

Pure Ludington

Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

LATE SUMMER/FALL 2017 EVENTS AND NEWS

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NEW THIS SEASON

Michigan Lighthouse Festival, Aug. 25-27, various Ludington locations

Michiganlighthousefestival.com. This annual Michigan festival that started in 2015 comes to Ludington in honor of Big Sable Point Lighthouse's 150th anniversary. Featured events (some require a fee and reservation) include:

- **Michigan lighthouse presentation, dinner and lecture by "Ladies of the Lights" author Patricia Majher**, Aug. 25, 5 - 9 p.m., Stearns Motor Inn. The \$30 ticket (purchase at michiganlighthousefestival.com/dinner) includes a cash bar at 5, lighthouse presentation by Todd & Brad Reed Photography at 6 p.m., buffet dinner at 7 p.m. and lecture by author Patricia Majher at 8 p.m., who will also sell signed copies of her book.
- **"Storm" Concert with Ric Mixer and Dan Hall**, Aug. 26, 7 p.m., Peterson Auditorium, Ludington High School. This two-hour concert features contemporary songs, imagery and stories about the Great Lakes and its past sailors. Ric Mixer has been featured on the History and Discovery channels as an expert on Great Lakes storms, touring as one of the most popular shipwreck lecturers. Tickets are \$20 in advance at michiganlighthousefestival.com/concert.html or \$22 at the door.
- **Lighthouse-themed arts and crafts/information fair**, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Aug. 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fifty vendors will sell lighthouse and maritime items to support various lighthouse organizations.
- **Other weekend activities** including an Afternoon Concert at Big Sable with Oceana Drive Trio Aug. 26, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. and Bus Day to Big Sable Aug. 26, 12 - 5 p.m. (See more information below.)

Big Sable Point Lighthouse 150th Anniversary, events through November, Ludington State Park

Splka.org. This iconic black-and-white lighthouse built in 1867, the second tallest on Lake Michigan's eastern shore and one of the oldest continuously working in Michigan, turns 150 years old in 2017. Anniversary events take place through November, including:

- **Afternoon Concerts at Big Sable:**
 - *Oceania Drive Trio*, Aug. 26, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. This local trio brings years of musical experience, playing a mix of acoustic blues, country, jazz and folk.
 - *Jim Novak & Paul Cerny*, Sept. 23, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. 60's Folk guitarist original from the Chicago area playing a unique blend of soft rock, blues folk and hauntingly beautiful ballads.
- **Bus Days to Big Sable**, Aug. 26 and Sept. 23, 12 - 5 p.m. Round trip bus transportation is offered at \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under from the building next to the park office to the lighthouse (normally a 1.5-mile walk each way).
- **Halloween at Big Sable**, Oct. 28, 1 - 4 p.m. for daytime activities, 6 - 8:30 p.m. for haunted lighthouse. This family-friendly afternoon event will be followed by an evening haunted lighthouse. The admission price (TBD) will include a bus ride to and from the lighthouse.
- **Big Sable 150th Birthday Party**, Nov. 1, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Help celebrate Big Sable Point's 150th birthday with a dedication ceremony at noon with speakers and cake, free buses running 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Ludington State Park to the lighthouse (normally a 1.5-mile walk), and free tower tours all day.

OTHER EVENTS

For a complete list of events by month, visit pureludington.com/events.

SEPTEMBER

First Friday Art Walk, Sept. 1, 5 - 7 p.m. (also Oct. Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1), downtownludington.org/artwalk. Visitors can stroll the downtown streets and explore Ludington's galleries and stores, view art and meet artists. Stops may feature refreshments, live music, demonstrations and activities.

Stratford on the Avenue Theatre Festival, Sept. 1 & 2 at 7 p.m., Sept. 3 at 2 p.m.; Rotary Park band shell. facebook.com/stageleftcompany. This non-profit local acting company will perform Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" and "Romeo & Juliet" (abridged version) in this annual outdoor festival that benefits a local nonprofit. This year's beneficiary is the Lakeshore Food Club, and auction items also will be available. Tickets are \$5 for students/children and seniors, and \$7 for adults. Tickets can be purchased on site or at Eventbrite.com.

Indoor Juried Fine Art Fair, Sept. 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., ludingtonartscenter.org. This is a juried fine art fair, held indoors in the Main Gallery area, features fine artists in painting, fabric work, pottery, jewelry and multi-media. Admission is suggested donation of \$1.

GO GREEN! – GO BLUE! Shoreline Cruise on the S.S. Badger, Sept. 3, 9 - 11 p.m. (board at 8:30 p.m.) ssbadger.com/schedule-fares/shoreline-cruises-2017. Space is limited in this popular annual tradition where passengers wear green or blue to show their collegiate spirit while cruising the Ludington shoreline. The ticket price includes a Badger Party Buffet and soft drinks, DJ party and available cash bar. Adult tickets \$39; kids \$20; kids under 5 are free.

Live in the Plaza, Sept. 7 - Tom Zatarga, Sept. 14 - Michael Tocco; 5 - 8 p.m., James Street Plaza (corner of Ludington Avenue and James Street), downtownludington.org/liveintheplaza. Enjoy local, live acoustic acts on the stage in the James Street Plaza.

Sierra Hull, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m., West Shore Community College - Center Stage Theater, Scottville. westshore.edu/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts. This is genre-transcending music at its best, including folk-pop, bluegrass and acoustic music produced by mandolin and bass. With heartfelt vocals, Sierra breaks new ground on the mandolin.

Baby It's Cold Inside, Sept. 22 6 - 10 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., ludingtonartscenter.org. This fundraiser dinner-dance includes a hoe-down, autumnal equinox theme and music by Full Cord. Tickets are \$22 per LACA member couple and \$30 per non-member couple, \$11 per LACA single member and \$15 per single non-member.

Lumber Day at Historic White Pine Village, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Historic White Pine Village. Historicwhitepinevillage.org. Mason County's lumber heritage comes to life through docent-led tours of buildings and demonstrations of the sawmill, old-fashioned candle-dipping, pioneer games and more. Also a pancake brunch and pie-baking contest. \$12 for adults, \$9 for youth 6-17 years old, free under five.

Bell's Octoberfest, Sept. 29-30, Downtown Ludington, DowntownLudington.org/Octoberfest. This fifth annual festival features live music, beer tasting and delicious food. Schedule/activities:

- **Sept. 29, 5 - 8 p.m. – Bell's Pub Crawl with games.** Participants pay \$5 to visit 12 downtown Ludington bars, each featuring a game. Players who complete all the games can be entered to win prizes. Starts at Timbers Restaurant and ends at the Mitten Bar.

- **Sept. 30, 12 - 8 p.m.** Start with a chili walk 12 to 2 p.m. at downtown restaurants, followed by the main festival 2 to 8 p.m. at James Street Plaza with Bell's beer on tap, live music (polka, blues and country), lawn games, German food, contests and kids activities. \$5 entry fee into the festival area.

OCTOBER

West Shore Community College Performing Arts Series features the following October programs (westshore.edu/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts):

- ***Great Michigan Read Author, Kekla Magoon*** – Oct. 11, 12:30 p.m., West Shore Community College - Center Stage Theater. Co-author of *X: A Novel*, a reimagined narration of the youth and young adulthood of civil rights activist and Lansing native Malcolm X.
- ***Michigan State University Bebop Spartans***, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. Ludington High School - Peterson Auditorium. 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.
- ***"Grease"*** – Oct. 27-28, Nov. 3-4 & 10-11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 29, Nov. 5 & 12 at 2 p.m. West Shore Community College - Center Stage Theater. Introducing Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby socks and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical.

Haunted Village, Oct. 21, 3 - 6 p.m. Historic White Pine Village, Ludington. Historicwhitepinevillage.org/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-treat bag and flashlight. A costume contest for kids 12 and under offers prizes for funniest and scariest costumes. Admission is free for kids 11 and younger and \$5 for 12 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult for admission.

Downtown Ludington Halloween Festivities, Oct. 28. Downtownludington.org/halloween. Activities:

- ***Run for Your Lives 5K and 10K*** at 10 a.m. starting at Loomis and James Streets, DowntownLudington.org/RunLudington. On-site registration 8 - 9:45 a.m. at Ludington Pub. (\$25 for the 5K and \$30 for the 10K includes custom finisher medal).
- ***Downtown Ludington Costume Parade and Trick-Or-Treating*** – Parade starts at the Mason County Courthouse at 1:45 p.m., and trick-or-treating at downtown area businesses plus library runs 2 - 4 p.m.
- ***After Party***, 4 p.m., Mason County District Library.

Halloween at Big Sable, Oct. 28, 1 - 4 p.m. for daytime activities, 6 - 8:30 p.m. for haunted lighthouse, Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Ludington State Park. Splka.org. This family-friendly afternoon event will be followed by an evening haunted lighthouse. The admission price (TBD) will include a bus ride to and from the lighthouse.

ROCKTOBER – Night of Fright 5, Oct. 28, 6 – 11 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, Ludington. Ludrock.com. Hosted by Ludrock, this is a night of rock 'n' roll and Halloween fun for adults. Enjoy live music broadcast live on 94 K-Rock FM 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 art center.

Haunted Fairgrounds, Oct. 28-29, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Mason County Fairgrounds, 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.

NOVEMBER

Big Sable 150th Birthday Party, Nov. 1, Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Ludington State Park. splka.org. Celebrate Big Sable Point's 150th birthday with a dedication ceremony at noon with speakers and cake, free buses running 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to the lighthouse (normally a 1.5-mile walk), and free tower tours all day.

The Filharmonic, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., West Shore Community College - Center Stage Theater, Scottville. westshore.edu/community/arts_music_culture/performing_arts. "The Sing-Off" Semifinalists, "The Sing-Off" National tour, sharing the stage with Linkin Park, Black Eyed Peas and Pentatonix, then being part of the movie Pitch Perfect 2 is only the kick-off to their amazing journey.

Aglow on the Avenue Parade & Holiday Market, Nov. 25, events throughout day, downtown Ludington. DowntownLudington.org/aglow. Highlights include:

- **Breakfast with Santa**: 9 a.m. - noon, Old Hamlin Restaurant
- **Singletrack Showdown Mountain Bike Race**, 10 a.m., begins/ends at N. James and Court Streets, singletrackshowdown.com. 15-mile race that includes singletrack trails in Ludington School Forest.
- **9th Annual Holiday Craft Fair**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts. 30 artists sell items.
- **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

COLOR DRIVES AND TRAILS

Whether hiking, biking or driving, these routes will immerse you in the region's fall colors. Contact the Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-542-4600 to check on real-time fall color status before travels.

Color Tours – Ludington offers a variety of [fall color tours](#), whether you explore on foot, by car or bicycle. Here is one [driving/biking tour](#) that routes you through downtown Ludington and along the country byways.

Other options include:

- **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.
- **[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 [four-mile singletrack mountain biking loop](#).

Mason County Cultural Trail Drives – 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.

U-PICK FARMS AND FARM MARKETS

Christofferson Farms – 3441 S Morton Rd., Ludington, [Facebook.com/Christoffersonfarms](https://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., [Facebook.com/Lois.jamlady](https://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, [facebook.com/pages/Kistlercrest-Farms](https://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, LewisFarmMarket.com. 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, 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 features a sit-down deli and fudge shop.

LODGING PACKAGES AND DEALS

Various Ludington-area hotels feature 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>.

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.

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