



## Upcoming Events

**May 10**

### **MiCAREER QUEST**

**Career Fair**

**Host by:** West Michigan Works! & Kent ISD

**Location:** Devos Place, Grand Rapids

**Time:** 8:00 AM— 2:00 PM

**More Information:**

[www.micareerquest.org](http://www.micareerquest.org)

**June 2**

### **EMPLOYER INFO SESSION**

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**Hosted by:** West Michigan Works!

**Location:** 316 Morris Ave, Muskegon

**Time:** 8:30 AM— 10:00 AM

**More information:** Jamie McGrane @ (231) 724-8894

**June 6—8**

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**Hosted by:** Muskegon Community College

**Location:** 221 S Quarterline Rd

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**Registration:** [Cyndi.Langlois@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:Cyndi.Langlois@muskegoncc.edu)

**More Information:** Cyndi Langlois @ (231) 777-0456

**June 7**

### **MUSKEGON BUSINESS**

### **RESOURCE CONNECT EVENT**

**Meet resources that help local businesses**

**Hosted by:** MEDC's Pure Michigan Business Connect Team

**Location:** Verdoni's Event Center  
211 Seminole Rd

**Time:** 7:45 AM— 9:30 AM

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**More Information:** Contact Darryl Todd @ 231-722-3751

**July 26**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

### **PORT DAY**

**Businesses Explore Port Opportunities**

**Hosted by:** Muskegon County Port Advisory Committee

**Location:** GVSU/MAREC  
200 Viridian Dr, Muskegon

**More Information:** Erin Kuhn @ (231) 722-7878 or [ekuhn@wmsrdc.org](mailto:ekuhn@wmsrdc.org)

## Mercy Health Announces New Muskegon Center

*Largest single construction project in the history of Muskegon County*

In April 2016, Mercy Health revealed plans to construct a new 9-story, 267-bed, patient-centered medical center at the Mercy Campus on Sherman Boulevard in Muskegon. The designs and developments were disclosed on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Muskegon County Club by Greg Loomis, President of Mercy Health Muskegon. "Our new medical center and renovations to our existing Mercy campus have been designed around the way health care should be delivered to our patients, now and into the future," said Greg Loomis. [Read More](#)

## Muskegon Area First Teams with Organizations to Assist Big John's Pizza

*A collaborative effort to support small business*

Big John's Pizza has been a local staple of Whitehall for over 40 years. New owners, Neal and Amy Martell, worked with Muskegon Area First and the County of Muskegon Economic Development Office to secure loans that would help them rejuvenate the business and add full service dining. [Read More](#)

## Muskegon Food Hub Taking Root

*Study addresses viability of a regional storage, processing, shipping facility*

Based upon findings of a feasibility study, Muskegon Area First, along with key partners, has embarked upon the process of developing a 3-year business plan for a regional food hub in Muskegon County. The purpose is to provide additional markets for local farmers while improving access to healthy foods, particularly in underserved areas. By virtue of its geographic position and excellent deep-water port, airport, highways, and rail system, Muskegon County is strategically positioned to supply fresh and value-added products from farmers in nearby rural counties to a region that stretches between the large metropolitan areas of Detroit, Chicago, and Indianapolis.

[Read More](#)

# Economic Indicators Dashboard

This Economic Indicators Dashboard provide insight into the economic health of a local community. The purpose of this dashboard is to provide an "at a glance" look at some of the leading indicators for Muskegon County.



## Labor Market Workforce

Muskegon County



Jan 2016	77,905
Feb 2016	78,723
Mar 2016	78,910
Mar 2015	77,676

## Unemployment Rate

Muskegon County



Jan 2016	4.8%
Feb 2016	5.1%
Mar 2016	5.2%
Mar 2015	6.2%

## Newly Registered Businesses

Muskegon County



Jan 2016	50
Feb 2016	57
Mar 2016	78
Mar 2015	65



# 2,094

## No. of Online Job Postings

Muskegon County  
1st Quarter 2016

### Top 10 Companies Posting Jobs Online

Mercy Health	Port City Group
MOKA	HCR ManorCare
Meijer	ALCOA—Howmet
Great Lakes Die Cast Corp	Michigan Spring & Stamping
Sears/Kmart	Muskegon County

# 406

## No. of Companies Postings Jobs Online

Muskegon County  
1st Quarter 2016

## Government Contracts Awarded



1st Quarter 2016	\$23,396,457
1st Quarter 2015	\$11,531,536

## Prime Interest Rates



Jan 2016	3.50%
Feb 2016	3.50%
Mar 2016	3.50%
Mar 2015	3.25%

## Stock Market Indexes



Dow Jones	17773.64
S&P 500	2065.30
Nasdaq	4341.30

April 29, 2016



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- Updated interior design with a warm look.

- All new patient-care units with private rooms and bathrooms.

- A new Emergency Department

- A single stream-lined entrance.

- Larger surgical suites strategically placed departments.

- A state-of-the-art Intensive Care Unit.

- A dedicated space for Heart & Vascular services.

- Renewable and clean energy use through LEED certification.

Funding for the project, which is expected to be completed in June 2019, will include \$261 million from Mercy Health Muskegon cash reserves, an inter-company loan from parent organization Trinity Health, and \$10 million in philanthropic support. The \$271 million project will be the largest single construction project in the history of Mercy Health and Muskegon County.

The project, which is expected to be completed in June 2019, will have a significant economic impact in Muskegon County. Loomis says, 1,447 short-term construction jobs will be created and \$144 million of added value to the community in terms of ancillary jobs. Additionally, a \$70 million increase in purchase of goods and services is expected on a short-term basis.

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The success of this project will create 3 new jobs in Muskegon County and retain a convenient dining location in the waterfront community of Whitehall. For more information about Big John's Pizza, visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bigjohns](http://www.facebook.com/bigjohns).

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In the past decade, an entirely new market has developed for local and organic foods as hospitals, universities, K-12 schools, and restaurants seek healthy and fresh products from local farms. Also, the region's large-scale buyers such as Sysco Corporation, Meijer Supermarkets, and Spartan-Nash have all actively sought locally grown foods, but have not been able to consistently source products that meet their volume and quality standards. In addition, regional food access organizations such as the Veggie Van, Kids Food Basket, community food banks, and Feeding America West Michigan are seeking options for purchasing locally produced food.

With financial support from the USDA Local Foods Promotion Program and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Morse Marketing Connections (a national leader in the food hub movement) has been contracted to complete the business plan with the assistance of Cherry Capital Foods, FamilyFarmed, local food access organizations, and an advisory committee. The food hub enterprise will contain four component sub-operations; aggregation, distribution, marketing, and retail. Local products from mid-sized producers in surrounding rural counties will be aggregated and distributed in various regions of Michigan and beyond. The food hub will ideally be located in close proximity to the US31 and I96 corridor for easy access to expressways and state truck lines. Two county-owned sites are being considered as possible locations to construct the food hub, which may contain additional space for other agriculture related businesses.



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Agriculture is Michigan's second largest industry, with over \$100 billion in total annual economic impact. The West Michigan region stands out within this robust economic sector, commanding 16% of the state's total agriculture revenues with an economic impact of \$2.4 billion. Just in the four-county region of Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, and Ottawa there are nearly 3,600 farms producing a large variety of high quality specialty crops including fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy, and other products.

*"Having a regional food hub in Muskegon could potentially have a tremendous economic impact for West Michigan"* said Ed Garner, President of Muskegon Area First Economic Development Corp. If the Muskegon Food Hub can help provide a modest increase of 5% in agricultural performance, it would create an additional \$29 million in property income, 1,300 new jobs and \$120 million in economic output. As phase 2 of the plan begins, an owner/operator for the food hub will be selected, product safety training programs for farmers will be conducted, and buyer commitments will be solidified.

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