

MASON *in Motion*

MASON CELEBRATES HOLIDAYS WITH 19TH LIGHTED PARADE NOVEMBER 29TH

Every year about this time, the City of Mason sets up their “Big Santa” and mailbox at the corner of Jefferson and Ash Streets, puts their holiday decorations up 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 tree lighting will once again be in front of the **Ingham County Courthouse** on Friday, November 29th. Mason was one of the very first communities in the nation to use LED light strings on a large outdoor tree. This year, the lights will go on that same tree once again.

Kerry Minshall, 2019 Mason Citizen of the Year, will officially give 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 experience much 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. 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 and Lighted Parade. **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 sponsors.

“We are proud to have **Dart Container Corporation** as presenting sponsor for the 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 Hannah Warvel, 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,” Hannah Warvel 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.



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WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Holidays Celebration & 18th annual Lighted Parade on November 23rd
- MACC Raffle Drawing to be on December 6th after Holiday Party
- Buy MACC Gift Certificates
- Holiday Party / December Mixer at Fairgrounds on December 6th
- News of our Chamber Members
- Inserts: MACC Annual Awards Nomination Form and Past Award Winner Listing, Holidays Celebration Sponsorship Form, MACC Winter Raffle (ML#R46765) Information, **Building Twentyone** sponsored insert, and the Holiday Party Mixer Sponsorship Letter

Up to 40 lighted parade units will represent many area groups and businesses. They will include units from **ServiceMaster, Two Men and a Truck, Independent Bank, Mason Rotary Club, Vision Real Estate**, and many, many others.

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:

On Monday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the **Mason Area Historical Society's** meeting at their museum at 200 E. Oak Street, a presentation and discussion will take place on the contributions of Mason area residents to our country's military. Please join us to learn more about this interesting topic on Veterans Day. The public is welcome.



Two "Bike Fix" stations are now installed and in service thanks to the Friends of **Ingham County Parks**, who, in collaboration with the **Ingham County Parks Department** and local bike stores Scooter Holt Pro Cycle and Denny's Central Park Bicycles, sponsored and installed bike repair stations at **Lake Lansing Boat Launch** and **Hawk Island Hawk Island County Park** is located at 1601 Cavanaugh Road in Lansing. **Lake Lansing Park Boat Launch** is located at 6271 East Lake Drive in Haslett.



MSU Federal Credit Union has partnered with **TWO MEN AND A TRUCK®** for their annual *Movers for Meals* event to provide donation drop off locations at their Greater Lansing branches. *Movers for Meals* averages 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food items each year, and all donations are delivered to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Donations will go to families in Clinton, Eaton, **Ingham**, Clare, Isabella, Gratiot, and Shiawassee Counties. If you wish to participate, please drop by **MSUFCU** Greater Lansing branches and look for the *Movers for Meals* donation boxes. They are collecting donations from now until Wednesday, November 21, 2018.



MASON SCHOOLS STEP UP FOR ROBOTICS



There has been significant growth in the robotics program throughout the **Mason Public Schools** district, expanding opportunities for students K-12. A **Mason High School** robotics team, the Tractor Technicians #3655, has competed successfully at the regional, state and national levels. The high school has and plans to continue to host regional and state competitions and this past spring the robotics team, led by Ben Shoemaker, was awarded the Governor's Positivity Award for their effort to promote robotics state-wide. As a result, there is a need for a competitive space for students to learn.

The district plans to open a dedicated Robotics Center at **Mason High School** that will be available for use by high school, middle school and elementary robotics clubs. The space that was previously occupied by the gymnastics team at the high school is now vacant. It will be home to the district's new Robotics Center. The center will allow students to put their academics to the test and utilize science, technology, engineering and math skills as well as apply creativity to their designs.

The district is currently working with an architect and Mr. Shoemaker to develop plans for the Robotics Center. The Board of Education will review and award bids at the November Board of Education meeting. Renovation and construction will begin in November with a January of 2019 completion date. In total, the district has budgeted \$150,000 for the project using both general and sinking fund dollars.

GET READY NOW FOR OUR MACC DECEMBER 5TH HOLIDAY MIXER

The Mason Area Chamber Ambassadors suggest you put some of your holiday gift buying money away until December 5th. 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**. **Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center** and the **Mason A&W Restaurant** are supporting sponsors. **Shumaker Technology Group** and the **Ingham County Fairgrounds** are event sponsors.

The "Taste of Mason" dinner is sponsored by most of the restaurants and caterers in the Mason area. Many other MACC member businesses and organizations are also sponsoring, including **Sound Source Entertainment** and **Sheridan Realty & Auction 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 Winter 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 29th, 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. The Mason Holidays Celebration team is still looking for many needed volunteers. If you, your co-workers, your family members, or your friends would like to join them this year, contact the MACC office at (517) 676-1046.

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.



2019 CHAMBER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CONTINUES



Beth Yeider of the **Independent Bank** was the latest winner in our Chamber Volunteer Recognition Program. Her volunteer card noting her participation on our Hometown USA Committee was drawn from the fishbowl in the Chamber office on October 24th. Beth Yeider wins a \$25 MACC Gift Certificate good at any Mason area business. The gift certificate this month was sponsored by **Star Associates**. Please consider having your business or organization sponsor the next one -- just call us to reserve.

ELE'S PLACE RECEIVES \$7,300 FROM 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

The 100+ Women Who Care Mason Area chapter chose Ele's Place as their September 2018 funding recipient. The group donated \$7,300 on September 24 to Ele's Place to fund the following programs at **Mason Public Schools**:

- In-school eight-week peer support groups for students grieving the loss of a parent, sibling or other loved one
- Go-To Grief Toolboxes for school counselors: 5 (1 for each school)
- Coping backpacks that **MPS** counselors will give grieving students upon their return to school following a death: 10 backpacks (more if funding allows)

A total of 5,900 was donated by 59 members of the 100 Women. In addition, a Silent Partners men's group added another \$1,200.

The 100+ Women Who Care Mason Area Chapter was founded in Spring 2018 and is designed for women who are interested in making a positive impact within their local community, but who also have limited time and want their donation to have the greatest impact. The group meets four times a year to contribute \$100 each to a selected local nonprofit for a combined impactful donation. All projects must be specific and not include operations.



The Mason Area Community Fund board would like to thank all the sponsors, donors, participants and the attendees of their recent Push-ups for Charity event. They were able to raise almost \$5,000 for

the Mason community. After many rounds, it was a battle of push-ups between the Meridian Township Police and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office. And the winner of the contest was Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth from the Ingham County Sheriff's Office.



Dart Bank participated in the Promise Challenge, a week-long fundraising event held at financial institutions to raise money for the Mason Promise Scholarship Fund. Dart Bank came out as the winner of the challenge, raising \$1709.37 during the week. In 2006, the Mason Promise Scholarship Fund was created to provide selected Mason students the opportunity to receive a two-year scholarship to attend Lansing Community College.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MASON CHAMBER MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members of the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce...

...at the Basic level:



AUTO VALUE MASON
 804 N. Cedar Street - Mason, MI 48854
 Phone: (517) 676-9300
 av285@autowares.com
 www.autoparts2020.com

Craig Parmalee, Manager – Cell: (517) 499-6997

Auto Value is an auto parts supply store.

LIVE LONG CROSSFIT



601 N. Bailey Circle - Mason, MI 48854
 facebook.com/livelongcrossfit

Phone: (231) 409-3256 - Desiree Waters

Live Long CrossFit offers physical fitness group classes.

...at the Corporate level (Second Business of Member):

DOBERMAN BUILDING CO., LLC

205 Mason Street - Mason, MI 48854

Phone: (517) 978-8324 - Ian Richardson, CEO

Doberman Building Co., LLC owns and operates the building housing Doberman Technology.

VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED

The Mason Veterans Day ceremony is scheduled at 11:11 AM on Sunday, November 11, 2018 in front of the Memorial on the **Ingham County Courthouse** lawn. The 10th annual Ingham County Veterans Day Parade will step off at 3:00 that afternoon. There will be an open house at the **VFW Post 7309**, 1243 Hull Road, after the parade. The Mason Area Chamber of Commerce office and Hometown USA Visitors Center will be closed on Monday, November 12, 2018.

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.



2019 MACC Board of Directors

Mike Waltz President
Kiwanis Club of Mason

Melanie Squires Vice President
First National Bank of Michigan

Aaron Fiedler Treasurer
Fiedler Insurance Agency

Don Kill Past President
Mason Optimist Club

Cheryl Benjamin *Dart Container Corporation*

Jeff Haueter *A&W Restaurant*

Ryan Petty *Weather Vane Roofing*

Scott Ring *MSU Federal Credit Union*

Jamie Robinson *Darrell's Market & Bestsellers*

Debbie Shattuck *Maple Street Mall*

Jodi Somerville *Mason Public Schools & MSE&TC*

Don Waskiewicz *Deep Blue Insights*

Beth Yeider *Independent Bank*

Sarah Russell Executive Director
 Victoria Bowerman Administrative Assistant
 Hannah Warvel Program Assistant

www.masonchamber.org



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