

Lenawee - Your County with a Vision

Quality of Life in Lenawee

Lenawee County is not only a great place to do business, but also the perfect place to live. We have the "small town atmosphere" with our own local cultural and business opportunities, but we are located close to Ann Arbor, Dundee, Jackson and Detroit, Michigan as well as Toledo, Ohio, giving ample opportunity to "get away" for the day, or "hook-up" with business prospects easily. The desire to live in Lenawee County is evidenced by the ongoing growth in residential housing. No matter where you are in the county, you will see new homes, condominiums and apartment complexes being built.

Herrick Memorial Hospital and the Bixby Medical Center are local healthcare partners with Promedica and offer full health care for both in-patient and out-patient services.

Lots of Things to See and Do Including:

Adrian Blissfield Railroad located in Blissfield. The first railroad west of the Allegany Mountains offers excursion and murder mystery dinner trains.

Irish Hills Family Fun Attractions located in the Irish Hills near Onsted. While visiting in the spring and summer months enjoy the lakes, beaches, miniature golf, go-karts and waterslides. Stagecoach Stop USA has a variety of things to see and do taking you back to the 1800's era.

Hidden Lake Gardens located in Tipton has 755 acres of arboretum, maintained by Michigan State University, is a beautifully landscaped garden, complete with a green house/conservatory featuring tropical, arid and temperate houses. Visitors may take advantage of 5 miles of hiking trails or drive the paved roads that wind through the property.

Michigan International Speedway is home to some of the nation's most exciting NASCAR and Indy Racing League competition.

Museums located in the City of Adrian, Village of Blissfield, City of Hudson, and City of Tecumseh as well as the Southern Michigan Railroad Museum in Clinton will fill you in on the history and past cultures of those communities.

Croswell Opera House located in Adrian, is the oldest continuously operated theatre in Michigan and one of the oldest in the country. It is a premiere community theatre and offers the best available talent in live theatre.

Adrian Symphony Orchestra located in Adrian offers a varied season of professional entertainment. Their season includes Classics, Pops and Jazz, Discovery Concerts for the family as well as Candlelight Classics during the holiday seasons.

Tecumseh Civic Auditorium is the cultural and entertainment center of Tecumseh. Its mission is to present performing arts events to the people of the region in a diverse and interesting manner.

Antiquing can be found in just about every city and village of Lenawee. There are over 60 antique shops and 900 dealers.

The above information can be found in the "Look To Lenawee" brochure produced by the Lenawee Conference and Visitors Bureau.

To obtain information about Lenawee, call the Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development at **(517) 265-5141** or the Lenawee Conference and Visitors Bureau at **800-536-2933**.

The Lenawee County Chamber of Commerce

"A business and professional partnership that works." Our mission guides our work. The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development is a member-driven organization which stimulates community development and economic growth to sustain and improve the quality of life in Lenawee County.

Established in 1916, the Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development serves Adrian, Tecumseh, Hudson, Blissfield, Clinton, Deerfield, Britton, Onsted, Morenci, Addison and Manitou Beach, as well as townships. The Chamber specializes in economic, business and community development initiatives and offers a variety of training, marketing and networking opportunities to its members.

Specializing in economic development and business and community development initiatives—the Lenawee Chamber is an organization with foresight and vision. With the changing business trends, we recognized a definite need to find out where we will be in the next 10 year and to create the action steps needed for sustainable jobs for the future, thereby increasing the quality of living in Lenawee. In 2003 the Lenawee Chamber refocused from traditional chamber activities to being a research and data driven organization. Chamber staff make regular visits to industries, retail, and service businesses, professional offices, local municipalities and community non-profit organizations to identify ways to support their specific needs and to make sure that their individual views are incorporated into community decisions.

The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development has recently completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Lenawee County. Critical parts of the commitment were to set annual goals, communicate specific action steps to the community, seek capable partners to help achieve results, and institutionalize on a county-wide basis, a yearly evaluation and readjustment process to keep the strategy on-target and up-to-date. It spells out the action steps that will lead Lenawee to a new economy, focused on sustainable jobs for the future. It is the product of over three years of intensive work with strategic partners including:

- South Central Michigan Works!
- The Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- The County of Lenawee/Lenawee County Commission
- The University of Michigan's School of business, EDA University Center for Economic Diversification & the MBA Domestic Corps
- Michigan State University – Agricultural Product Development Center
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration

2005 - 2006 Deliverables/Outcomes Produced to Date:

Ethanol Workforce Development and Value-added Agricultural Processing Grant

The Lenawee Chamber received approval from the USDA for a grant that provides training money for the new employees at the Riga, Michigan Midwest Grain Processors ethanol facility. South Central Michigan Works! is providing the process for the hiring, placement and assessment of employees at the facility. The local and regional agricultural sector benefits directly from the emphasis on value-added agricultural processing and the economic diversification we sought through the CEDS.

The Lenawee County Chamber of Commerce (continued)

Adrian High School/Chemical Industry Grant

The Lenawee Chamber pursued and received a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to begin a workforce development project at Adrian high School. (pilot program will hopefully expand to all county school districts) The plan includes creating pathways for students who are currently leaving the county for perceived better employment opportunities. The grant enables the Lenawee Chamber to work with teachers, local companies, students and other stakeholders in the creation of a “certified supplier chain” from the high school to the chemistry industry in Lenawee.

Food/Agricultural Processing Incubator Feasibility Study

A Food/Agricultural Processing Incubator Feasibility Study grant will be submitted this fall. (2006) The request fits our planning for the continued emphasis on the value added agriculture sector of our local economy. If approved, the grant will enable the Lenawee Chamber to work with experts in the field of kitchen and agricultural processing incubator and the growing potential for entrepreneurship in our county.

Assist our cities, villages and township in addressing diverse needs of their citizens

The Lenawee Chamber staff has visited with our cities, villages and townships to better determine their needs and work together to fulfill these needs.

Small business development is another primary emphasis of the Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development and is evidenced by partnerships with Service Corps of Retired Executives, S.C.O.R.E. and the Area Business Connection providing consulting services to small business at no cost.

The Chamber serves as the voice of business in the Lenawee County area and as an advocate for a quality community. The Chamber has been a leader in identifying alternatives and a solution to a number of challenges faced by business owners and residents of Lenawee County and continues to seek collaborative approaches to community development and problem solving.

Some issues currently being addressed by the Lenawee Chamber include:

- Implementation of a Comprehensive Economic Development Plan for Lenawee County
- Commercial development and re-development throughout the county, including downtown
- Infrastructure needs
- Education issues
- Workforce development

Business Friendly

Economic Development is a high priority in Lenawee County. Numerous expansion projects are taking place within our industrial and retail sectors.

Through a well-established, multifaceted transportation network, Lenawee County's commercial, manufacturing and agricultural producers have quick access to major international markets. Five major highways and three railroads provide convenient access. Area industrial parks offer sites to fit the needs of growing manufacturers. Sites are available in the Adrian, Blissfield, Hudson, Morenci and Tecumseh industrial parks, as well as in nearly every other Lenawee community.

Lenawee County has 2 Renaissance Zones. The zones are designed to provide Hudson and Morenci with the most powerful market-based incentive, virtually no state or local taxes, to spur new jobs and investment. Since the tax benefits are already in place there is no application process and no fee requirement

Location, Location, Location...

- US 12, US 23, US 223, M-50, M-52, M156, M-34 and US 127 are accessible in Lenawee and can get you from almost any part of Lenawee to Ann Arbor, Saline, Toledo, Jackson or Dundee within 30-40 minutes.
- Corporate and private aircraft can be serviced through Lenawee County Airport near Adrian.
- In nearby Detroit and Toledo, two international airports and two major seaports give Lenawee businesses an open door to lucrative markets all over the world.

Education

Educational opportunities are available at every level in Lenawee County. Lenawee has 12 K through 12 school districts and a new Jackson Community College campus located with the Lenawee Vocational Technical Center.

Private education is also available in Lenawee County. Berean Baptist Academy, Lenawee Christian School, Sacred Heart, St. John's Lutheran School and St. Joseph Montessori Academy offer instruction at various grade levels.

Adrian College and Siena Heights University are both private 4-year institutions offering exceptional education experiences.

83.4% of Lenawee residents have a high school diploma or higher level of educational background. (Source: US Census 2000 Language, School Enrollment and Educational Attainment table)

Contact Us:

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