



Administrator's Digest

April 19, 2024

A Note From the Administrator

Allegan County is so beautiful in the winter, yet the change to spring shows a different level of amazing scenery. The recent weather and increased outdoor activity can bring a feeling of community as residents and visitors unite to enjoy all the great spots in Allegan County.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Veterans Memorial in Plainwell as part of an MSUE-4H scavenger hunt my daughter is participating in (focused on education, awareness, and celebration of military children). Something was amazing about reading the historical quotes on the memorial, looking at the names of local heroes who gave their lives for freedom, and, at the same time, seeing a classic car gathering at Dean's Ice Cream, people enjoying the scenery of the river, kids playing basketball, and many people socializing. I thought, "This is a great snapshot of freedom." I reflected that Allegan County comprises those snapshot opportunities all across our nearly 900 square miles of various landscapes.



Based on public input sessions and our countywide citizen engagement surveys, parks are a valued part of life in Allegan County. I encourage readers to consider visiting all of our county's parks and tourism opportunities this outdoor season. It is so special to have our unique natural resources and gatherings in our county that many travel long distances for (e.g., lakes, trails, kayaking, biking, or riding, equestrian, and festivals). I hope to see you out there for some safe and local fun! Speaking of staying safe, please join me in expressing sincere gratitude to our 911 dispatchers. This week is Telecommunicators Week, observed through the 20th. Any time is a great time to show appreciation. An easy way to express gratitude to them is a simple "thank you" by calling (269) 673-0316 or emailing centraldispatch@allegancounty.org. Fun facts about our dispatchers:

In 2023, 142,132 total incoming and outgoing calls:

- Received: 49,180 9-1-1 Calls, 63,535 Non-Emergency calls, and 378 Text to 9-1-1 sessions.
- Initiated: 28,559 outgoing calls and 480 Text to 9-1-1 sessions.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Sarro

IN THIS ISSUE:

Boomer Bash,
Veterans Stand Down Event,
Transportation Open House,
Current Job Openings,
And MORE!

Services

SAVE THE DATE: Boomer Bash 2024 – Allegan County invites senior citizens 55 years or older to attend this free event on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at First Baptist Church (1290 32nd Street, M-40, Allegan). This annual event features complimentary breakfast and lunch, a senior-focused vendor fair with prizes and giveaways, health screenings, fun-filled and informative workshop sessions, and entertainment. Please share the event flyer in attachment A. Registration opens soon – stay updated on event details by visiting Allegan County Senior Services on [Facebook](#)! For more information, please contact Jen Garcia, Director of Senior and Veteran Services, at (269) 686-5144 or jgarcia@allegancounty.org.

SAVE THE DATE: Veteran Services Stand Down – Plans are underway for the 11th Annual Allegan County Veteran Stand Down on Thursday, October 17, 2024. This event supports veterans needing food, clothing, housing, medical assistance, and more. This is a collaborative event by local, State, and Federal agencies, including nonprofits, to share resources. For more information, please contact Jen Garcia, Director of Senior and Veteran Services, at (269) 686-5144 or jgarcia@allegancounty.org.

Parks Spring Maintenance – Spring maintenance will begin at the Allegan County Parks and Campgrounds in mid-April. This includes items like road grading and leaf removal. The County parks have year-round access. Grounds care, custodial duties, and open restrooms are in place daily from May 1 to September 30. The seasonal Parks Rangers start in May by preparing for reservations, doing custodial duties, and providing customer service. For additional information, contact Brandy Gildea, Parks Manager, at bgildea@allegancounty.org.

Parks and Tourism – Spring is Here! Summer is Coming! Come Outside and Play! Visit a Beach! Enjoy a night under the stars at a campground! Host a Family Reunion, Birthday, or Summer Party at a pavilion in one of the Allegan County Parks; reservations are encouraged. Launch a boat at a wonderful lake or river! Explore the County through one of the Family Kayaking Programs with the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC). This year's family kayaking programs will be at Ely Lake Campground (June 27th @ 6:00 pm) and New Richmond Park (August 24th @ 9:30 am). Kayaks, paddles, and vests are provided, but registration through the ODC <https://outdoordiscovery.org/> is required. More information is available on the website: [Allegan County Parks, Recreation](#).

Transportation Open House – County Transportation will host an Open House on May 10th from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at 750 Airway Drive, Allegan. The event is a way to bring together the community and celebrate services moving into the 25th year of operations. Guests can meet drivers, tour the facility, see the new propane fleet, and observe the new scheduling software. In addition, representatives from Via, the new scheduling and dispatching software, and Roush Clean Tech, the manufacturer of the propane Autogas engines, will be on-site to answer questions. See attachment B, or for more information, please contact Stacy Todd, Program Coordinator, at (269) 673-0206 or stodd1@allegancounty.org.



Services

New Transportation Technology Deployment (Last Updated on 3/29/2024) – On February 27, 2024, County Transportation officially began operating with new dispatching and scheduling software powered by Via Mobility. This included a slow roll-out of the new scheduling app, which was downloaded 22 times in the first month. The launch was a rigorous process, including creating 1,163 rider accounts. Since launch, 405 individual riders have completed at least one trip taking the bus, and 181 riders have completed five or more trips. The average trip rating for riders utilizing the app is 4.8 out of 5 (based on data from 25 ratings received), with a 92% five-star rating percentage. For more information, please contact Whitney Ehresman, Transportation Director, at (269) 686–4529 or wehresman@allegancounty.org.

Outreach Events – In March, County Transportation hosted four training opportunities to educate stakeholders and community members on the new smartphone rider app. Between the four sessions, many partner organizations were represented, including Allegan County Educational Agency, Tech Center, OnPoint, Friend of the Court, Allegan County Parole & Probation, MI Works, Allegan County Community Foundation, and Allegan County Senior & Veteran Services. Allegan County Transportation also remained active during Spring Break, participating in the Touch-A-Truck Event in Fennville on April 1, 2024. Despite the overcast forecast, over thirty (30) community members attended the event. For more information, please contact Stacy Todd, Program Coordinator, at (269) 673-0206 or stodd1@allegancounty.org.

Transportation funding award – On April 3, 2024, the Michigan Department of Transportation confirmed the grant funds for County Transportation’s annual FY2025 application. The funding award will further support continued program growth and expansion of transportation services throughout Allegan County. For more information, please contact Whitney Ehresman, Transportation Director, at (269) 686–4529 or wehresman@allegancounty.org.



Engagement



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CURRENT OPEN POSITIONS

Position	Department	Current Status
Correction Officer	Sheriff's Office	Unfilled – Perpetually posted
Deputy Sheriff (3)	Sheriff's Office	To be filled by recruits end of April
Recorder / Assignment Clerk	Circuit Court – Family Division	Starts April 15
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (2)	Prosecuting Attorney Office	One starts on April 29
Telecommunicator (4)	Central Dispatch	One starts on April 23
Seasonal Park Maintenance (4)	Parks & Recreation	Four start in April TBD
Seasonal Park Ranger (3)	Parks & Recreation	Three start in April TBD
Health Officer	Health Department	Start date TBD
Public Health Planning & Preparedness Manager	Health Department	Unfilled
Public Health Nurse	Health Department	Interviews in progress
<u>Boards & Commissions Openings:</u>		
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, lholloway@allegancounty.org.

Engagement



Employment (Last Updated on 1/31/24)
2023 as of Quarter 4:

TURNOVER/RETENTION (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:

442



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

Engagement



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NEW HIRES

Position	Department
911 Telecommunicator	Central Dispatch
Administrative Services Assistant	Administration
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney	Prosecuting Attorney's Office

3

LEFT EMPLOYMENT

Position	Department
911 Telecommunicator	Central Dispatch
Corrections Officer	Sheriff's Office
Planning & Preparedness Manager	Health Department

1

PROMOTIONS/TRANSFERS

Position	Department
Legal Specialist	Public Defender's Office



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

Operations

Courthouse Construction and Renovation (Last Updated on 3/29/24) – The exterior work on the southeast corner has been completed, pictured below.



County Services Building Renovation (Last Updated on 3/29/24) – Drywall work is complete, and painting has begun. As per the interior design specifications, several accent walls have been painted in different colors to help break up the space, add separation to an open-concept design, and make it feel more inviting and pleasing to the eye. Electrical and cabling work is also well underway.



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

Operations

Courthouse Statue Move Project (Last Updated 1/25/24) – The contractor has now completed the installation of the lighting and seating. Since the statue’s relocation on December 20, 2023, work was put on hold pending better weather conditions. The memorial tree is still safe and will be replanted later this spring. An application has been submitted to the State of Michigan Historic Center for funding a new historical sign. The County is awaiting a decision from their committee. For more information, please contact Steve Sedore, Executive Director of Operations, at ssedore@allegancounty.org or at (269) 673-0373.



Broadband Project (Last Updated on 3/29/24) – 123Net has spliced fiber for the first section of Zone FDA5. Zone 5 is now 78% complete for conduit placement, with 32% of fiber placed. Zone 10 has 89% conduit constructed with 23% fiber placed. Zone 9 has 83% of the conduit constructed. However, no fiber has been placed. Overall completion is 18% of conduit built with 8% of fiber placed. One hundred seventy-nine (179) out of 1,100 miles of conduit have been placed. The big picture metrics, zone targets, and % complete, along with a zone map and updates from other providers building fiber; Attachment C. For more information, please contact Jill Dunham, Project Manager, at (269) 673-0588 or visit www.allegancounty.org/broadband.

Transportation Building Storage Area Addition – A request for proposals (RFP) has been drafted soliciting bids to construct a small addition to the Transportation Building as part of a capital project approved by the Board in 2023. This addition will increase the on-site storage space needed for parts and supplies used for vehicle maintenance and repair. The scope of work also calls for laying electrical conduit beneath the parking lot to a location of a future propane tank installation that will allow for more efficient fueling of the County’s propane bus fleet and reduce fueling costs. The draft RFP has been forwarded to the Michigan Department of Transportation for review and is expected to be approved for release before the end of April. Bids should be received by the end of May, with an award in early June. Construction is expected to begin this fall. For more information, please contact Whitney Ehresman, Transportation Director, at wehresman@allegancounty.org or at (269) 686-4529.





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



Rocking n' Rolling into Boomer Bash

Save the Date!

**THURSDAY
JUNE 6, 2024
8:00AM - 1:00PM**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1290 32ND STREET (M-40)
ALLEGAN**



*Registration
opens soon - We hope to
see you there!*



Presented by the
**ALLEGAN COUNTY
COMMISSION ON AGING**

- ✓ **FREE SENIOR EVENT!**
- ✓ **Grab n' Go Breakfast & Served Lunch**
- ✓ **Senior Vendor Fair & Giveaways**
- ✓ **Fun-Filled Workshops**
- ✓ **Health Screenings**
- ✓ **Entertainment**

Questions?

Call 269-673-3333 or Email
tgalloway@allegancounty.org



ALLEGAN COUNTY
Senior Services

*Giving independence, dignity and
quality of life through millage support*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN
Open
HOUSE



ON *friday*
MAY 10
2024
4-7PM

750 AIRWAY DRIVE ALLEGAN, MI 49010

COME MEET THE STAFF, SEE THE BUSES, AND
EXPERIENCE WHAT IS NEW.

KINDLY RSVP BY MAY 3, 2024

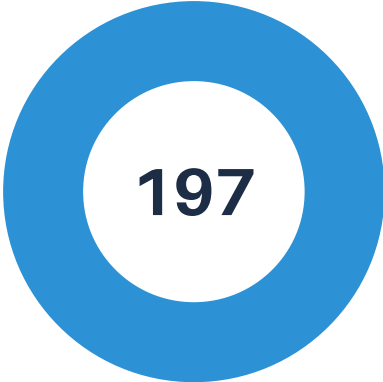
PHONE: 269.673.0206

EMAIL: STODD1@ALLEGANCOUNTNY.ORG

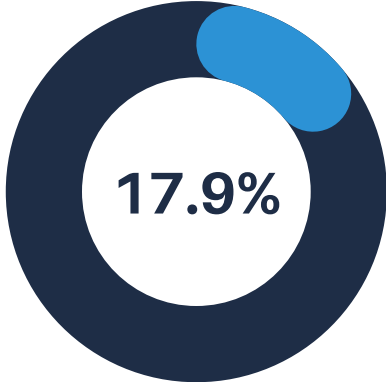
123NET FIBER TO THE HOME



RESIDENTS WITH ACCESS



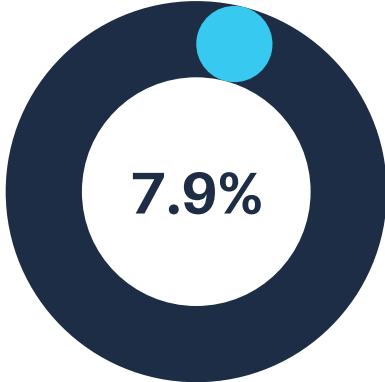
CONDUIT MILES



CONDUIT PERCENTAGE



FIBER MILES

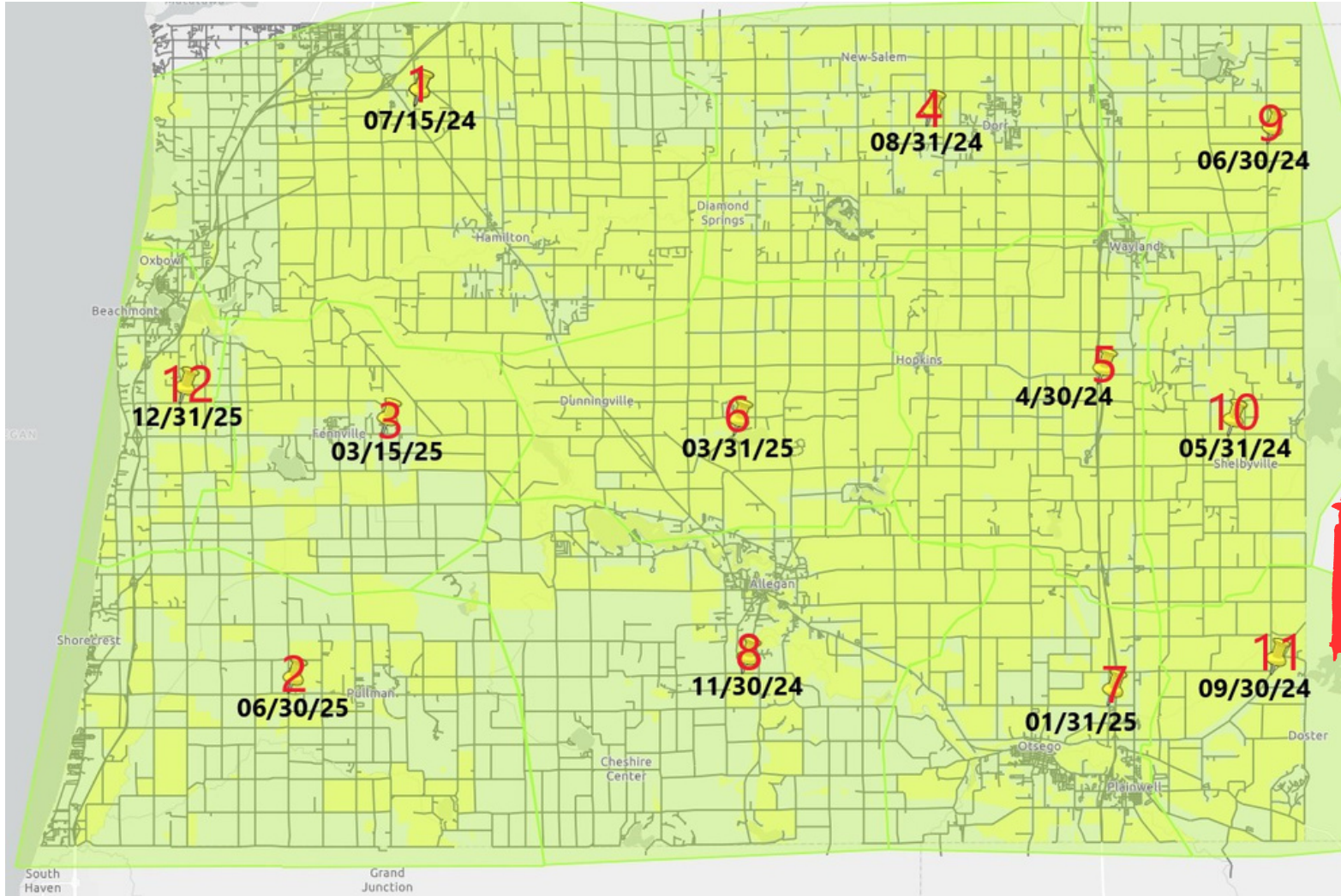


FIBER PERCENTAGE

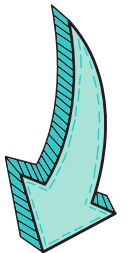
As of March 29, 2024

ZONE MAP - 123NET

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

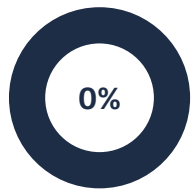


ZONE STATUS



ZONE STATUS - 123NET

Target Dates and % Fiber in place



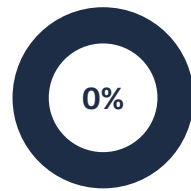
FDA 01

07/31/2024



FDA 02

06/30/2025



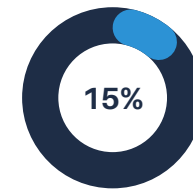
FDA 03

03/15/2025



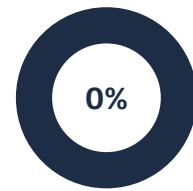
FDA 04

08/31/2024



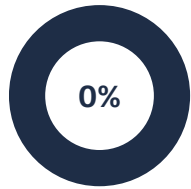
FDA 05

04/30/2024



FDA 06

03/31/2025



FDA 07

01/31/2025



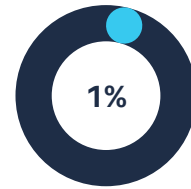
FDA 08

11/30/2024



FDA 09

06/30/2024



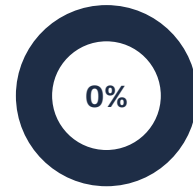
FDA 10

05/31/2024



FDA 11

09/30/2024



FDA 12

12/31/2025

As of March 29, 2024

OTHER BUILD PROJECTS

AT&T

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.

BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNICATIONS

Building fiber in eastern Cheshire , western Trowbridge and southern Valley Townships. Expect to be complete by end of 2024. [Bloomingtondale](http://Bloomingtondale.com)

MERCURY BROADBAND

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

MIDWEST ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

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

Spectrum is expanding into more rural areas. Please visit spectrumruralexpansion.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.

As of March 29, 2024