

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: December 15, 2022
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of December 19, 2022

Planning Commission Meeting / DDA Meeting. Both boards cancelled their December meeting due to lack of agenda items and difficulty obtaining quorum during the holiday time period. Both are scheduled for meetings in January and the Planning Commission will be continuing work on the Boat/Trailer/Camper Ordinance as well as the revision of the Marijuana ordinance.

Wayfinding Signs. DPW crews have been busy installing the new posts and signs. They have completed the installations and the new signs look great. They are a great addition to the City and downtown and we have already heard how people like them.

Verizon Cell Tower. As you can see in the parking lot, even more progress has been made on the site. The monopole is complete and the Verizon antennas have been attached. Consumers Energy has installed the new pole at the road and the lines have been trenched in to the tower. Unfortunately, the short distance across the parking lot did not allow for directional drilling as we had originally been told so they had to open trench the power lines. The parking lot will be filled in and cold patched for the winter and then the asphalt will be replaced in the spring when the plant reopens. Hopefully now that the power is there, Verizon will be able to activate the signal soon. I have attached a few pictures of the recently completed stages of work.

Match on Main Awards. As you will remember, now that the City of Clare is RRC Certified we became eligible for Match on Main Grant dollars. Earlier this fall, MMDC worked with several local businesses in Clare to prepare grant applications. After rankings were done 2 were submitted to MEDC for consideration this round. One of those, McEwan Street Fudge and Ice Cream Shop, was selected to be funded for the maximum grant amount of \$25,000 for work being done to open up next year. This is very exciting for Clare and hopefully we will be able to submit additional grant applications in the funding rounds next year as well. I have attached the press release detailing the awards.

City of Clare Website. City staff have been partnering with a firm to redo the city's website for some time now. I think we are getting close to being able to launch the new design soon. Stay tuned for more information.

Holiday Closures and Hours. Christmas and the New Year are just around the corner. Just a reminder that City Hall hours will be as follows:
December 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
December 23rd - 26th – Closed
December 27th, 28th, 29th – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
December 30th - Jan. 2nd – Closed.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Attachments:

1. Verizon Antenna Pictures.
2. Match on Main Grant Awards Press Release.

















Jeremy Howard

From: Michigan Executive Office of the Governor <mieog@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 2:53 PM
To: Jeremy Howard
Subject: RELEASE: Governor Whitmer Awards Funding to Support 35 Local Small Businesses Around the State Through Match on Main Grant Program



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2022

Contact: press@michigan.gov

Governor Whitmer Awards Funding to Support 35 Local Small Businesses Around the State Through Match on Main Grant Program

LANSING, Mich. – Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced thirty-five communities around Michigan have been awarded a total of \$807,673 in grants aimed at supporting small local businesses to create resiliency and strengthen downtowns under the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s Match on Main grant program.

“Michigan’s small businesses and traditional downtowns are the heart of our communities, and with today’s Match on Main grants, we are helping small businesses in both peninsulas grow while further developing unique and inviting places that attract talent and new investment,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “These grants will help our vibrant downtowns continue to thrive in all corners of the state.”

MEDC’s [Match on Main program](#) provides funding to communities that participate as a select and master level community in the Michigan Main Street program or are considered an Essentials or Certified Redevelopment Ready Community. The communities, who receive the grant funding from the MEDC, in turn award grants of up to \$25,000 to eligible businesses seeking support.

The grants are expected to create or retain 296 full-time jobs, and the projects are expected to generate a total private investment of more than \$2.7 million. Of the 35 grant recipients, 26 are existing and nine are new business. Eight of the 35 communities are first-time recipients of the Match on Main grants.

“Thriving small businesses are the cornerstone of what makes Michigan’s downtowns unique and authentic while helping to create economic opportunity across the state,” said **MEDC Senior Vice President of Small Business Services Amy Rencher**. “With the support of the Match on Main program, we can help local businesses grow and create jobs, while further developing vibrant and attractive places where people want to live, work, visit and play.”

Grants may be used by the business for eligible expenses that support technical assistance, interior building renovations, permanent or semi-permanent activation of an outdoor space, permanent or semi-permanent business

infrastructure related to COVID-19 recovery efforts, and other working capital needs such as marketing needs and inventory expenses. Additional needs identified by the business and supported by the local community are also considered.

The Lapeer Downtown Development Authority awarded a \$25,000 Match on Main grant to Hernandez Mexican Food, a food stand has been operating in the community since 1969. Hernandez Mexican Food is renovating a former office building in downtown Lapeer into a vibrant new food takeout experience. This includes updating the plumbing, electrical and all other utilities that are necessary to be compliant with current health and building regulations.

“Thanks to the Match on Main grant, we are able to create the family-owned, brick-and-mortar restaurant we’ve always dreamed of,” said **Hernandez Mexican Food owner Deanna Hernandez-Schlaud**. “The funds will give us the added flexibility to put more money back into the space and community. We would like to thank all of our loyal customers over the years who have supported us. Without their support and encouragement, we may never have taken this step.”

In Clare, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation is awarding a \$25,000 grant to McEwan Street Fudge and Ice Cream Shop, who will use the funds to purchase display and fudge/gelato making equipment. Adding an iconic northern Michigan staple like freshly made fudge will be another welcome addition to travelers’ destination spots and will further strengthen the overall brand of downtown Clare, according to **Middle Michigan Development Corporation Director of Business Services and Economic Development for Clare County Sarah Adkins**.

“MMDC feels that McEwan Street Fudge and Ice Cream will exceptionally complement the offerings and atmosphere of downtown Clare,” **Adkins** said. “This business adds something novel to the downtown, caters to both locals and visitors, and expands on the ‘made-in-Clare’ entrepreneurialism represented by other downtown businesses like Four Leaf Brewing and Cops & Doughnuts.”

December 2022 Match on Main grant winners:

List of Awardees:

Applicant	Community* *new	Business	Funding amount
City of Hancock	City of Hancock*	Red Jacket Enterprises, LLC	\$25,000
Marquette Downtown Development Authority	City of Marquette	Great Northern Title & Abstract, Incorporated	\$25,000
Sault Ste. Marie Downtown Development Authority	Sault Ste Marie Main Street	Prim Aesthetics	\$25,000
City of Cadillac	City of Cadillac	Charming North LLC	\$25,000
Charlevoix DDA	City of Charlevoix	J. Bird Provisions, LLC	\$25,000
City of Cheboygan Downtown Development Authority	Cheboygan	Melody's Lane	\$25,000
City of Alpena Downtown	City of Alpena	My Glass Wings	\$25,000

Development Authority			
Rogers City Downtown Development Authority	City of Rogers City - Rogers City Main Street-DDA	Stitches, Etc.	\$9,350
Downtown Development Authority/Grayling Main Street	Grayling Main Street	Hidden Nook Booksellers LLC	\$25,000
Roscommon Downtown Development Authority	Village of Roscommon	Jac&Jill Investments, LLC	\$25,000
City of Greenville	City of Greenville*	TWI Acquisition LLC	\$25,000
Middle Michigan Development Corporation	Ewart*	June-Marie Essner	\$24,979
City of Allegan	The City of Allegan	Heronmark Farms, LLC	\$25,000
Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc.	Uptown Grand Rapids	Amethyst Bee Cakery	\$8,000
Wayland Main Street/DDA	Wayland Main Street	Big Dipper Ice Cream & Desserts LLC	\$8,084
Middle Michigan Development Corporation	Clare*	McEwan Street Fudge & Ice Cream Shop, LLC	\$25,000
Middle Michigan Development Corporation	Harrison	Hardy Insurance Agency, Inc.	\$23,231
Middle Michigan Development Corporation	Mount Pleasant	Rock N Roll Dive Bar, Inc.	\$25,000
City of Laingsburg	City of Laingsburg	Rose Villa Retreat	\$25,000
Lapeer Downtown Development Authority	Lapeer	Hernandez Mexican Food LLC	\$25,000
Owosso Downtown Development Authority	Owosso Main Street	Taphouse Specialty Meat Market	\$25,000
Eaton Rapids DDA	Eaton Rapids DDA*	Robinson Cadenas LLC	\$25,000
Downtown Development Authority of Meridian Charter Township	Meridian Charter Township – Downtown Development Authority*	Village Hair Shoppe, Inc.	\$25,000
Old Town Commercial Association	Old Town Commercial Association	Preuss Animal House	\$25,000

Albion Economic Development Corporation	Albion	Share, LLC	\$25,000
Coldwater Downtown Development Authority	City of Coldwater, Michigan	Shemel's Inc.	\$9,029
City of Kalamazoo	City of Kalamazoo*	Haymarket Event Center LLC	\$25,000
City of Niles dba Niles Downtown Development Authority	City of Niles dba Niles Downtown Development Authority Main Street	S & K CORNERSTONE, LLC	\$25,000
Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance	Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance/Choose Marshall for City of Marshall, MI	Maria's Uncorked LLC	\$25,000
Downtown Development Authority of the City of South Haven	The City of South Haven Downtown Development Authority	Decadent Dogs LLC	\$25,000
Village of Cassopolis	Village of Cassopolis	Curtis Place LLC	\$25,000
City of Adrian Downtown Development Authority	City of Adrian	Adrian Armory community Center, Inc.	\$25,000
Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority	City of Ypsilanti	Go Ice Cream LLC	\$25,000
City of Milan DDA	Milan*	Textiles LLC	\$25,000
Dearborn – East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority (EDDDA) - Small Business: Green Brain Comics	City of Dearborn – East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority	Green Brain LLC	\$25,000

In April 2022, MEDC announced that [19 communities around Michigan](#) were awarded a total of \$491,834 in grants aimed at supporting small local businesses to create resiliency and strengthen downtowns around Michigan. A total of 20 small businesses around Michigan received assistance through the program.

Michigan’s small businesses are a vital part of the state’s economy, employing more than 1.8 million people. Helping businesses to open and grow is a key focus of MEDC, and the Match on Main Street program is one of MEDC’s tools that provides opportunities for new and expanding businesses located in Main Street districts to grow and succeed. For more information on the program, [visit here](#). To learn more about MEDC’s services for Michigan businesses, [visit here](#).

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