Mackinac Economic Alliance

It’s spring in Mackinac County and signs of an improved economy surround us. Across the region, start-up businesses are emerging, new owners are breathing life into established community businesses and business expansions are underway. In response Mackinac Economic Alliance is ramping up its business assistance efforts in new ways to meet the demands of small business.

MEA is working to establish the first SCORE branch in the UP. With help from experienced business owners and executives providing free and confidential business advice to local start-ups and expanding businesses, Mackinac County entrepreneurs and business owners will have ready access to the help they need to be successful.

Broadband access is the fundamental infrastructure to the 21st century economy. To address deficiencies in our rural communities the EUPISD has proposed a creative solution. Read more in the article below.

On May 2, 2017 there will be a special election for voters in Mackinac, Chippewa and Luce counties to decide on a proposal to establish and expand career and technical education opportunities in EUP high schools. Recognizing that an unprecedented numbers of jobs go unfilled in various fields because of lack of training, Mackinac Economic Alliance researched the facts behind this gap in order to provide some answers to your questions.

Upcoming Events:

SCORE Workshop - St. Ignace Library
May 9th, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Career and Technical Education Millage Vote
Tuesday, May 2, 2017

"The Mackinac Economic Alliance exists to foster economic growth through a public and private partnership dedicated to providing innovative leadership, vision, education and promotion of economic development."
Investing in Our Youth is an Investment in Mackinac County

Mackinac Economic Alliance encourages our region’s voters to support the Career and Technical Education millage that will be presented before voters this spring, on May 2. MEA’s endorsement of the millage proposal aligns with our mission of growing a healthy economy with jobs for whoever wants to live and work in Mackinac County, and to help raise the standard of living for our county’s residents.

Part of raising the standard of living in our community involves connecting residents to employment, and many of the available jobs in our region require less education than a college degree. However, most of these jobs do require technical training or career-focused training specific to the job.

This is where a regional Career and Technical Education program will help fill the needs of not only the students who will be looking to for work in the near future, but also employers seeking workers with the skills needed to fill the job.

An Eastern UP CTE Program Can Help Our Businesses & Communities

The most important reason MEA supports the millage proposal before voters this year is the fact that local employers are increasingly finding it difficult to find employees. Not only do local businesses need bodies to fill these jobs, they need workers with some sort of training or education, but not necessarily a college degree. The MEA Board increasingly hears local employers say they have the jobs, but few to no applications for the jobs they offer.

“Our manufacturing and installation processes require two primary skill sets: carpentry and welding. Although a bit more common for applicants to possess some form of carpentry experience, it’s still an ongoing struggle to find skilled labor in either trade,” said Cody Carmichael of Flotation Docking Systems, a Mackinac County-based dock building company.

“We strive to complete as many functions “in house” as possible, which includes the transportation of completed dock sections to any given job site. Accordingly, we’re almost always seeking individuals who also have a commercial driver’s license (CDL).”

Carmichael added that filling seasonal jobs is a challenge as well. During Flotation’s busy season, March through August, the company has 3-4 job openings that they struggle to fill.

“It’s not an overwhelming number, but the fact that we struggle to fill just a few positions really punctuates the subject issue,” Carmichael said.

According to the latest Upper Peninsula Real Time Labor Demand report released in March, there were 3,360 unfilled jobs in the Upper Peninsula. 81% of these jobs required some sort of education, but 76% of the jobs only required an associate’s degree, technical training, high school diploma or no educational requirements at all—all education options that could be easily provided in the Eastern Upper Peninsula if the region offered a legitimate and fully-funded career and technical training program.

According to the same March Labor Demand report, Upper Peninsula employers were looking to fill the following top jobs (rated by number of openings):

- Registered, licensed practical and vocational nurses
- Truck drivers
- Physical therapists
- General maintenance & repair workers
- Retails sales supervisors
- Retail salespersons
- Family and general practitioners
- Nursing assistants
- Social & human service assistants

The Eastern Upper Peninsula currently has 373 job openings within 50 miles of Mackinac County, and many more if you look below the Mackinac Bridge (within an easy 10-15 mile commute from St. Ignace), according to the Pure Michigan Talent Connect job search site. 314
of those available jobs require an associate’s degree or less education, while only 43 of those positions require a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education. The majority of these job openings are in health care fields that are serving our region’s aging population. More than 60% of Mackinac County’s population is older than 40, and 3,000 of the county’s nearly 11,000 residents are older than 65.

An August Detroit Free Press article reported that, “By sheer numbers, the most job growth (in America) is expected to occur in the health care sector for positions such as personal care aides and registered nurses. Personal care aides require no formal education and earn $20,980 a year. The number of such aides is expected to grow 458,100 by 2024 to 2.2 million, an increase of 26%.”

The same article reports that “The second largest job growth is expected for the position of registered nurses, which requires a bachelor’s degree and is expected to add 439,300 jobs by 2024 to 3.2 million registered nurses, a 16% increase. Registered nurses last year earned a median salary of $67,490.”

The shortage of skilled health care workers can potentially be solved by a regional CTE program that helps close that gap through technical training that starts in high school and may end up in a job at Mackinac Straits Hospital, or at college, where the student may go on to earn a registered nursing degree.

CTE Helps Improve Graduation Rates, College Success

Not all people born and raised in the Eastern Upper Peninsula want to live here, but a good portion of them do, and many return to their hometowns after pursuing an education elsewhere. Some return because, unfortunately, college was not a good fit for them due to a variety of reasons. Lack of funding and insufficient preparation rank high among those reasons. Studies show, however, that career and technical education programs in high school allow the kind of career exploration students need to prepare them better for post-secondary education and training, including college. They also provide meaningful connections between their academic studies and real jobs they will encounter when they enter the workforce, thus giving students more direction and clearer pathways to jobs.

The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, an education advocacy organization, reports that:

- Students with greater exposure to Career and Technical Education (CTE) are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in a two-year college, be employed, and earn higher wages.
- CTE is not a path away from college: Students taking more CTE classes are just as likely to pursue a four-year degree as their peers.
- Students who focus their CTE coursework are more likely to graduate high school by twenty-one percentage points compared to otherwise similar students (and they see a positive impact on other outcomes as well).
- CTE provides the greatest boost to the kids who need it most—boys, and students from low-income families.

How an Eastern UP CTE Program Can Help

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District’s (EUPISD) proposal for how the new funds generated by the millage, if it passes, include a career and technical education program that will give opportunities for every junior and senior student in the district to take at least two CTE courses.

The EUPISD already employs a CTE Administrator, who would manage and coordinate the CTE program across the district. Funds raised within a local school district (St. Ignace, Les Cheneaux, Engadine, etc.) can be used however the district needs to spend them to give local students access to career and technical education programs. Each district in the EUPISD will offer its own CTE courses they wish to offer students, such as welding, construction, computer programming, health science, corrections/law enforcement, small engine repair, or hospitality management/culinary arts. More CTE “training centers” around the EUP will help improve the transportation issue some districts have because CTE programs are so far away from some of the high schools.
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There are currently established career or skills “centers” that offer CTE programs in Sault Ste. Marie and Cheboygan where Mackinac County students have traditionally been able to take CTE classes. However, more rigorous high school graduation requirements implemented over the past 20 years make it too difficult for students to lose time to lengthy treks to and from these centers. Many students simply do not take CTE classes anymore, due to the transportation constraints. Les Cheneaux students, for example, need 4 hours on a given day to travel to and from the Sault Skill Center in Sault Ste. Marie to take CTE classes offered up there. If CTE classes were offered at Les Cheneaux or a neighboring district, such as Pickford, taking a career training class will become a realistic option.

And, if the CTE program is successful, as so many CTE programs are around the state and nation, the Eastern Upper Peninsula would benefit from having hundreds of employable young adults better positioned to start a job, or to advance into more sophisticated training if the employer requires it.

Many CTE programs offer credits that can be applied to post-secondary school training or college degrees, so local families would have less financial burden, and a better chance at that student completing their degree or certificate program.

What It Will Cost Eastern UP Taxpayers

The EUPISD’s millage request is 1 mill, which amounts to $1 for every $1,000 of taxable property. The new tax burden for the owner of a $100,000 home with a taxable value of $50,000 would be $50/year. Someone with a $200,000 home would pay $100 a year, and someone with a $50,000 home would pay an additional $25 a year to support the millage.

This investment’s benefits would have even more profound effects for our community as students are prepared to be college- and career-ready by learning not only core academic skills, but also employability skills and technical, job-specific skills. People who find gainful employment are also less likely to need government assistance programs to help them through periods of unemployment.

A trained workforce will better set our local business community up for success, too, as employers will spend far less time and energy training employees, seeking employees, or attempting to rehabilitate unskilled workers for the tasks they need performed.

For much more information on the 2017 Career and Technical Education Millage proposal, visit: www.eup.k12.mi.us. Educate yourself on CTE and compare Michigan to other states at: careertech.org

Micro-Distillery to Open in May

Les Cheneaux Distillers, a new micro-brewery and micro-distillery located at the site of the former Hudson Hardware store on Meridian Street in Cedarville, is preparing to open its doors for business in May. After obtaining a special land use permit from the Clark Township Planning Commission in April 2016, co-owners, Jason and Kirsten Bohn and Jason and Sue Bowlby, have worked diligently over the course of this last year to completely renovate the old building, to obtain required state and federal level licensing for both brewing and distilling and, of course, to hone their recipes.
The new distillery offers customers a beautifully executed, industrial-style atmosphere for sampling house made spirits, beers and sodas in the front tasting room, which includes a lounge area and view window into the distillation room. Two retail spaces have been added to the building as well, with the goal of hosting the work of community business owners and artisans in the future. Visitors to Les Cheneaux Distillers will no doubt take note of the wealth of local history and handiwork woven into the building’s design, featuring wooden wall paneling salvaged from a Pickford barn that was torn down in the 1970’s, a mantle from Tassier Boat Works that dates to the 1940’s, a wall plank from an 1850’s era Lake Superior logging schooner and a massive, hand-hewn beam hanging above the bar, which was found in the Grand Rapids area and is estimated to be a minimum of 300 years old. The metal plates adorning the outside pillars, along with some of the brewing equipment and interior décor, were fabricated by local artisan, Keith Kozma. There are also plans to showcase a variety of local boats, cars and other watercraft, which will rotate on display in the tasting room throughout the summer.

Both the Bohns and the Bowlbys have deep family roots in Les Cheneaux. When asked about the inspiration for developing this new business, Jason Bohn said it all started as a small conversation with a good friend in 2008, when the financial crisis was setting in. “We were joking that we were going to need something to barter with if things continued to get worse,” said Bohn, “and eventually that idea evolved into Les Cheneaux Distillers.” All joking aside, Bohn spoke earnestly about his attachment to this area, where his family still lives. “I’ve always wanted to do something for the community here, to be able to distribute a product even during the off season. I’m drawn to the distillation industry because I enjoy the sense of comradery we’ve all had getting this business going, and I’m incredibly happy to have been able to stay and work here in my hometown.” Sue Bowlby echoed Bohn’s sentiments, explaining the importance of maintaining her connection to the place where she grew up. “I’ve lived here my whole life. My husband and I got married here and were lucky to be able to raise our own family in this beautiful place,” said Bowlby. “We’re actually neighbors with Jason and Kirsten Bohn, so many of the conversations that went into planning the distillery happened over bonfires in our yard. It’s an idea that is near and dear to all of our hearts, which is why we’ve managed to remain good friends throughout the process.”

According to Bohn, Les Cheneaux Distillers expects to open by the end of May, and will begin offering their products to the public in stages. Customers will be able order beer, root beer, ginger ale and a limited menu of fresh, locally-sourced food. Due to the cumbersome state and federal licensing requirements for distilling spirits, the production of Straits Vodka will begin later this summer. There are also plans to bottle kombucha on site, with recipes for different flavors of the fermented tea beverage being tested and refined. The Bohns and Bowlbys are currently in the process of looking to hire about 15 employees for different jobs within the distillery. Anyone interested in applying to, or learning more about, Les Cheneaux Distillers is encouraged to visit their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lescheneauxdistillers)
**Spotlight on NibbleLungen**

This month, we are highlighting new businesses in the Les Cheneaux Region of Mackinac County. The former Hessel Grocery is preparing to re-open under the new name, NibbleLungen. We spoke with new owner, Anastasia Hamel, and manager, Lorie Thompson, about the renovations and future vision for the store.

Lorie has lived in Cedarville since she was 5 years old, and has raised four children there. Growing up in the area in the 1960’s, Lori worked on her father’s resort property, renting boats, preparing rental cabins, and selling bait and tackle. She worked at the former Hessel Grocery for three years, and became a manager of the store last year.

Anastasia was born in Greece, but moved to Detroit in 1970 and began visiting Hessel in the 1980’s with her husband, Donald Hamel, who comes from one of the early families that settled in the area. Anastasia works professionally for an automotive company, in the realm of environmental and governmental affairs and regulations, and has taken the lead on all renovations and policy updates for NibbleLungen.

**Could you describe a little bit about how you decided to purchase the former Hessel Grocery?**

A: Don and I come up to Hessel quite often, and especially in the Spring to open up our house. Last year, we saw the “For Sale” sign on the Hessel Grocery and were dumbfounded that this business we had always frequented could be for sale. We talked it over on our drive back to Detroit and, when we returned in mid-June, surprisingly the sign was still there. After looking at the building and thinking it over for two weeks, we walked over to the store one evening for ice cream and had a “moment,” a distinct feeling that we were meant to do something with this place. It was as if the Hessel Grocery was beckoning to us, and we decided this was a sign that we should go ahead with the purchase. We officially closed on the building on October 1, 2016, and we haven’t looked back since.

**How did you choose the new name for the store?**

A: The name “NibbleLungen” translates from Norse mythology. Nibelungen is the name of a royal family who settled in the early 5th century near the borders of Norway. The vast wealth of the royal family in Old Norse is referred to as the Niblung or “hoard of treasure.” We played with the Norse mythology name and came up with NibbleLungen, meaning a “hoard of nibbles.” We thought the new name was fitting for this store with its generous supply of groceries, prepared food, deli items, and of course desserts.

**How have you approached the renovation process for this historic building?**

A: I think of this project like a work of art. Once we pictured how we wanted the store to be, the picture was fixed in my mind like the empty canvas of a painter. Having developed a personal connection to the former Hessel Grocery over our years of coming here, it was important to us that we try to save as much of the original architecture as possible and preserve the integrity of the building. Donald’s grandfather, Harvey Hamel, kept a journal in the early 1900’s with some descriptions of the original store, which burned on New Year’s Day in 1908. We used personal accounts, along with historic photographs from 1910 and later years when the store was under the ownership of the Fenlon.
family, the Walker family, the Rye family, and others to refine our decision making throughout the course of the renovation work. It is as if the voices from past owners are speaking to us and guiding us through this entire process. We tried to save the heritage of the early owners as much as possible.

**What do you consider to be the most important renovations you have undertaken so far?**

**A:** Our main goal with renovations to the store has been to bring it up to date with 21st century building regulations and health department codes. This has involved properly insulating each of the walls, completing a major overhaul of the store’s heating and cooling systems, installing a new state of the art hood over the new cooking equipment, as well as building two new bathrooms which are now accessible to the public through the store instead of by way of the kitchen. We began our work in the office, where we retiled the floor, and moved on from there to other rooms of the building, eventually re-doing the paint and trim on the walls and ceiling, and remodeling the upstairs to include a break room and locker storage for employees. We did not stop with the renovations inside but continued outside as well; in essence no part of the store has been left untouched.

**What are your plans for NibbleLungen as a community business here in Hessel?**

**L:** Above all, we want locals to feel welcome here and to embrace us year-round. We hope that NibbleLungen will be a wholesome place, a true “town store,” where community members will gather to visit with one another and share pictures of their grandkids. Of course, we will provide services to summer residents and tourists as well, though our main focus will remain on year-round locals. We will keep the store shelves stocked with reasonably priced staple groceries, offering freshly roasted and ground coffee, hand-dipped ice cream, and a selection of baked goods, homemade on site.

**A:** Our restaurant and deli menus will still concentrate on breakfast and lunch to begin with, catering to local tastes. One change we look forward to is offering more variety and fresh vegetables, including salads, fresh fruit, yogurt, fresh eggs, beer, wine and liquor. All food will be made from scratch, and we promise to tantalize your taste buds as we try out new dishes!

*Main Street, Hessel.*

**When do you plan to open for business?**

**A:** Although some of the renovations have taken longer than initially anticipated, we expect to open our doors in May. We’re very excited to show the community the results of our hard work.

**Are you still hiring staff for NibbleLungen?**

**A:** Yes, we are looking to hire a solid, permanent crew. It is important to us that we can offer steady, year-round employment to locals in our community. Interested applicants can come to the store during the week and pick-up an application.

**Where can people find out more about NibbleLungen?**

**A:** Our website is currently under construction though, once complete, people will be able to read more about the history and evolution of our store. Visitors to the site will also be able to contact us directly through email, as well as provide feedback about our operations.

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**Mackinac County Business Beat**

Would you like to have your new business featured in MEA’s Newsletter? Use our contact information below to contact us with your information and spread the word about the good work you’re doing in Mackinac County.

**Charming Big Manistique Lake Cottage**
- **Location:** Curtis, MI
- **Owners:** John & Lorrie Zagelmeier
- **Website:** [www.vrbo.com/1053480](http://www.vrbo.com/1053480)
- **Phone:** 260.760.1765

Sitting only 150 feet from the shore of Helmer Bay, Charming Big Manistique Lake Cottage is a NEW BUSINESS, offering rentals in a unique, 2-bedroom waterfront cottage that comfortably sleeps 6 people. Available for rent at the opening of Walleye season in mid-May, through mid- to late-October.

**Huron Property Management**
- **Location:** St. Ignace, MI
- **Owner:** Samuel Kling
- **Website:** Look for us soon on Facebook
- **Phone:** 906.430.5392

Need help with your dock or Spring clean-up projects? Samuel Kling’s NEW BUSINESS offers services in dock installation & removal, tree removal, chopping firewood, snow plowing and snow blowing. Check for updates soon on Facebook!

**Island Charters, LLC**
- **Location:** Cedarville, MI
- **Owners:** Greg & Jeff Lipple
- **Website:** [http://islandchartersmi.com](http://islandchartersmi.com)
- **Phone:** 906.235.3825

Island Charters, LLC is under NEW OWNERSHIP by Greg and Jeff Lipple. Give them a call, or visit online, to schedule your fishing charters and island tours in Detour, Les Cheneaux and Mackinac Island.

**Les Cheneaux Coffee Roasters**
- **Location:** 33 E. Hodeck St., Cedarville, MI
- **Owners:** Jennifer & David Gough
- **Website:** [www.lescheneauxcoffeeroasters.com](http://www.lescheneauxcoffeeroasters.com)
- **Phone:** 616.212.7534

Owned and operated by roast masters, Jennifer and David Gough, Les Cheneaux Coffee Roasters is expanding its operations to open a NEW RETAIL BUSINESS in downtown Cedarville. The coffeehouse, scheduled to open June 2017, will feature a full espresso bar, freshly baked pastries, free wi-fi access, and hot and cold brewed coffees from their roastery located in the heart of Les Cheneaux Islands.

**MI Patio**
- **Location:** St. Ignace, MI
- **Owners:** April & Dan Larente
- **Website:** Look for us on Facebook
- **Phone:** 906.984.2290

April and Dan Larente opened this NEW BUSINESS in St. Ignace just in time for the summer season. Check them out on Facebook or stop by the restaurant in person for a full menu of fresh food and great patio seating!
Broadband in the EUP

In 2016, with guidance from the EUP Intermediate School District (ISD) Director of Technology, Jason Kronemeyer, and Lighthouse Internet General Manager, Steve Mason, MEA conducted its “Bridge the Tech Divide” broadband survey in Brevort, Clark and Portage Townships, and worked closely with residents and business owners in each community to collect responses in order to identify areas currently unserved or underserved by local internet providers. This project specifically targeted Mackinac County communities, and was carried out in tandem with the larger-scale broadband survey study, conducted by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission (EUPRPDC), through which data from the entire Eastern Upper Peninsula region was collected and mapped to uncover broadband deficiencies. Both surveys have revealed widespread need for new and upgraded services to rural residents in the EUP.

According to Jason Kronemeyer, these survey efforts have contributed valuable information for obtaining support from local providers and federal funding agencies. “What our region is in need of is a higher capacity network. We currently have a lack of in-ground fiber miles, a lack of distribution facilities on existing fiber routes and an overall lack of bandwidth,” said Kronemeyer. “Right now it takes 72 hours to conduct a routine back up of files for sites in Detour and Drummond Island because of the deficit in network capacity of existing fiber.”

In the late 1980’s, the EUP ISD was a key player in the formation of the EUP Telecommunications Project, a tri-county consortium project in which schools and providers collaborated to construct a real-time audio-visual network for interactive distance learning among students in sites throughout the EUP. Through these efforts, every site was connected to shared, fiber optic network, which still comprises the basis of broadband network connectivity in the EUP. As Kronemeyer explained, “Today, any broadband expansion rides on the lanes of the original fiber optic network, which has been in the ground now for 25 years and simply does not have enough capacity to meet the needs of community members in Mackinac, Luce and Chippewa counties.”

The proposed solution to this problem, initiated by the EUP ISD and fueled by recent survey efforts conducted by MEA and EUPRPDC, is the formation a new tri-county consortium, the EUP Cooperative Technical Services Network. This network of partners, comprised of non-profit organizations, private companies, educational institutions, libraries, health organizations and local government agencies in Mackinac, Luce and Chippewa counties, will provide improved internet access to EUP households, businesses, agencies and organizations on a shared, community-owned, community-operated fiber optic network. While there would be up-front costs to consortium member organizations to cover the costs of network buildouts and upgraded internet services, over time consortium members would significantly reduce their current broadband spending. Merit Network, Inc., a Michigan non-profit organization providing discounted computer networking services to educational, governmental, health care and non-profit organizations, owns a large portion of the in-ground fiber currently connecting schools and other organizations in the EUP and is able to provide its services through the FCC-funded “E-Rate” program. The E-Rate discount is available to communities in regions where a high percentage of students qualify for free or discounted lunches. This is significant for the EUP where 40-60% of students qualify for free lunches and 70-90% of students qualify for discounted lunches, meaning that member organizations in the new tri-county consortium would be able to purchase internet at a discounted E-Rate from the EUP ISD.

In order to construct the new network which would allow broad based, tri-county access to high-capacity internet services, several new distribution points need
to be added to existing fiber. These distribution points act like on and off ramps on a highway, allowing rural residents and businesses access to the main fiber routes. All existing distribution points are currently owned by private providers, which is a significant barrier to public network access and control. By adding more community-owned distribution points to an expanded community-operated network, EUP residents will be able to collectively access and manage their internet resources, and eventually train a local workforce to operate and maintain these systems. Through Career Technical Education courses in computer science, students will have increased opportunities to train and work locally within the newly constructed network, helping our communities to attract and retain a young workforce. The construction of a community-owned network will also allow EUP Townships operate their emergency services autonomously.

In July 2016, Kronemeyer applied for grant funding, in the amount of $2 million, to facilitate the buildout of the new network and increased distribution points. This approval of this funding is still pending, but is expected to be approved by early summer. Once approved, the EUP ISD will file a Request For Proposals (RFP), to open up the bidding process to local providers for the network build, introducing much needed competition among private companies in our area to better serve local needs. For now, it is important that schools, libraries, hospitals, governments, non-profit organizations and for profit businesses come together in support of the EUP Cooperative Technical Services Network. The more collaboration we are able to foster among organizations in this project, the more significant local results we will see. To voice your support and become actively involved in this tri-county cooperative, please contact MEA using the information listed at the end of the newsletter, or get in touch with Jason Kronemeyer of the EUP ISD directly, at: jasonk@eupschools.org.

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**Small Business Assistance**

**Program Description**

The Mackinac Economic Alliance (MEA) works closely with trained and certified business consultants to offer you guidance in your business planning process and to provide tools and resources that will help your business succeed.

If you are in need of funding for your business start-up or expansion, contact us for details on our **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**. Created through a USDA grant and generous donations from Mackinac County banks and businesses, the RLF program is based on job creation and is designed to help businesses expand in Mackinac County. Our loan fund covers between $2,000-$16,000, and one job must be created or retained for each loan granted. A loan above $10,000 must create or retain 2 jobs. Visit our [webpage](#) to read more or to download your application.

Whether you are a start-up or an existing business we can help. Our staff can provide free, personalized, one-on-one assistance in areas such as:

- Developing a business or marketing plan
- Financial planning
- Skills management
- Problem Solving
- Building Management Skills

**To meet with an MEA Representative call:**
Anne Ottaway, MEA Executive Director  
(517) 667-0437

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Business Development

Mackinac Economic Alliance is pleased to sponsor a workshop for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs on May 9, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. till noon at the St. Ignace Library. Come and learn “How to Start and Grow Your Business”.

Presented by local business professionals and Tipp of the Mitt SCORE counselors, this workshop is designed to offer you practical aspects of how to get started and how to sustain commercial momentum.

Mentoring small business owners since 1964, SCORE has helped millions of small business owners get off the ground, grow, and achieve their goals. SCORE mentors have real-world business experience and have faced the same challenges and decisions confronting entrepreneurs today.

Attendance fee $20.00. A workbook is included. Register by calling (269) 436-0520.

Contact Us:

MEA would love to hear from you! Please use the contact information below to get in touch with our board.

Mackinac Economic Alliance
P.O. Box 361
Cedarville, MI 49719
Ph: (517) 667-0437
mackinaceconomicalliance@gmail.com
www.mackinaceconomicalliance.org

MEA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose existence depends on the generous contributions of our public and private partners. We hope you will consider making a tax deductible contribution to MEA. Kindly mail it to our offices. Thank you!

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