

Pure Ludington

Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

FALL 2016 EVENTS AND NEWS *September–November*

MEDIA CONTACT: Kim Skeltis, APR; 616-419-8385; kim@blueblazepr.com

FALL EVENTS

GO GREEN! – GO BLUE! Shoreline Cruise on the S.S. Badger, Sept. 4, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. (board at 7:45 p.m.) <http://www.ssbadger.com/schedule-fares/shoreline-cruises-2016.html#September4>. Space is limited in this second annual tradition where passengers cruise the Ludington shoreline and celebrate their collegiate spirit. Ticket price includes Badger Party Buffet and soft drinks, and a cash bar is available. Adult tickets \$39; kids \$20; kids under 5 are free.

Scottville Harvest Festival, Sept. 15-17, www.facebook.com/pages/Scottville-Harvest-Festival. Head to downtown Scottville for this three-day annual Harvest Festival including the ever-popular Ox Roast plus queen's coronation on Thursday; a quilt show, children's carnival and live music in the entertainment tent Friday and Saturday; and the Grand Parade at 1 p.m. Saturday featuring the Scottville Clown Band, among other highlights.

Zonta's Ladies Night Out, Sept. 23, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m., downtown Ludington. www.zonta15.org/ludington.html or www.facebook.com/ludingtonareazonta. Back by popular demand, this ladies night out combines the fun of completing shopping with an afterglow party. Put together your team of three to five ladies, come up with a team name and theme, and dress accordingly. Entry fee is \$10 per person through Sept. 19 or \$12 per person after, with all proceeds benefiting a human trafficking awareness project.

Lumber Day at Historic White Pine Village, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Historic White Pine Village. www.masoncountyhistoricalsociety.com/lumber-day. The lumber industry and how it affected the area makes Mason County unique, and Lumber Day brings that history to life. All buildings will be open (including the old-fashioned ice cream parlor), with most staffed with volunteers for interpretive talks. \$12 for adults, \$9 for youth 6-17 years old, and free under five.

The Dallas Brass, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m., Hart Middle School Auditorium. www.westshore.edu/cascade/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts. One of America's foremost musical brass ensembles plays a repertoire of classical masterpieces, Dixieland, swing, Broadway, Hollywood and patriotic music.

Octoberfest Music and Craft Beer Festival presented by Bell's, Oct. 7-8, Downtown Ludington. www.downtownludington.org/belloctoberfest. This fourth annual festival features live music, beer tasting and delicious food. Highlights include a chili cook-off, family activities, live music and a pub crawl. General admission includes a glass Bell's beer stein and two drink tokens: \$25 online before Oct. 7, \$30 at the gate. Weekend admission: \$35. Schedule/activities:

- Friday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m. – Pub Crawl, participating downtown establishments
- Saturday, Oct. 8 –
 - 12 - 2 p.m.: Chili Walk, downtown
 - 12 - 3 p.m.: Family Fun, James Street Plaza (kids' art projects, pumpkin decorating, etc.)
 - 3 - 10 p.m.: Bell's beer on tap and live music featuring Joe Hertler & The Rainbow Seekers and the Chardon Polka Band; parking lot adjacent to Community Garden

Michigan State University Bebop Spartans, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. West Shore Community College Center Stage Theater, Scottville. www.westshore.edu/cascade/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts. The next generation of great American jazz musicians is represented in this spectacular ensemble. Improvisation, bebop, swing, blues and soul are just a few genres performed.

Haunted Village, Oct. 22, 3 - 7 p.m. Historic White Pine Village, Ludington. www.masoncountyhistoricalsociety.com/haunted-village. Kids in costume can trick-or-treat at the historic buildings in this kid-friendly, non-scary event. Wear a costume and bring a trick-or-treating bag and flashlight. A costume contest for kids 12 and under offers prizes for the funniest and scariest costumes. Admission is free for kids 11 and younger and \$5 for those 12 and older. All children must be accompanied by an adult for admission.

Haunted Fairgrounds, Oct. 21-22, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Mason County Fairgrounds, www.masoncountyfairgrounds.com. This free, family-friendly event takes visitors on tractor-pulled wagons on a path around the fairgrounds plus a walk under the grandstands, with local National Honor Society students representing area high schools playing ghosts and goblins. Donations are accepted to support NHS projects.

ROCKTOBER – Night of Fright 4, Oct. 29, 6 - 11 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, Ludington. ludingtonartscenter.org. Hosted by Ludrock, this is a night of rock 'n' roll and Halloween fun for adults. Enjoy live music and a cash bar complete with Starving Artist Brewing pouring beers. Sport your best costume for the costume contest. Tickets are \$5, and proceeds support the Arts Center.

Downtown Ludington Halloween Festivities, Oct. 29. www.downtownludington.org/halloween. Activities:

- ***Run For Your Lives Fun Mile*** at 10 a.m., 5K at 10:15 a.m. at James Street Plaza (5K entry fee of \$25 includes race shirt and custom finishers medal for first 100 people to finish)
- ***Costume Parade*** (starts at Mason County Courthouse), 2 p.m.
- ***Downtown Trick-or-Treating***, 2-4 p.m.
- ***After Party***, 4 p.m., Mason County District Library

Godspell, Nov. 4-5 and 11-12, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 6 and 13, 2 p.m. West Shore Community College Center Stage Theater, Scottville. www.westshore.edu/cascade/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts. A three-time Grammy and Academy Award-winning musical that took the world by storm, Godspell features a parade of favorite songs including "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well" and "By My Side."

Sean Bott, Mindreader/Comedian, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. West Shore Community College Center Stage Theater, Scottville. www.westshore.edu/cascade/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts. A mix between Jack Black and Criss Angel, Sean's mental feats are awesome as is his comedic timing, improvisational skill and hilarious character voices that win over audiences.

Aglow on the Avenue Parade & Holiday Market, Nov. 26, events throughout day, downtown Ludington. www.DowntownLudington.org/aglow. Highlights include:

- ***Breakfast with Santa***: 9 a.m. - noon, Old Hamlin Restaurant
- ***7th Annual Holiday Craft Show***, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts. ludingtonartscenter.org. Annual arts and crafts show featuring 30 artists with handmade items for sale.
- ***Small Business Saturday***: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., downtown. Downtown merchants offer deals on holiday gifts.
- ***Parade Open House***, Mason County District Library, 4 - 6 p.m.
- ***Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting***, 6 p.m., Ludington Avenue and James Street Plaza.
- ***Visit with Santa***: After the parade, Sandcastles Children's Museum

U-PICK FARMS, FALL CULINARY EVENTS, RESTAURANTS

Christofferson Farms – 3441 S Morton Rd., Ludington, www.facebook.com/Christoffersonfarms. Grows a variety of cherries, peaches, and other tree-ripened fruits available for “u-pick” and to purchase.

Fox Barn Market & Winery – 500 S 18th Ave, Shelby, FoxBarnWinery.com. The Fox Barn offers many locally produced food items, fresh produce, wine tasting, wine-themed gifts and other trinkets.

The Jam Farm – 5075 W Meisenheimer Rd., www.facebook.com/Lois.jamlady. Taste or buy more than 30 varieties of jams made by the “Jam Lady” using fresh fruit grown on her farm.

Kistlercrest Farms – 4049 S Pere Marquette Hwy, Ludington, www.facebook.com/pages/Kistlercrest-Farms. A fifth-generation family farm growing sweet and tart cherries, apples and produce plus pure maple syrup.

Lewis Farm Market & Petting Farm – 4180 West M-20, New Era, www.LewisFarmMarket.com. Families will enjoy fresh fruits and seasonal attractions like the corn maze and petting farm on this fourth-generation, family owned fruit farm.

Orchard Market – 8418 N US Highway 31 in Free Soil and 212 S. Pere Marquette Hwy. in Ludington, www.orchardmarket.us. This roadside market is full of u-pick produce, bakery items, homemade jams and salsas and fall-themed items like cider, pumpkins, squash and other fall produce. The larger market in Free Soil also features a sit-down deli and fudge shop.

COLOR DRIVES AND TRAILS

Whether hiking, biking or driving, these routes will immerse you in the region’s fall colors.

Color Tour - Driving or Biking – This fall color tour (<http://pureludington.com/documents/MGOcolortour-Mason-2015.pdf>) will take you by car or bike through downtown, along the shore of Lake Michigan and along country roads. Don't forget your camera and tag your photos #pureludington.

Ludington State Park - Hiking, Biking and Paddling – This 5,300-acre recreation destination is a paradise to view fall colors up close. Explore 21 miles of trails, a canoe trail, Hamlin Lake, Big Sable River and more than 5,300 acres of unspoiled natural forest. You can also camp in one of the park’s 352 sites or three mini cabins.

Other Walking/Cycling Trails –

- [Ludington School Forest](#) offers more than five miles of urban biking and hiking trails. This is a convenient spot to get outdoors and take in the autumn sights and sounds.
- [Cartier Park](#) is another popular in-town trail system in a 68-acre natural area with a paved, one-mile walking/cycling loop plus a **new, four-mile singletrack mountain biking loop**.

Mason County Cultural Trail Driving Routes – Road travelers can see fall colors while learning about the area’s culture and history by driving a self-guided [Mason County Cultural Trail](#) with cell phone-accessible narration. Tour routes include the [Lumber Heritage Trail](#) with 14 stops ranging from lumber baron homes to historic cemeteries, the [Barn Quilt Trail](#) and [Agricultural Trail](#). Seventeen stops on the Agricultural Trail include autumn-themed Orchard Market for fall produce; and five-generation Kistlercrest Farms with apples from its orchard and homemade maple syrup for sale. Information is available at pureludington.com/MasonCountyCulturalTrails.cfm.

Wagon Ride through Amber Elk Ranch – For a unique fall experience, take a wagon ride through 130 acres of beautiful pastureland to see cows, spikers, calves, and bull elk up close. Open weekends through Oct. 16, Saturdays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sundays 1 – 6 p.m. 2688 W. Conrad Rd. www.amberelkranch.com. \$10 for adults, \$7 for children ages 4 to 12, free for children ages 3 and under. Group rates available.

LEAF PEEPING/COLOR PEAK

Autumn in Ludington is a magical time of year. Arches of orange, red and yellow paint the otherwise evergreen landscape and perfectly complement the sparkling blue waters of the lakes they surround. And the sunsets become even more brilliant in autumn, if that even seems possible. Ludington’s fall color peak usually hits in late September through the first couple weeks of October. But depending on weather, leaves can hold on a little longer with the lake effect. Contact the Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-542-4600 to check on real-time fall color status before your travels.

LODGING PACKAGES AND DEALS

Various Ludington-area hotels are featuring a fall lodging discount in September and October of 50 percent off a second night stay (*excludes Fridays and Saturdays*). Participating hotels can be found at <http://pureludington.com/FallSpecial.cfm>.

NEW ADDITIONS

Ludington offers some new culinary experiences, businesses and even a new technical mountain biking trail:

SPECIALTY GROCER - Biercamp Market, 222 W. Ludington Ave., www.facebook.com/biercampmarketludington. This newly opened specialty grocery and meat shop in downtown Ludington offers a full-service deli, fresh produce, in-house meats, coffee bar and pastries, plus a full wine and beer selection. The store will soon offer its own [house beer](#) brewed at its [sister store in Ann Arbor](#), as well as [Big Hart Brewing](#) beer on tap to enjoy while shopping or to take home in growlers.

GOURMET DOUGHNUT SHOP - Cops & Doughnuts McDonald's Precinct, 103 E Dowland St., <https://copsdoughnuts.com> and www.facebook.com/McDonaldsPrecinct. The latest “precinct” in the famed Cops & Doughnuts business begun by nine police officers who saved Clare’s only doughnut shop from going out of business, this new location is in Ludington’s historic McDonald’s Bakery in operation since 1898. Treats range from Bacon Squealer and Felony Fritter doughnuts, to cookies, to coffee.

FROZEN YOGURT/CANDY - Krave Frozen Yogurt & Candy Shoppe, 103 E Ludington Ave., www.facebook.com/kravefroyo. Featuring 12 different flavors of soft serve artisan frozen yogurt and more than 40 toppings, this shop lets you build your own custom sundae. Krave also sells gourmet candy and other treats.

SOUTHERN RESTAURANT - Table 14 – 130 W. Ludington Ave., www.facebook.com/table14restaurant. This newly opened upscale bistro serves an eclectic and seasonal menu with a southern twist. Currently open for lunch 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., with dinner added soon.

MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAIL – Cartier Park – Opening up in this fall for the first time in this 68-acre natural area is a new, four-mile singletrack mountain biking loop – giving mountain biking enthusiasts 10 miles of designated technical trail riding within Ludington’s city limits between this new Cartier Park trail plus the School Forest Trail.

OPENING IN LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER – Timbers Bar & Grill, 320 S James St., www.timbersofludington.com. This upscale gastro pub with historic and American flare will feature broasted chicken and potato wedges and delicious homemade side dishes. Alcoholic beverages include specialty and craft beer and domestic on tap. Menu choices will change with the seasons. The restaurant also will feature a second-floor (The Timber Loft), sports and entertainment lounge plus a two-story deck overlooking the marina where you can watch the S.S. Badger go in and out. Hours: Sunday 12-6 p.m., Monday through Wednesday 11 a.m. - midnight, Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.

OPENING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER – Ludington Bay Brewing Company, 519 S. James St., www.ludingtonbaybrewingco.com. This new microbrewery and taproom will open a block south of Ludington’s first brew pub, Jamesport Brewing Co. The building is projected to be 8,048 square feet, with 6,248 square feet of brewing/distribution and an 1,800 square-foot tap room. A 1,408-square-foot patio also is planned. Craft beer enthusiasts can expect a selection of 10 or so beers on draft upon first opening, with the eventual goal of 20-plus beers on tap, including IPAs, pale ales and amber ales, wheat beers, seasonal selections, and dark beers such as porters and stouts; and cider. A unique offering of appetizers plus soups, pizzas, grilled entrees and sandwiches also will be available.

OTHER FALL RECREATIONAL OFFERINGS

With unspoiled natural resources and unrivaled outdoor recreation, fall is great time to explore Ludington through a number of activities, including the following:

Camping – [Ludington State Park](#) is Michigan’s premier camping destination and the #1 state park in Michigan in terms of most booked campground nights, offering 352 sites and three heated mini cabins with electric and modern restrooms. There are also eight non-electric tent sites and 10 rustic hike-in backpack sites with access to restrooms. While sites fill quickly between Memorial Day and Labor Day (sites can be reserved up to six months in advance), the fall season presents a wonderful time to visit this crown jewel of a park with less crowds and more opportunity to snag a site. The Ludington area features more than a dozen other private campgrounds in the area that can be found at www.pureludington.com/visitors_accomodations.cfm.

Fishing – Ludington is a top fishing port on Lake Michigan, with more fishing charters originating and more trout and salmon caught out of its port each year than any other in Michigan. Fall is a favorite time to fish in Mason County. Some of the biggest fish of the year are landed during September, when huge numbers of mature king salmon prepare for their upstream migration and return to the rivers in which many of them were spawned. October and November bring fantastic steelhead, when boat traffic is at a minimum and you might have the whole lake (and steelhead) to yourself. Anglers head to Pere Marquette River in late fall for steelhead.

Canoeing/Kayaking – With Mason County boasting 40 inland lakes and 2,000 miles of streams, it’s not just Lake Michigan that lures visitors. The 66-mile Pere Marquette River (Michigan’s first designated National Wild and Scenic River) makes for a stunning paddling route in the fall as it carves through breathtaking scenery from wetlands to hardwoods. Paddlers can enjoy a lazy day floating down the river on a canoe or kayak, or put in some muscle exploring miles of the river. Six public access sites are scattered along the river in Mason County, and outfitters can suggest routes based on experience. Beginning paddlers and families may enjoy the Pere Marquette River Loop, a scenic 1.5- to 2-hour paddle that starts and ends from canoe/kayak outfitter [Pere](#)

[Marquette Expeditions](#). More experienced paddlers may prefer to put in at Bowman Bridge west of Baldwin to ride the currents of the Rainbow Rapids. For those who want to make an overnight of it, start in Walhalla or Baldwin and paddle to the Ludington public access site, camping along the riverbank at [Scottville Riverside Park Campground](#) or [Henry's Landing Campground and Canoe Rental](#), accessible from the Scottville public access site.

ABOUT LUDINGTON

Located on the shores of Lake Michigan with miles of beachfront and water access, Ludington offers a quintessential “Up North” experience. Ludington and surrounding Mason County deliver the perfect combination of unspoiled natural resources and unrivaled outdoor recreation with quaint, small-town charm. And it’s all within easy reach, located at the intersection of U.S. 31 and U.S. 10. Come to Pure Ludington – Up North close by. For information on the Ludington area including lodging, events, and other tools to help plan your next Ludington getaway, visit [PureLudington.com](#) or call (800) 542-4600.

###