

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McNabb Park
Atkinson Park

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Clapp Memorial Park
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Barnum Park

BRECKENRIDGE

Call City - 989-842-3109

J C Hoffmeyer Memorial Park
Pine Street Park
Birch Street Park

Lumberjack Park

9160 N. Lumberjack Road, Riverdale - 989-833-7373

Paul Hubscher Park

8300 W. Washinton Road, Sumner - 989-875-5278

Reed Park

3181 E. Johnson Road, North Star - 989-875-5278

Ashley Village Park & Ball Fields

989-847-3050

Pompeii Park

7000 S. State Road, Pompeii - 989-875-5282

Sumner Centennial Park

989-574-0914



ARTS & HISTORY

Housed in the historic Strand Theater, and celebrating its fiftieth season as a county artistic highlight in 2017-18, the Gratiot County Players is a long standing community theatre group comprised of area volunteers, young and old alike, with admirable talent willing to take part in and bring the theatrical experience to Gratiot County. Open to both students and community members, the Heritage Center at Alma College is a perfect venue for local artists as well as the more established performers hosted by Alma College. Many students attend Alma College in pursuit of furthering a career in music, dance, theater, and other artistic venues. The Alma Community Art Center, a non-profit organization with a showcase of local artists, offers a well-rounded agenda of classes. Thanks to the Art Center, banners designed by artists of all ages, beautify the downtown areas of Alma, St. Louis and Ithaca. At the Academy of Performing Arts, professionally trained and schooled teachers lead dance classes for the beginner to the advanced student. DuHadway Dance Dimensions brings dance to those with a more competitive spirit, providing the community with an elite team of award-winning and traveling dancers. The City of Ithaca is home to many historical sites including the Courthouse, Historical & Genealogical Society and Historical Museum. The museum, located adjacent to the Ithaca Public Library, displays various artifacts and much of the history of Gratiot County. The Historical and Genealogical Society can be found in the 130 year old Georgiana Peet Miller home. There you can research the names of over 800,000 residents who were born, lived or died in Gratiot County. An archive of original newspapers up to 100 years back is also on file at the Society. History buffs will find both locations a must stop in Gratiot County. Other Gratiot County historical sites include the Plank Road Museum in Breckenridge, the St. Louis Area Historical Society in St. Louis, and the state's smallest Post Office in Elm Hall. The Liberty Professional Building in Alma was once Alma's City Hall. Walk the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail to Riverdale and you'll find the Riverdale Museum. In Riverdale, you might also want to stop by the Riverdale Tavern, one of the area's many long-established and more rural dining venues. Winding a path through the southern half of Gratiot County is the railroad passing through Bannister, Ashley, Pompeii, Perrinton and Middleton. Ashley has begun a holiday tradition with an old-fashioned country Christmas, working with the Polar Express rail line. Enjoy the historical and artistic opportunities available to you in Gratiot County!

Article by Heather Todd, Gratiot County Players



Ongoing Events

May 1 – June 14

Field of Honor, Alma Elks Lodge

Dedication 2 p.m. May 1

May 25, 26 & 27

Alma Highland Festival and Games – Alma College Campus

May 26 - October 27 Farmers' Markets

7 a.m.-1 p.m., downtown Alma (Wed. & Sat.)

Ithaca (Sat. 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

St. Louis (Thursday 2-6 p.m.)

June - August * gratiotcountyplayers.com

Gratiot County Players Showtime at the Strand Competition

Gratiot County Players Summer Youth Workshop

June 15 & 16

Ashley Trading Days, Ashley

June 20 - 24

Gratiot Ag Expo, Ithaca Fairgrounds

July 28 – August 4

Gratiot County Fair for Youth, Alma

August 3 - 5

Perrinton Summerfest

August 17 & 18

St. Louis Blues Festival

August 17, 18 & 19

Sumner Daze, Sumner

August 29 & 30

DALMAC Bicycle Riders, Alma

September 2018 - May 2019 gratiotcountyplayers.com

Gratiot County Players Fifty-First Season

October 27 & 31

5th Street Tunnel of Terror, Breckenridge

November 16 – December 15

Village of Ashley Country Christmas – North Pole Express Train

Same Day Events

January 19

Good Morning Gratiot, Doig Conference Center, Masonic Pathways

January 25

Annual Dinner, Doig Chapel, Masonic Pathways

February 1

St. Louis Swiss Steak Dinner, Alma Elks Club

March 10

St. Louis Dueling Pianos, Alma Elks Club

March 31

Masonic Pathways Community Easter Egg Hunt – 11 a.m. sharp

Easter Egg Hunt 11 a.m. (Woodland Park) Ithaca

Easter Egg/Scavenger Hunt, Downtown St. Louis

April 21

Alma Clean Up Day

May 1

Field of Honor Dedication, 2 p.m., Alma Elks Lodge

May 4

Spring Fling Golf Outing, Pine River Country Club, Alma

May 19

Alma Flower Planting Day

May 20

Dust Off Car Show, noon – 4 p.m., downtown Ithaca

May 28

Memorial Day Service and Parade, 10 a.m.

All Wars Memorial/Courthouse Lawn, Ithaca

Memorial Day Parade, Downtown St. Louis – 10 a.m.

June 7

Middle of the Mitten Community Golf Outing

Hidden Oaks Golf Course, St. Louis

June 9

St. Louis Joe Scholtz Memorial Fishing Derby



Same Day Events, Con't.

June 14

Flag Day Event, Alma Elks Lodge
Flag Day, Boy Scouts Presentation, All Wars Memorial, Ithaca
Flag Day Event, St. Louis City Hall

June 14

Gratiot County Fair For Youth Golf Outing – The Fields Golf Course

July 4

Breckenridge Fireworks, Amazing Grace Church, Wheeler

July 7

St. Louis Fourth of July Celebration, Fireworks

July 19

Rural Urban Day at Gratiot County Fairgrounds, Alma
(Advanced tickets required)

August 3*

Sport Shirt Golf Outing – Noon at The Fields Golf Course

August 4

GCCFFY Super Kicker Rodeo & Fireworks, GCCFFY Fairgrounds
rodeo at 6 p.m. & fireworks at dusk

August 5

Bannister Czechoslovak Harvest Festival, Bannister

August 11*

Gratiot County Relay for Life, St. Louis – 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.

August 16

Party on State Street, Downtown Alma

August 23

Old US-27 Car Cruise, 10:30-12:30 p.m., Ithaca; 1:00-3:00
p.m., Alma; 3:15-5:15 p.m., St. Louis

September 8

Lucky MacDuck Community Day, Alma
Cyclecross Bike Race, 2 p.m. – Bridge St., Alma
old airport behind transportation building

September TBD

Alma Fall Clean Up Day

Same Day Events, Con't.

September 21

Breckenridge Fall Festival and Homecoming

September 22

Agri-Fit Challenge Obstacle Course 5K – McNabb Park, Ithaca

September 28

Alma, St. Louis & Fulton High School Homecomings

September 29

Alma College Homecoming

October 12*

Ithaca Hometown Fall Festival – Downtown Ithaca

October 12

Ithaca & Ashley Homecomings

October 13

Gratiot Quilt Trail Tour

October 25

Alma Fall Festival

November 11

Veteran's Day Service – 11 a.m. –
Downtown Ithaca All Wars Memorial & Downtown St. Louis
Masonic Pathway's Veteran's Day Salute

November 15

Buck Pole, starting at 4 p.m., Downtown Ithaca

December 3

Breckenridge Christmas in the City

December 6

St. Louis Small Town Family Christmas and Lighted Parade

December 7

Christmas Under the Stars Celebration and Santa Parade,
Ithaca

December 14

Come Home to Alma Holiday Celebration

December 15

6th Annual Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk, Alma





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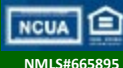
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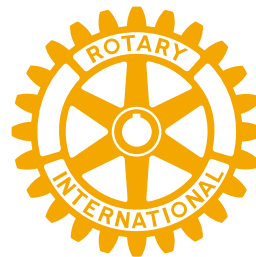
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- Ventilator Dependent & Renal Services
- Respite and Hospice Services

Masonic Pathways is a Life Plan community with a commitment to supporting the continuing wellness and retirement goals of our residents.


**Masonic
PATHWAYS**
A Legacy of Caring 

1200 Wright Avenue | Alma, MI 48801
masonicpathways.com

Call for information.
800-321-9357



Welcome to the neighborhood

Arranged in three welcoming neighborhoods of fifteen, we are small enough to ensure that each of our 45 residents receives individualized and loving care; and large enough for residents to be actively engaged in social activities and daily exercise. Each neighborhood features its own kitchen/dining room, an intimate, comfortable sitting area, spa, four seasons room and easy access to outdoor courtyards.

Personal. Private. Home.

- Long - Term Skilled Nursing Care
- Short - Stay Rehab & Recovery
- Secure Memory Care

We're small, personal and professionally operated!

Located in the heart of Alma, we are the only skilled nursing community in Gratiot County featuring all private rooms!


**WARWICK
LIVING CENTER**
A Legacy of Caring 

842 Warwick Drive | Alma, MI 48801
warwicklivingcenter.com

Call for information.
989-463-2200