

Administrator's Digest

March 29, 2024

A Note From the Administrator

March 2024 has proven to be an exciting month once again. Michigan weather has been a roller coaster, March Madness basketball has already brought some surprise results, road construction season is here, and an early spring break has families hitting the roads, airways, and waterways to hopefully safe and memorable adventures. Through all this, Allegan County government continues progressing and working on new ways to be here for residents and customers.

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For example, our Courthouse and County Services Building Construction Projects are on track. The projects represent a

cost-effective and innovative approach to utilizing existing space, meet the courts' and court patrons' long overdue needs and make general government services more accessible. All of this is being accomplished in a way that is keeping elected official principal offices in the Courthouse for a fraction of the cost of new construction. However, living in a 900 square-mile county and conducting business with the County from one congested location does not meet modern needs. We are working hard through our County-Wide Broadband Project to ensure you can get service from anywhere in the County through remote access services. We are also attempting to provide direct lobby counter service in the Courthouse and County Services Building to make it easier for customers to get assistance during their busy day.

As busy as March has been, we have kept our strategic plan and projects moving forward. I look forward to updating you on construction projects and many more initiatives in future digests.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Sarro

IN THIS ISSUE:

Meet "Willy" – Animal Shelter Spotlight, New Transportation Technology Deployment, Allegan County Legal Assistance Center, Courthouse & County Services Building Renovation Projects, Broadband Project, And MORE!

Animal Shelter Spotlight

Meet Willy – I had the privilege of meeting Willy at the Animal Shelter. Willy is absolutely handsome and loves to play. He is housetrained, treat-motivated, and incredibly smart. Willy used to live with his brother Achilles, who is also up for adoption.

Willy is brought up to date on vaccinations. He is looking for a loving person or family.

Might you consider adopting or sharing the news about him to someone?

For more information on Willy or his pound puppy friends, please call the Shelter at (269) 686-5112 or visit the website by clicking the link below:

https://www.allegancounty.org/departments/animal-shelter.

Petfinder: https://www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption/us/mi/allegan-county/.





Economic Development – Lakeshore Advantage is providing its 1st quarter update; Attachment A. The report highlights the activity as of year-end 2023 includes 26 projects, \$3.2 Billion in private investment, and 1,091 new or retained jobs. Lakeshore Advantage shares the 2023 Successful Projects & Achievements, found at www.lakeshoreadvantage.com. For additional information, contact Dan Wedge, Executive Director of Services, at (269) 686-4529, dwedge@allegancounty.org or Mandy Cooper, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Lakeshore Advantage, at (616) 772-5226 ext. 202 or amanda.cooper@lakeshoreadvantage.com.

Public Health Newsletter (Last Updated 2/23/24) – Public Health shares bi-weekly e-newsletters with the community. These community newsletters include information from community partners, community spotlights, public health news/related topics, and COVID-19 topics like wastewater surveillance, testing information, and other preventative education/tools. The most recent Community Newsletter was published on 3/27/2024.

Previous Community Newsletters can be found at https://bit.ly/3Ujuc8z. For more information, please contact Lindsay Maunz, Planning and Preparedness Manager, at (269) 686-4515 or lmaunz@allegancounty.org.

Regional Transit Initiatives – On February 15, 2024, representatives from County Transportation met with several other transit agencies at The Rapid in Grand Rapids, MI, to discuss regional transit initiatives and mobility gaps. As a result of their system-wide transit study, The MAX plans to consolidate routes but increase frequency, with six fixed routes proposed, four of which will have a 30-minute frequency. Additionally, the MAX plans to establish three new micro-transit zones to connect to employment and fill gaps where fixed route service will be reduced.

The Rapid provided updates on the West Michigan Express Project. The Wet Michigan Express will exist primarily as a commuter bus service between Holland and Downtown Grand Rapids, with plans to begin service in FY2025. During the initial project stages, the service will have a dedicated fleet of two vehicles and provide service on weekdays (255 operating days per year). The Rapid also plans to reach out to neighboring agencies this year to understand mobility gaps in the region better. For more information, please contact Transportation Director Whitney Ehresman at (269) 686-4529 or <a href="weekenger: weekenger: weeken

Volunteer Fair Outreach – On March 19, 2024, various community service organizations and agencies participated in the Volunteer Fair hosted by the Allegan County Community Foundation at the Silo Banquet Center. These events increase the visibility and education of county services. Public Health, Transportation, and the Animal Shelter were all present, engaging with the community. For more information, please contact Dan Wedge, Executive Director of Services, at dwedge@allegancounty.org.



New Transportation Technology Deployment (Last Updated on 2/23/24) - County Transportation officially launched new scheduling and dispatching software on February 27. In addition, rider alerts and the Transportation app became available to the public. Through the new app, riders can make trip reservations (at least one day in advance), update existing trip reservations, and check on their ride status real time. The app is just one new tool to help improve the rider experience – passengers can still call to request a ride, check on the status of their vehicle, or make changes to an existing reservation. For more information, please contact Transportation Director Whitney Ehresman at (269) 686–4529 or wehresman@allegancounty.org.



Allegan County Legal Assistance Center (ACLAC) – ACLAC provides free legal assistance on a first come, first serve basis to all Allegan County residents and those with cases in Allegan County courts. This service is offered to individuals representing themselves in many civil court issues.

While ACLAC's well-trained staff, interns, and volunteers do not provide legal advice or represent anyone in court, they can explain one's legal options and offer guidance through the legal process. ACLAC understands that court processes and procedures can be complex, so they provide information and explanations to help navigate these processes. They also offer assistance with paperwork and equip individuals with the necessary tools and resources.

To seek assistance or learn more about the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center, individuals can visit their office on the lower level of the Allegan County Courthouse at 113 Chestnut Street or by phone or email. Web-based information is also accessible at www.allegancounty.org or with Michigan Legal Help at https://allegan.michiganlegalhelp.org/.

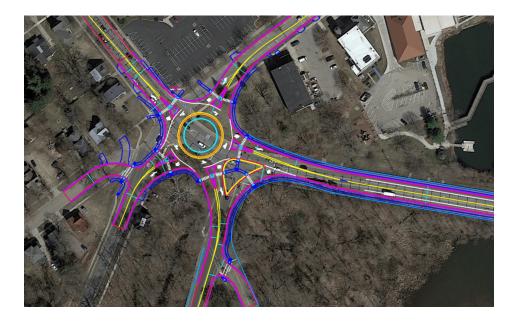
ALCAC is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization; they have been open and operating since July 30, 2012. Since then, over 27,000 individuals have been assisted, significantly impacting the community. Allegan County provides space, internet, telephones, and IT services for the center. For more information, please contact Linda Teeter, ACLAC Director, at (269) 686-5221 or alleganlac@gmail.com.



M-89/M-40 Roundabout Construction – On Monday, March 25, the M-89/M40 roundabout construction project began, pictured below. This is a partnership project between the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Allegan to improve the intersection on the southwest end of downtown. As directed by MDOT, the following detour routes have been established. The County also posted some information on the website for additional information: (M-89/M-40/Hubbard Street Roundabout Construction & Resurfacing - Allegan)

- M-89 will be detoured via 26th Street, 114th Avenue (Hooker Road), Eastern Avenue, Industrial Drive, and 118th Avenue (Babylon Road).
- M-40 will be detoured via 102nd Avenue, 26th Street, 114th Avenue (Hooker Road), Eastern Avenue, Industrial Drive, and 118th Avenue (Babylon Road).
- M-89 truck traffic will be redirected via US-131 (Plainwell), M-222 (Monroe Street), Eastern Avenue, Industrial Drive, and 118th Avenue (Babylon Road).

For more information, please contact Dan Wedge, Executive Director of Services, at (269) 686-5235 or dwedge@allegancounty.org.





Engagement





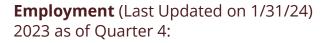
CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS

Position	Department	Current Status			
Administrative Services Assistant	Administration	Starts on April 1			
Administrative Specialist	Sheriff's Office	Internal transfer starts in this role on March 25			
Deputy Sheriff (3)	Sheriff's Office	To be filled by recruits currently in the Academy at the end of April 2024			
Deputy Circuit Court Clerk	Circuit Court	Unfilled - Not posted			
Recorder / Assignment Clerk	Circuit Court – Family Division	Unfilled			
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (3)	Prosecuting Attorney Office	One starts on March 25			
Drain Maintenance Technician	Drain Office	Unfilled – not posted			
Telecommunicator (4)	Central Dispatch	One starts on March 25; One starts on April 23			
Seasonal Park Maintenance (4)	Parks & Recreation	Start dates in April TBD			
Season Park Ranger (3)	Parks & Recreation	One starts in April TBD			
Medical Animal Caretaker	Animal Shelter	Unfilled – not posted			
Legal Specialist	Public Defender's Office	Internal transfer starts on March 25			
Health Officer	Health Department	Start date TBD			
Public Health Nurse	Health Department	Unfilled			
Boards & Commissions Openings:					
Economic Development Commission	One Healthcare Representative				
Community Corrections Advisory	One Health & One Business Community Representatives				
Local Emergency Planning Committee	One Media & One Facilities & One Firefighter Representatives				
Tourist Council	Two Representatives				
Road Commission Board	One Representative				



For more information, please contact Lyn Holoway, Human Resources Manager, at (269) 673-0537, lholoway@allegancounty.org.

Engagement





TURNOVER/RETENT ION (Regular FT & PT Only)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# of Terminations (includes Retirees)	13*	9*	18*	13*
Average length of tenure of terminated REG employees	11.69	9.1	7	1.68
Turnover % of new REG employees (<=1 year)	13.6%	13.64%	33.33%	41.66%
Turnover % of REG employees	3.16%	2.15%	4.22%	2.99%
Total average number of REG Employees	411	419	427	435
Notes: # of terminations due to retirement	*5	*1	*5	*0
RECRUITMENT	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Jobs Posted	23	24	12	18
# of Days to Hire (KPI)	57.85	66.13	74.5	86.8
# of New Hires	22	38	28	25
# of Promotions or Transfers	19	9	24	14

CURRENT NUMBER OF ACTIVE REGULAR FULL-TIME AND REGULAR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:





For more information, please contact Lyn Holoway, Human Resources Manager, at (269) 673-0537, lholoway@allegancounty.org.

Engagement





NEW HIRES

Position	Department
911 Telecommunicator	Central Dispatch
Corrections Officer	Sheriff's Office
Animal Caretaker	Animal Shelter
Public Health Technician (5)	Health Department
Client Services Clerk	Friend of the Court

2 LEFT EMPLOYMENT

Position	Department		
Deputy Sheriff	Sheriff's Office		
Court Recorder /	Circuit Court – Family		
Assignment Clerk	Division		

0

PROMOTIONS/TRANSFERS



Courthouse Construction and Renovation (Last Updated on 2/23/24) – Work is progressing on the southeast corner of the Courthouse. The footers of the new exterior have been formed. The exterior fascia has been removed to integrate with the new construction efforts. This work creates substantial noise and is scheduled between 6:00 am – 9:00 am.





County Services Building Renovation (Last Updated on 2/23/24) – Reconstruction work is progressing quickly. Drywall teams are wrapping up the last areas of taping, mudding, and sanding. Painting has begun in several areas. Employees are encouraged to use the northeast door or main entrance to access the building. The northwest door will only be restricted to construction work access for safety and security.





For more information, please contact Steve Sedore, Executive Director of Operations, at ssedore@allegancounty.org or (269) 673-0373.

Stork Club — Central Dispatch has a special Public Safety
Telecommunicator group who have had the privilege of
delivering a baby over a 9-1-1 call. This is not an occurrence
that every 9-1-1 professional gets to experience in their career,
as more often than not, field responders arrive on the scene
before the baby is born and either deliver the baby or transport
the mother to the hospital for delivery. But, for those lucky few
who get the honor, Dispatch has a plaque to honor them as
part of the Stork Club. Since 2001, telecommunicators have
helped to deliver 12 babies, the most recent of which was on
January 1, 2023, by Cassie Kooistra, who also delivered a baby
during a 9-1-1 call on April 15, 2016, making her the only
current telecommunicator with multiple deliveries under her
belt!



CPR Save Tree – To recognize lifesaving work, Central Dispatch has implemented a CPR Saves Tree (pictured below). This tree, created from a vinyl stencil and located outside the Dispatch Communications Room, displays a leaf whenever a telecommunicator saves a life by performing Telephone CPR (T-CPR). T-CPR allows bystander CPR to begin and works by keeping the brain and heart alive until EMS arrives to provide defibrillation and other vital interventions. All telecommunicators are trained to guide callers through administering CPR over the phone. So far, in 2024, telecommunicators have recorded 6 saves using T-CPR tactics.





For more information, please contact Jeremy Ludwig, Director of Central Dispatch, iludwig@allegancounty.org or (269) 686-5211.

Human Services Building Patio Demolition – As a 2024 capital project, the patio is scheduled to be demolished this year. As part of this plan, instead of rebuilding the second-story patio, specifications will be built into the request for proposal (RFP) to build a new and improved ground-floor patio space with a new walkway leading to it from the ground-floor parking lot and new outdoor seating solutions. This will significantly open up and brighten the ground floor area, making it more inviting and usable. It will also provide much better views from the 2nd-floor break room into the valley.



New walkway to ground floor patio (above)



Current patio (above)



Example of a new patio space (above)





Old Animal Shelter Demolition (Last Updated on 2/23/24) – In preparation for the demolition of the old Animal Shelter, usable equipment and supplies were removed and repurposed as much as possible for other needs in the community. A hazardous materials survey, specifically asbestos testing, is scheduled for the second week in April to ensure demolition without endangering the team members or the environment. If no serious remediation is needed, the building will be raised, and the site will be restored in May. For more information, please contact Carl Chapman, Facilities Management Director, at cchapman@allegancounty.org or (269) 673-0207.

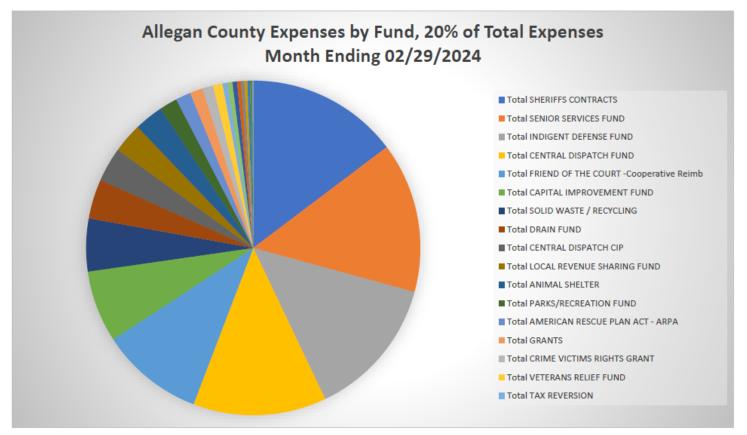
Broadband Project (Last Updated on 2/23/24) – 123Net has spliced fiber for the first section of Zone FDA5. The 2nd customer was turned on Monday, March 25, on 128th Street. Zone 5 is 69% complete for conduit placement, with 15% of fiber placed. Zone 10 has 76% of conduit constructed with 23% of fiber placed. Zone 9 has 31% of the conduit constructed.

156 out of 1,100 miles of conduit have been placed so far. See Attachment B for the big picture metrics, zone targets, and % complete, along with a zone map and updates from other providers building fiber. For more information, please contact Jill Dunham, Project Manager, at (269) 673-0588 or visit www.allegancounty.org/broadband.



Financial

Financial Data compilation for February 29, 2024, has been completed (Attachment C). These graphs illustrate month-end and year-to-date revenue and expense activity in February 2024. Information is provided for both General Fund and organization-wide activity every month.



1	
	% of Total
YTD	Expense
Expenses	(YTD)
7,106,333	46.08%
2,250,019	14.59%
1,316,859	8.54%
859,622	5.57%
769,835	4.99%
605,724	3.93%
579,548	3.76%
474,876	3.08%
363,493	2.36%
329,185	2.13%
285,801	1.85%
257,410	1.67%
223,575	1.45%
15,422,279	
	7,106,333 2,250,019 1,316,859 859,622 769,835 605,724 579,548 474,876 363,493 329,185 285,801 257,410 223,575



For more information, please contact Jennifer Ludwick, Executive Director of Finance, at (269) 673-0228, <u>jludwick@allegancounty.org</u>.

Financial

The Marihuana Operation and Oversight Grant Update – The Marihuana Operation and Oversight Grant (MOOG) Program began in 2017 and has changed significantly in the last 7 years. In 2023, the Sheriff's Department partnered with OnPoint and EMS services to distribute over 700 locked medicine bags to individual households and the 9 dispensaries located in Allegan County. The grant also provided funding for community training, a SnapChat social media campaign, and educational materials that served as conversation starters for the youth, e.g., fidgets, colored pencils, drawstring backpacks, t-shirts, and water bottles. For 2024, one of the primary goals is to continue to partner with OnPoint and 8 School Resource Officers to focus on youth education and prevention. If you see the Talk Sooner Campaign logo locally, that proves our MOOG program in action.



Marine Safety Grant Program – The County receives funding from the Michigan DNR to supplement the County budget, enabling the implementation of various 2023 initiatives in marine safety and enforcement:

- Approximately 1,750 patrol hours were conducted across 32 waterways, ensuring comprehensive coverage and enforcement.
- 500 hours dedicated to equipment and maintenance, ensuring the reliability and effectiveness of essential gear and vessels. This equipment is also utilized by the Allegan County Dive Team.
- 6 boater safety classes were held, with 136 students trained on safe navigation and emergency procedures.
- 600 training hours were invested in 21 marine officers, enhancing their skills.

The strategic allocation of resources and funding underscores the County's commitment to reinforcing marine safety and enforcement, ultimately ensuring the well-being of boaters and the community.





Feedback is important to us.

Please take the time to fill out a survey on any county service you may have received.

Click here to tell us how we are doing.

Allegan County Administration
County Services Building
3283 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269.673.0239
administration@allegancounty.org

Lakeshore Advantage Update: Mandy Cooper, VP of Strategic Initiatives, 2024 1st Quarter Report



Prepared for February 28, 2024 Meeting

LAKESHORE ADVANTAGE CORE FOCUS

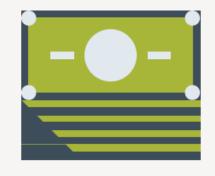


The Lakeshore Region's GPS - We grow, plan, and solve for a bright economic future.



2023 SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS







26 cessful pro

Successful projects (5 in Allegan Co.)

\$3.2 Billion

in private investment (\$3.1 Billion in Allegan Co.)

1,091

New or Retained jobs (399 in Allegan Co.)



PROJECT PIPELINE



19

projects in the pipeline

(7 in Allegan Co.)



\$1.2B

in new potential investment

(\$1.1B in Allegan Co.)



727

potential new or retained jobs

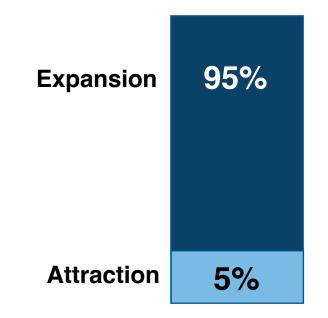
(471 in Allegan Co.)



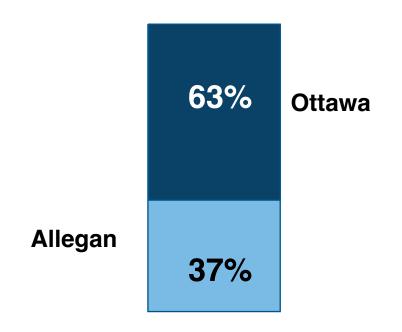
BY THE NUMBERS



Project Status



Project Type



Project Location by County





2023 Successful Projects & Achievements

Lakeshore Advantage recently released their annual success and achievements report which celebrates substantial business expansion, job creation, and investment in West Michigan's Lakeshore Region.

Full report available at wwww.lakeshoreadvantage.com





Celebrating Strategic Partners

The Lakeshore Advantage team nominated three nonprofit organizations for the 2024 Strategic Partner of the Year award. The Allegan County Community Foundation was one of the nominees for their leadership in access to housing. Other nominees included Ottawa Area Intermediate School District/Outdoor Discovery Network for childcare leadership and Latin American United for Progress for their new Educate! Elevate! workforce development initiative.

The Lakeshore Advantage Board of Directors announced the selection of Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and the Outdoor Discover Network as the 2024 Strategic Partner of the Year at the Lakeshore Advantage Annual Meeting on February 1st.



MEDC Educational Forum

Thank you to all of the strategic partners who joined the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Lakeshore Advantage for the MEDC Educational Forum hosted by Gun Lake Tribe at the Luella Collins Community Center on January 18, 2024.

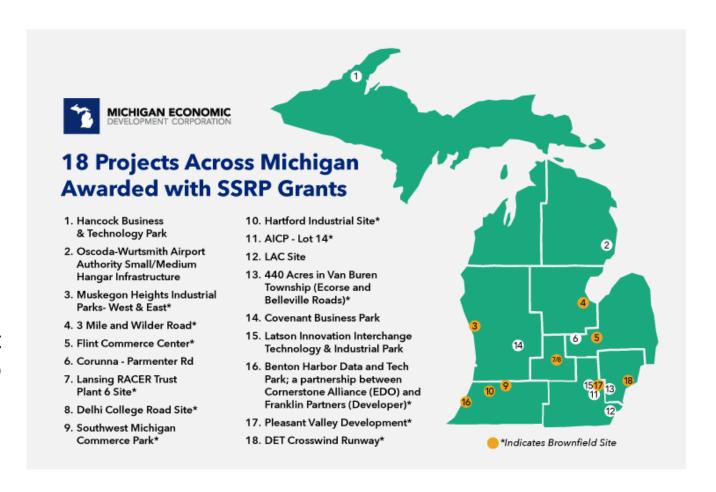
At this regional event, MEDC shared updates on Economic Development Strategy and Resources, Site Readiness and the "You Can in MI" campaign.





Industrial Site Readiness

Lakeshore Advantage supported applications for funding of 2 Allegan County sites located in Dorr & Plainwell. While neither were awarded in the most recent round of grants, we continue to advocate for additional funding.





UPCOMING EVENTS

SURGE AI Talk

March 5

9-10:30a

Lakeshore Fellows

Gathering

June 6

3-5p

Lakeshore Innovation Summit

September 17

TBD

Industry Trends Report

October 8

TBD

www.lakeshoreadvantage.com for more info





THANK YOU





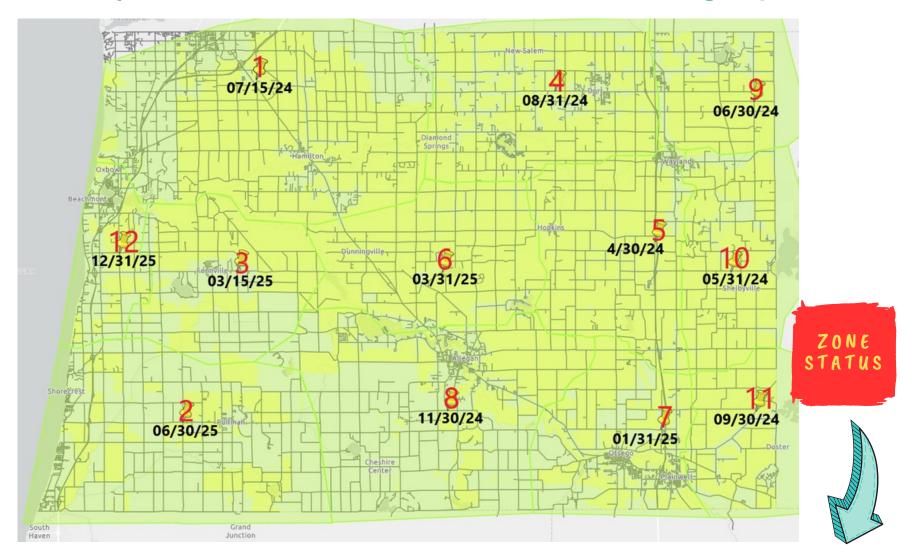
123NET FIBER TO THE HOME





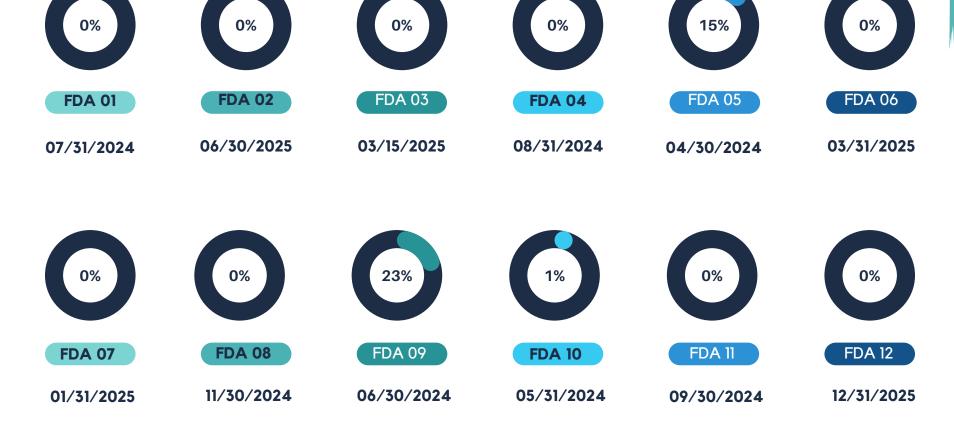
ZONE MAP - 123NET

Look up address: www.123.net/home-fiber-internet/sign-up/



ZONE STATUS - 123NET

Target Dates and % Fiber in place



As of March 16, 2024

OTHER BUILD PROJECTS

AT&T

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNICATIONS

MERCURY BROADBAND MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

SPECTRUM

AT&T built fiber to the home in portions of Monterey, Hopkins and a the northern tip Watson Township in 2022. You can contact AT&T at www.att.com and 888-371-0706.

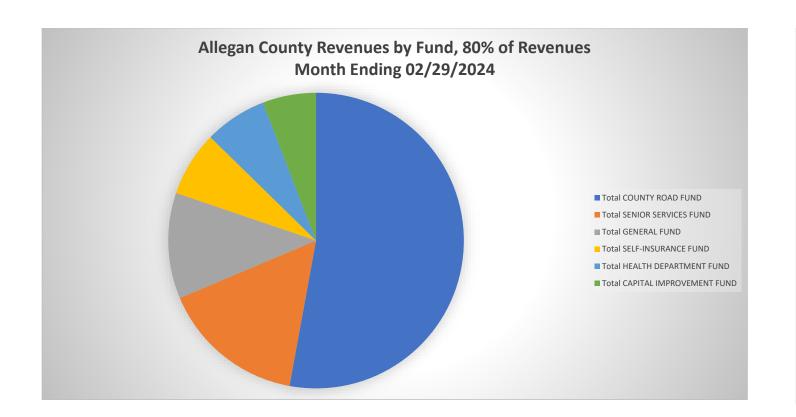
Building fiber in eastern Cheshire , western Trowbridge and southern Valley Townships.
Expect to be complete by end of 2024.
Bloomingdale

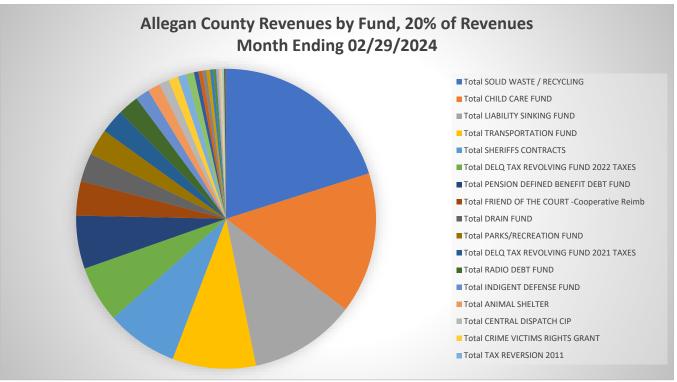
Currently offering fixed wireless service in limited portions of Allegan County. Planning to start fiber construction by December 2024.

Mercurybroadba nd.com

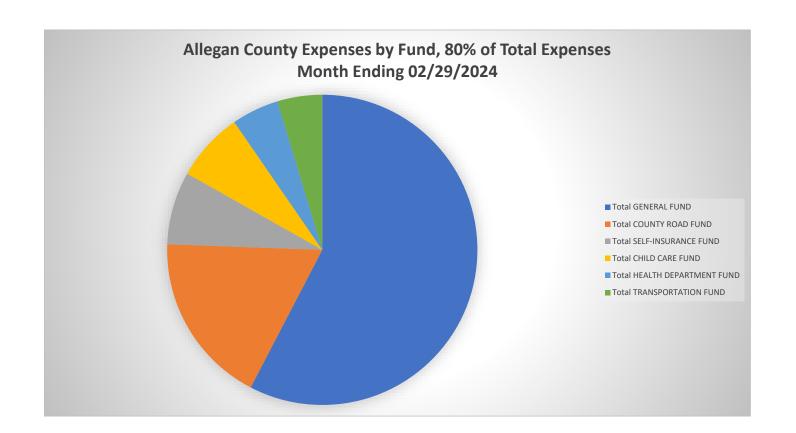
Visit the MEC website to check the map and sign up for service. 2024 - Lee and Casco Township; southern portion in April-June and northern portion in July-September. 2025: Ganges, Cheshire and Trowbridge. 2026: Otsego Twp

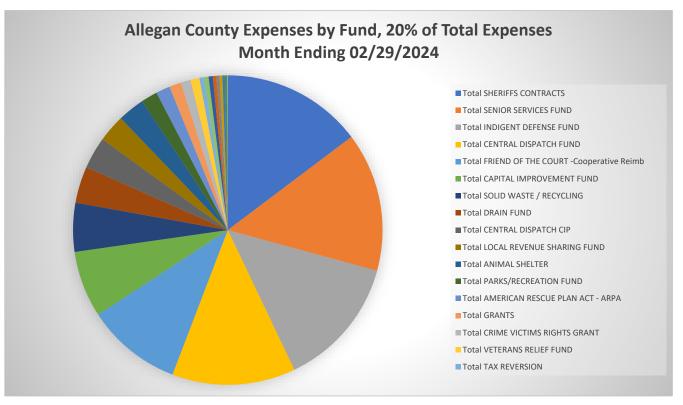
Spectrum is expanding into more rural areas.
Please visit
spectrumruralexpa
nsion.com to determine if your address is serviceable or when an address may be able to receive Spectrum services, including Broadband, TV, Voice and Mobile.



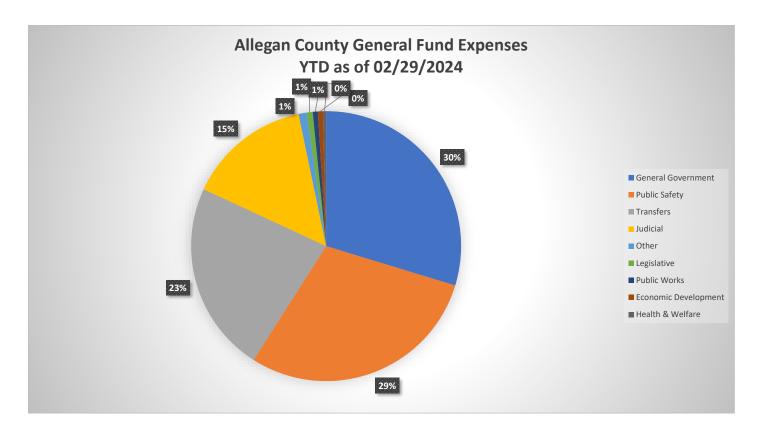


		% of Total
	YTD	Revenue
Fund Name	Revenues	(YTD)
Total COUNTY ROAD FUND	7,456,615	39.91%
Total SENIOR SERVICES FUND	2,384,300	12.76%
Total INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	1,414,938	7.57%
Total GENERAL FUND	1,405,036	7.52%
Total SELF-INSURANCE FUND	994,063	5.32%
Total HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND	948,001	5.07%
Total SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING	882,999	4.73%
Total CHILD CARE FUND	517,581	2.77%
Total CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	408,812	2.19%
Total LIABILITY SINKING FUND	400,000	2.14%
Total TRANSPORTATION FUND	317,004	1.70%
Total FRIEND OF THE COURT -Cooperative Reimb	304,149	1.63%
Total SHERIFFS CONTRACTS	206,704	1.11%
Total PENSION DEFINED BENEFIT DEBT FUND	199,633	1.07%
ALL FUNDS UNDER 1% OF TOTAL REVENUES	845,657	4.53%
Grand Total	18,685,493	





		% of Total
	YTD	Expense
Fund Name	Expenses	(YTD)
Total GENERAL FUND	7,106,333	46.08%
Total COUNTY ROAD FUND	2,250,019	14.59%
Total SELF-INSURANCE FUND	1,316,859	8.54%
Total CHILD CARE FUND	859,622	5.57%
ALL FUNDS UNDER 1% OF TOTAL EXPENSES	769,835	4.99%
Total HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND	605,724	3.93%
Total CENTRAL DISPATCH FUND	579,548	3.76%
Total TRANSPORTATION FUND	474,876	3.08%
Total SHERIFFS CONTRACTS	363,493	2.36%
Total INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	329,185	2.13%
Total FRIEND OF THE COURT -Cooperative Reimb	285,801	1.85%
Total SENIOR SERVICES FUND	257,410	1.67%
Total CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	223,575	1.45%
Grand Total	15,422,279	



	MTD	YTD	BUDGET		YTD
General Fund Revenues by Function	02/01 to 02/29/24	01/01 to 02/29/24	01/01 to 12/31/24	AVAILABLE BALANCE	% REVENUES COLLECTED
General Government	587,611	1,251,088	42,849,679	41,598,591	2.92%
Judicial	129,862	48,166	1,713,320	1,665,154	2.81%
Public Safety	53,941	62,652	854,690	792,038	7.33%
Public Works	34,796	34,796	86,990	52,194	40.00%
Transfers In	4,167	8,333	50,000	41,667	16.67%
Health & Welfare	-	-	171,155	171,155	0.00%
Other	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Economic Development	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Legislative	-	-	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	810,377	1,405,035	45,725,834	44,320,799	3.07%

	MTD	YTD	BUDGET		YTD
General Fund Expenses by Function	02/01 to 02/29/24	01/01 to 02/29/24	01/01 to 12/31/24	AVAILABLE BALANCE	% BUDGET USED
Public Safety	1,076,063	2,083,094	13,777,036	11,693,942	15.12%
General Government	938,838	2,111,703	12,787,318	10,675,615	16.51%
Transfers Out	813,397	1,626,794	9,566,720	7,939,926	17.00%
Judicial	530,442	1,051,384	7,432,479	6,381,095	14.15%
Public Works	42,637	43,647	203,867	160,220	21.41%
Other	34,583	69,167	1,026,847	957,680	6.74%
Legislative	22,023	51,020	378,757	327,737	13.47%
Health & Welfare	13,521	27,024	466,621	439,597	5.79%
Economic Development	-	42,500	86,189	43,689	49.31%
	3,471,505	7,106,333	45,725,834	38,619,501	15.54%

