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Five Community Grants Awarded from Graymont Mining Fund

Engadine Consolidated Schools, Garfield Township, Hendricks Township, Hudson Township, and the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, all in the west end of Mackinac County have received grants from the Graymont Community and Economic Development Fund for five community projects that will reflect economic improvement and community vitality in Mackinac County. Mackinac Economic Alliance announced the grants, which total \$100,000.

The Graymont Community and Economic Development Fund Committee met at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway April 15 to evaluate 15 grant applications from area government and nonprofit organizations. Prior to their meeting, the nine-member Graymont Fund Grant Review Committee reviewed and scored each application. Following discussion on ranking and apportioning the \$100,000 available for grants in 2016, the committee recommended awarding the following grants to these organizations: \$12,000 to Engadine Consolidated Schools for capital improvements; \$12,500 to Garfield Township for a generator for the township's community emergency shelter; \$20,000 to Hendricks Township for the construction of additional truck and ambulance bays at the township's fire hall; \$20,000 to Hudson Township for exterior renovations to the township hall, and \$30,000 to the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum for the expansion of the museum and conference room facilities.

As part of their Land Transaction Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources, Graymont Mining agreed to donate \$500,000 to a Community and Economic Development Fund over a period of five years. In its role as the sole economic development organization in Mackinac County, the nonprofit Mackinac Economic Alliance was asked by Graymont to organize and administer the fund. Having worked in close partnership with Graymont to gather broad based community support for their Rexton project, the Mackinac Economic Alliance participated to continue efforts to advance economic and community development in areas surrounding the project.

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