

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission  
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager  
DATE: July 11, 2024  
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of July 15, 2024

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Lake Shamrock Dredging and Dam Project. Dredging is continuing and is making lots of good progress with our equipment utilizing mechanical means and Savin Lake Services dredging hydraulically. Savin is still operating both dredges 24 hours a day, 5 days (M-F). Our dam engineers, GEI and Spicer, have finished the change order for the next phase of work to be done utilizing the \$600,000 High Hazard Dam Grant that the City was awarded and we are still waiting on the grant agreement from the State. Both will come to you at an upcoming meeting hopefully soon.

Rail Trail. The project is continuing to move forward and appears to be on schedule still to finish late summer or early fall. A lot has been accomplished since my last report. The contractor has laid the first course of asphalt for much of the trail and the new parking area at the depot. A lot of work has also been done on the trestle bridge and will be continuing. The section by the bridge on both sides will not receive its first course of asphalt until it is complete. Once that is done the entire trail will get the final topcoat of asphalt so that it can be done in one piece. I have included pictures with this report of the trail being paved, the bridge work, and the paving starting at the depot along with the new poured concrete walk and parking area.

Pickle Ball Courts. With the increase in popularity of Pickle Ball recently, we have had more and more requests for pickle ball courts/nets in the City. Recently we were able to purchase two complete pickle ball nets with removable posts that have been installed and markings done on two of the 4 courts at the tennis court area on corner of Ann Arbor and Woodlawn. So, there are now two permanent tennis courts and two permanent pickle ball courts. The design of the two new pickle ball courts still allows the removal of the closer placed posted and the ability to string up tennis nets, if need be, for a specific tennis tournament if needed. A huge thank you to Bishop GMC of Clare for sponsoring and paying for the nets and posts and to DPW for doing the installation. I have attached some pictures of the new nets to this report.

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 year, 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, Market on McEwan, was selected to be funded for the maximum grant amount of \$25,000 for work being done rehabbing the existing building and facade and opening a new market at 406 North McEwan (formerly Campbell Printing). I have attached the press release detailing the awards.

Attachments:

1. Rail Trail Pictures.
2. Pickle Ball Pictures.
3. Match on Main Press Release.













Asphalt Paving  
Asphalt Supply  
Site Development  
Commercial/Industrial  
Parking Lots

366-9640

DE 11667































## Gov. Whitmer Announces Grants for 31 Small Businesses Across Michigan, Creating 76 New Jobs

**LANSING, Mich.** – Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) support for 31 small businesses across Michigan through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s (MEDC) [Match on Main program](#). The \$748,018.82 in grants awarded to small local businesses will create resiliency and strengthen downtowns in communities throughout the state.

“Michigan’s small businesses are the beating hearts of our main streets and downtowns,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “Today’s Match on Main grants will create 76 good-paying jobs and provide 31 small businesses across Michigan with the support they need to grow and thrive. Together, we are growing our economy and making communities across Michigan more attractive to live, work, and invest. Let’s keep working together to ensure anyone can ‘make it in Michigan.’”

The grants are expected to create 76 full-time jobs and activate 8,835 square feet of vacant and underutilized space, with the projects expected to generate a total private investment of more than \$2.7 million. Of the 31 awardees, 22 businesses are located within Geographically Disadvantaged Areas.

The Match on Main program serves as a tool to support new or expanding place-based businesses as they seek to launch and grow in core downtown areas and commercial districts by providing up to \$25,000 in funding to support an eligible small business through a competitive application process. The FY24 Match on Main application window yielded a total of 113 applicants from 80 communities – the highest participation to date.

In February 2024, [the MSF board approved \\$750,000 in funding](#) to further strengthen Match on Main’s role as a foundational MEDC program, ensuring that Michigan’s small businesses will continue to succeed in the state.

“Match on Main is an important tool for place-based small businesses and communities across Michigan and serves as a catalyst in driving small business investment and growth opportunities,” said **Amy Rencher, Senior Vice President of Small Business Services at MEDC**. “Through the Match on Main Program, we’re not just investing in small businesses; we’re revitalizing communities and fostering economic growth one entrepreneur at a time.”

### FY24 Match on Main Recipients

Of the FY24 Match on Main grantees awarded, eight are new businesses and 23 are existing businesses, including 15 restaurants, nine retail establishments, five service businesses and two other businesses that demonstrate a commitment to revitalizing community infrastructure and boosting local employment.

In Alpena, the city awarded a \$25,000 grant to Mangos Express for the creation of a walk-up counter and bar off the back of the building that faces an alleyway. The alleyway is being transformed into a pedestrian-only public gathering space in collaboration with the DDA, City of Alpena, and surrounding businesses.

“Our business will forever be positively impacted by being selected for this grant,” said **Hugo Mendez, owner of Mangos Express**. “We will be using this award to continue with the re-opening of Mangos Express, which will also provide our community with more job opportunities. Our number one goal is to always give back to our amazing community that has given so much to us.”

In the village of Stevensville, a \$22,157.36 grant was awarded to Watermark Brewing Company to support the expansion of its beer garden. The development will transform a pre-existing blight property, enhancing the local downtown corridor and boosting the area’s appeal for residents and visitors alike.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support provided by the Match on Main grant,” said **Chris Mason, co-founder of Watermark Brewing Company**. “This expansion allows us to retain and potentially increase our workforce, ensuring that we continue to play a vital role in Stevensville’s thriving business community. Moreover, it positions Stevensville as a key destination for beer enthusiasts and tourists, further boosting the local economy.”



## July 2024 Match on Main grantees

MATCH ON MAIN FY 24 - AWARDEES			
Eligible Applicant	Legal Name of the Business	DBA, If Applicable	Total Grant Award
<b>Region 1</b>			
Negaunee Downtown Development Authority	Snack-Time USA LLC	Snapshot Sandwiches	\$25,000.00
Sault Ste. Marie Downtown Development Authority	UP North Nutrition & Gym 906 LLC		\$25,000.00
Marquette Downtown Development Authority	Maria Del Barrio, Inc	Cafe Bodega	\$25,000.00
Lake Superior Community Partnership, Inc. (on behalf of the City of Ishpeming)	Strong Little Leggies, Inc	Doozers	\$25,000.00
<b>Region 2</b>			
Charlevoix DDA	Charlevoix Running Company LLC		\$25,000.00
City of Cadillac	Walravens Markets		\$25,000.00
<b>Region 3</b>			
Rogers City Downtown Development Authority	RC Flower Shop		\$25,000.00
City of Alpena Downtown Development Authority	Mangos of Alpena LLC		\$25,000.00
<b>Region 4</b>			
City of Plainwell	Mosaic Company	Mosaic Distillery	\$25,000.00
City of Hart	HP105 LLC	Hart Pizza	\$25,000.00
City of Allegan	Tilt 118, LLC		\$25,000.00
City of Wayland Downtown Development Authority	McDuff's Bar and Grille		\$21,670.14
<b>Region 5</b>			
Middle Michigan Development Corporation (on behalf of the City of Clare)	Northern Michigan Land and Cattle	Market on McEwan	\$25,000.00
Middle Michigan Development Corporation (on behalf of the City of Harrison)	The Lynx Enterprise		\$25,000.00
Buena Vista Charter Township	Redd Unlimited LLC	Baldwin's Smokehouse BBQ	\$25,000.00
City of Bay City	Wanigans, Inc.	Wanigan Eatery	\$25,000.00
<b>Region 6</b>			
Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority	Reform Wellness, LLC		\$22,204.63
City of Owosso Downtown Development Authority	Oak + Ivory LLC	Oak & Ivory Clothing Co.	\$24,830.71
<b>Region 7</b>			
Old Town Commercial Association (Old Town, Lansing)	Sweet Custom Jewelry LLC	Sweet Custom Jewelry	\$25,000.00
City of Lansing	Veg Head LLC		\$15,000.00
<b>Region 8</b>			
Coldwater Downtown Development Authority	Branch County Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Hope Cafe	\$20,278.00
City of Kalamazoo	Layla's Cool Pops, Inc		\$25,000.00
City of Sturgis Downtown Development Authority	Freakin Sweets LLC	My Freakin' Pizza	\$25,000.00
Village of Stevensville	Watermark Brewing Company, LLC		\$22,157.36
Village of Cassopolis	The Be Hyve Collective		\$25,000.00
Downtown Development Authority of the City of South Haven	Beachtown	Coastal Blue	\$25,000.00
<b>Region 9</b>			
Jackson Downtown Development Authority	Voyager Film Company, ILC	Uncharted Film Company	\$22,877.98
City of Adrian Downtown Development Authority	101 East Maumee, LLC	Maumee Street: taproom + kitchen	\$25,000.00
Saline Historic Downtown Alliance dba "Saline Main Street	Updough Enterprises, LLC	DropTop Pizza	\$25,000.00
<b>Region 10</b>			
Farmington Downtown Development Authority	Lone Light Spirits	Lone Light Spirits	\$25,000.00
Oak Park Corridor Improvement Authority	Best Friends Child-Care, LLC	Best Friends Early Childhood Education Center	\$25,000.00

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 provides opportunities for new and expanding businesses located in Main Street districts to grow and succeed. [Get more information on the Match on Main program.](#)