

MASON *in Motion*

NOVEMBER 24TH MASON HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION HAS 17TH LIGHTED PARADE AND BIG TREE LIGHTING



Photo by Loren Shattuck

Every year about this time, the **City of Mason** sets up their “Big Santa” and mailbox at the corner of Jefferson and Maple Streets, puts up their holiday decorations on downtown streetlights, and area merchants start to offer holiday values. These are the signs that Mason is getting ready for the Friday after Thanksgiving. Just a few weeks before Christmas on that Friday evening, the community holds its annual Mason Holidays Celebration.

This year the traditional “Big Tree” tree lighting will once again be in front of the **Ingham County Courthouse**. Thanks to MACC Raffle ticket

buyers (R42820), area 5th graders, area schools and businesses, and **Express Tree Service**, LED light strings will be installed on the tree. Again, this year, net proceeds of the annual Mason Area Chamber of Commerce raffle (ML#R42820) and a tree poster contest by Mason area 5th graders are going toward partially funding the costs of the lighting.

Colleen Briggs, 2017 Mason Citizen of the Year, will be assisted by the winning 5th grader in the poster contest in officially giving the order to light the Christmas tree on the west side of Courthouse Square at about 6:30 p.m. Also, earlier in the evening starting at 6:00 p.m., downtown near the big tree, participants will hear a welcome message by **City of Mason** Mayor Russ Whipple, music from the **Mason High School Santa Band**, and more.

The United States Marines will have a “Toys for Tots” collection station near the “Big Santa” at **Courthouse Square** during the afternoon and evening. **CP Federal Credit Union** will again have a reindeer display near the **Courthouse** steps. Food and warm drinks will be available on the square from the **Mason A&W Restaurant** wagon, **Mason Optimist Club** and several downtown businesses and churches.

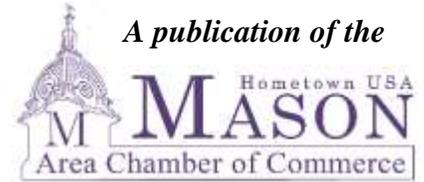
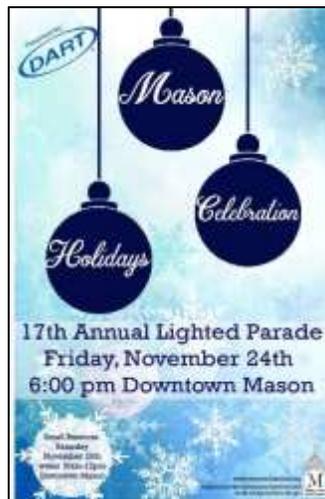
For many years, **Dart Container Corporation** has been the presenting sponsor of the Mason Holidays Celebration. **MSU Federal Credit Union**, **American Legion Post 148**, **VFW Post 7309**, **Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan**, **Granger**, **City of Mason**, **Ingham County**, and **CP Federal Credit Union** are also partners and sponsors of the evening’s events.



“We are proud to have **Dart Container Corporation** as presenting sponsor for the day’s events again this year. We also thank the **City of Mason** for closing streets and allowing us to start the parade in the **Bond Park** parking lot,” said Emily Fenger, MACC program assistant. She also encourages folks to help with the events by volunteering.

“The **City of Mason** is a big partner. They help by coordinating traffic. They also mandate that parade participants are not to throw anything, especially candy, or get on or off any unit that is in motion,” Emily Fenger added.

The lighted parade steps off at 6:15 p.m. from Bond Park, just north of the downtown. The parade route this year starts out by going south on Rogers to Ash, west on Ash, and then north on Jefferson, and east on Maple. It will then turn left to go north on Barnes back to Bond.



148 E. Ash Street
Mason, Michigan 48854
Phone: 676-1046 ~ Fax: 676-8504
masonchamber@masonchamber.org
www.masonchamber.org

November 2017

WHAT’S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Holidays Celebration & 17th annual Lighted Parade on November 24th
- MACC Raffle Drawing to be on December 7th after Holiday Party
- Buy MACC Gift Certificates
- Holiday Party / December Mixer at Fairgrounds on December 7th
- News from our Chamber Members
- Inserts: MACC Annual Awards Nomination Form and Past Award Winner Listing, Holidays Celebration Sponsorship Form, MACC Raffle (ML#R42820) Information, **Paper Image** sponsored insert, and the Holiday Party/December Mixer Sponsorship Letter

Up to 40 lighted parade units will represent many area groups and businesses. This year, a special float organized by Shirley Grieve will be in the parade highlighting past Mason area “Citizens of the Year.”

From 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the **Mason Area Historical Museum** to meet the younger children. They also are in the parade and afterward meet up with **Mason Area Historical Society** members who will take them back over to the Museum at 200 E. Oak Street to meet older children and families. Information on all events is available by e-mailing masonchamber@masonchamber.org or calling (517) 676-1046. For the most recent information, click on “Events” at the www.masonchamber.org website.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS:

A free seminar called "Tax Time: How to Avoid Business Tax Panic" will be presented on Wednesday, November 8th from 6:00-8:00 PM at **Lansing Community College's** SBDC Office, 309 N. Washington Square in Lansing. This program will provide information on tax planning and preparation. Learn about the most recent changes in the law and relevant issues on business taxes. "Knowledge is Power" and we provide you with the tools to make informed business and tax decisions. Topics to be discussed include: travel & auto expenses, sales & use tax, new Michigan Business Tax, web-based business taxes, independent contractor issues, and many more. Phone (517) 483-1921 to register.



Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club has their November meeting on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at the **Mason Area Historical Museum**, 200 E. Oak Street. Learn about "Companion Planting" at the meeting. Companion plants help other plants grow by attracting beneficial insects such as pollinators, repelling pests, providing nutrients, shade, or other benefits. The event is free and the public is welcome to attend.

On Monday, November 6th at 7:00 PM at the **Mason Area Historical Society's** museum at 200 E. Oak St., Kendra Patterson will be speaking about her family's new Mason business, **Michigan Barn Wood & Salvage**. Please join us to learn more about this interesting and unique business committed to re-purposing reclaimed barn wood! Public welcome.



The **Wilson Talent Center** and **Ingham ISD** have new websites! If you haven't already visited the new sites, we encourage you to

check them out. The websites' new structure means that information may be located in different places now. For instance, **Ingham ISD's** Strategic Plan is now under "Our Impact." If you have any questions, please contact IISD Public Relations and Communications.

Sue Roberts, former manager of the **Mason Ace Hardware**, died on October 21st after a sudden heart attack. She will be remembered for her dedication to both Mason and Grand Ledge. The Roberts family has owned Mason's local **Ace Hardware** store for about 20 years, along with two others in Grand Ledge and Holt.

HELP STUDENTS MAKE A JOB, NOT JUST TAKE A JOB!

For the third consecutive year, the Michigan Chamber Foundation will host the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) in Lansing to help students launch new businesses in Ingham County. The Foundation would greatly appreciate your help with this year's class and the opportunity to build even more new businesses in the Lansing area.

The time commitment to be a volunteer is manageable: only ten hours this winter to help students hone their ideas and guide them in their business plan. To sign up and help out, go to the www.michamber.com/engagement-opportunities webpage.

GET READY NOW FOR OUR MACC DECEMBER 7TH HOLIDAY MIXER

The Chamber Ambassadors suggest you put some of your holiday gift buying money away until December 7th. That particular Thursday evening they want you to bring it over to the **Ingham County Fairgrounds** Community Building.

There you'll enjoy a fun December Mixer Holiday Party – the Chamber's biggest mixer event – from 5 to 7:30 PM. The event is presented by **MSU Federal Credit Union** and sponsored by **Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center**



and the **Mason A&W Restaurant**. The "Taste of Mason" dinner is sponsored by most of the restaurants and caterers in the Mason area. Many MACC member Mason area businesses and organizations are also sponsors, including **Sound Source Entertainment** and **Sheridan Realty & Action Service**.

MACC Ambassadors expect over 200 people again this year. Admission is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. It is a great time to greet all your friends and neighbors in the community and wish them the happiest of holidays.

You'll enjoy the delightful holiday music. You'll love the wonderful food. There will be a cash bar with beer and wine and some great door prizes. But it is the silent auction and live auction item values that will make you reach for your wallet.

The auction is an important fundraiser for the many community projects of the Chamber. Most silent auction items start at just half-price, so you can snap up some really great gifts and do your Christmas shopping in style. Stick around after 7:00 PM for the live auction fun and the MACC Raffle drawing right after that.

The December "Mason In Motion" newsletter will list all of the auction items in a detailed catalogue sheet. Just make sure the party is on your calendar today!

VOLUNTEER FOR HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION



The Holiday season is closer than you think! On Friday, November 24th, the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual Mason Holidays Celebration presented by Dart Container Corporation and sponsored by many other MACC members. Details are on Page One. Santa Claus will be the featured celebrity in the dazzling lighted parade passing through the city streets. The parade will be preceded by the annual lighting of the Christmas tree on the **Courthouse Square** by the Mason Citizen of the Year.

The many attractions promise happy holiday fun for everyone. It takes more than Santa's elves to pull it all together, so the Mason Holidays Celebration team is still looking for volunteers. If you would like to join the committee this year, just contact any of the folks down at the Chamber office at (517) 676-1046 or e-mail them at masonchamber@masonchamber.org.

The MACC Visitors Center and Chamber office will be closed on Friday, November 10th in advance of our observance of Veterans Day on Saturday, November 11th. Join us on Saturday, November 11th for the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Ingham County Courthouse Memorial at 11:11 AM in downtown Mason and for the Parade at 3 PM!

Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificates offer the gift recipient the option to choose what they want, instead of settling for a gift they don't like or a gift certificate only redeemable at a single place. From restaurants to entertainment; from craft supplies to specialty foods; from automobile repair to haircuts... a MACC gift certificate offers you a truly unique gift that is right for everybody. Give the gift of convenience – certificates can be purchased in any amount at the Chamber office and redeemed by any Mason area business or organization. For more details, please contact the Chamber office at (517) 676-1046.



MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER WINS ENGLISH TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mason Middle School English teacher, Kristine Brickey has been named the Michigan Council of Teachers of English (MCTE) Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2017. She has been with **Mason Public Schools** since 1988, working with elementary and middle school students in English, math and social studies throughout her career.



The Michigan Council of Teachers of English uses competitive criterion when selecting the Teacher of the Year and consider candidates who demonstrate a strong commitment to creating a caring and respectful climate conducive to effective teaching and learning, utilize a variety of teaching methodologies and plans innovative learning experiences to meet the needs of all students and those who demonstrate a keen ability to meet the developmental needs of middle level learners. Additionally, it is important that candidates have continued to seek out robust professional development activities.

Ted Berryhill, **Mason Middle School** principal says, “Kristine Brickey exemplifies the elements of the award and her students, our state, and our country are better for it. We thank her for her service as an English Language Arts educator.”

In addition to teaching middle school English, Kristine Brickey started Mason Writes!, a student group of writers grades 8-12. She is a published author of two novels, *Flowers for Rodney* (2014) and *They Said She Was Crazy* (2016) both of which are available at many area bookstores. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, camping, working on future novels and reading.

2017 CHAMBER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CONTINUES



Mike Waltz of the **City of Mason** was the latest winner in our Chamber Volunteer Recognition Program. His volunteer card noting his participation on our Ambassadors Committee was drawn from the fishbowl in the Chamber office on October 24th. **Mike Waltz** wins a \$25 MACC Gift Certificate good at any Mason area business. The gift certificate this month was sponsored by **Mark Voss Agency – Farm Bureau Insurance**. Please consider having your business or organization sponsor the next one -- just call us to reserve.

NEW MICHIGAN TALENT PIPELINE MANAGEMENT ACADEMY LAUNCH

Consumers Energy has launched the Michigan Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) Academy – the first of its kind in the nation – to help Michigan businesses enhance their talent sources and hire better workers to meet critical short and long-term employment needs.

“The difficulty of attracting, developing and retaining talent affects **Consumers Energy** and the businesses and communities we serve across the state, while posing a major obstacle to sustained economic growth and prosperity,” said Dan Malone, **Consumers Energy’s** senior vice president of engineering. “We want to ensure a bright future for our industry and businesses across the state, as well as those seeking good-paying jobs, now and in the future. Launching the Michigan Talent Pipeline Management Academy is a key component of our plan.”

The TPM academy, developed in collaboration with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, consists of: twenty leaders and CEOs from Michigan organizations who work with business and industry will participate in the inaugural session; six days of training and webinars taken over six months; academy graduates will go on to support businesses in their region by applying the TPM methodology to address their hardest to fill job openings; and they also form a network of professionals promoting continuous improvement, sharing effective strategies and improving business talent solutions.

“Employers across the nation are waking up to the fact that they need a more sophisticated approach to managing their talent pipeline if they are going to be successful in closing the skills gap,” said Jason Tyszko, executive director at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Center for Education and Workforce. “Michigan is leading this effort, where we are collaborating with **Consumers Energy** to launch our first ever state-based Talent Pipeline Management Academy.”

Bringing the TPM Academy to Michigan is one of the strategies of the



Michigan Talent Architecture Coalition. The coalition, convened by **Consumers Energy**, is a group of over 100 state leaders from industry, government, education, economic development, labor and non-governmental organizations focused on improving the availability of a qualified talent pool in Michigan.

The TPM methodology was developed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and provides training in the proven supply chain management methodology already used within many industries, but applies those focused principles to talent acquisition and development. “The TPM approach is different than anything I have seen in 30 years of working in the workforce development area. It truly applies business principles to the talent gap,” said Sharon Miller, talent architect project manager for **Consumers Energy**.

Consumers Energy successfully used the TPM methodology in 2015, when it identified a clear need for skilled electric and gas lines worker positions. The company projected its demands, identified competencies and expanded training partnerships with preferred providers for electric line workers and a veteran-specific training program in conjunction with its union that resulted in 100 qualified hires over two years.

For more information on the TPM Academy, visit www.ConsumersEnergy.com/mitalentarchitecture or call 248-433-5948. **Consumers Energy**, Michigan’s largest energy provider, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), providing natural gas and electricity to 6.7 million of the state’s 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

GET THE WORD OUT TO MASON WITH A RIBBON CUTTING

Holding a ribbon cutting is an easy way for Mason area businesses and organizations to let the entire community find out more about them. The Mason Area Chamber of Commerce’s Ambassadors Committee creates value by hosting these events at no charge for any area business or organization.

Ribbon cuttings are available for such business milestones as the grand opening of a new business, a business anniversary (five-year increments), the relocation or new outlet of an existing business, or the appointment of a new owner or manager of an existing business.

Ribbon cuttings are easy for a business to hold because the Chamber folks bring the big scissors, the ribbon, the camera, and Chamber Ambassadors to be in the picture. The whole event only takes about ten minutes.

The **Ingham County Community News**, the **Flashes**, and other media have been very generous in publishing ribbon cutting photos and captions as business news items. Those interested in hosting a ribbon cutting should visit the Chamber office or call (517) 676-1046 or e-mail to masonchamber@masonchamber.org to get a form.



2017 MACC Board of Directors

John Sabbadin President
Mason Firefighters Association

Don Kill Vice-President
Mason Optimist Club

Aaron Fiedler Treasurer
Fiedler Insurance Agency

Mark Voss Past President
Mark Voss Agency

Ron Drzewicki *Mason Public Schools*
 Joyce Grinczel *Dart Container Corporation*
 Kassie Rhodes *Dart Bank*
 Ian Richardson *Doberman Technologies*
 Scott Ring *MSU Federal Credit Union*
 Mike Waltz *City of Mason*
 Don Waskiewicz *Deep Blue Insights*
 Desiree Waters *ServiceMaster Absolute*
 Beth Yeider *Independent Bank*

Doug Klein Executive Director
 Kerry Adams Administrative Assistant
 Emily Fenger Program Assistant

www.masonchamber.org



PERMIT NO. 42
 48854
 MASON, MI
 PAID
 US POSTAGE
 STANDARD
 PRESORTED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

