



Economic Development Council  
of Livingston County

## QUARTERLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS 2019

# Q3

JULY - SEPTEMBER

**27** COMPANIES  
VISITED

**110** REFERRALS  
PROVIDED

2 Grants Awarded

**\$131,000**

in Livingston County

**2** PROJECTS ADDED  
TO PIPELINE

**300** HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

participated in 2019 Livingston  
Regional Manufacturing Day



Ann Arbor SPARK will advance the economy of the Ann Arbor region by establishing it as a desired place for innovation, business location and growth, and for talented people to live and work. The Ann Arbor region will be recognized for its academic, business, and community resources, and its collaborative culture. For more information visit: [www.annarborusa.org](http://www.annarborusa.org)

# Regional News



The Economic Development Council of Livingston County maintains a close relationship with private sector industry and local government to provide referrals and services that promote economic growth. This section of the quarterly report provides updates on ongoing projects and developments in the community that contribute to local prosperity.

## Livingston Regional Manufacturing Day 2019

More than 300 participants in Livingston County, including students, teachers, and chaperones, joined Ann Arbor SPARK, Mott Community College, LESA, and 13 local companies to explore career opportunities in the manufacturing industry. Livingston County Regional Manufacturing Day was one of many Manufacturing Day Celebrations across the nation, helping to advance student awareness of career opportunities in the manufacturing sector. Local employers highlighted various opportunities in manufacturing careers including skilled trades such as welding and maintenance technicians, engineering, IT/programming, quality assurance, and administrative roles including marketing and management.

The event was organized by a committee of engaged volunteers from the Chambers of Commerce, Schools, Mott Community College, Michigan Works, the Workforce Intelligence Network, and SPARK. The committee provided students with t-shirts, sling bags and booklets containing information from all participating employers. SPARK has continued to cover all costs associated with this event through grant funds which offset all transportation costs as well as lunch provided to the student groups, making this a no-cost field trip for schools.



This event would not have been the success it was without companies that are truly passionate about demonstrating the opportunities students have in the manufacturing industry. A very special thank-you to this year's participating companies: Aludyne, Armor Protective Packaging, Asahi Kasei, Bekum, Flexible Metal, Hatch Stamping, Highland Engineering, KemKrest, Mott Community College, RFM, TG Fluids, Thai Summit, and Tribar.



Once work is completed, the property will have more information for prospective users to know and potentially aid in the development process.

The supplier employs more than 4,000 people and has 22 manufacturing facilities globally including a facility in Howell.



In Fowlerville, JNB Machinery will add a 28,000 sq/ft expansion to one of their facilities in the Fowlerville Industrial Park. The expansion will allow JNB to acquire new equipment and increase production capacity.

Green Oak Township-based company Pop Daddy Popcorn was awarded a \$125,000 grant by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Through the business outreach program, SPARK staff connected Pop Daddy owner Mark Sarafa with MDARD programs and provided support in their grant application. This award will enable Pop Daddy to buy new equipment to automate and speedup their popcorn and pretzel packaging capabilities.

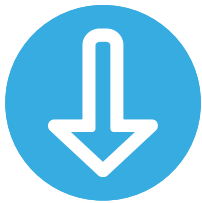


The new equipment will reduce labor costs and make packaging much faster, keeping them competitive and able to grow. Established in 2013, Pop Daddy uses locally sourced red kernels for most of their popcorn products. In 2015, the company moved into their current facility off Lemen Rd. Owner Mark Sarafa said his goal for next year with the new equipment is to produce around 1.5 million bags of popcorn and pretzels. Currently they produce about one million bags.

# Local Dashboard



The local dashboard tracks demographic trends that are important measures of economic growth and prosperity. The data is compiled from a range of sources, including the Bureau for Labor Statistics, the Census, the Livingston County Association of Realtors, and more. The trend arrow reflects the change in quarterly data, using the most recent data available, this varies by source.



## Unemployment

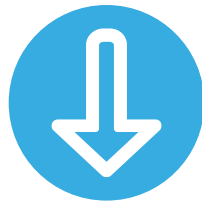
**Q2 2019**

**Michigan: 4.0**

**Livingston: 3.3**

The unemployment rate in Livingston County decreased from 3.7 in Q1 to 3.3 at the end of Q2. This is consistent with seasonal trends. The local unemployment rate remains lower than the state unemployment rate.

Source: BLS LAUS



## Wages

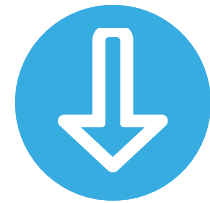
**Q1 2019**

**Michigan: \$1,078**

**Livingston: \$858**

The average weekly wage in Livingston County saw a decrease from \$924 in Q4 2018 to \$858 in Q1 2019. The average weekly wage in Livingston County remains lower than the average weekly wage statewide.

Source: BLS QCEW



## Labor Force

**Q2 2019**

**Michigan: 4,962,234**

**Livingston: 103,339**

The labor force in Livingston County decreased by about 565 people between end of Q4 2018 and Q2 2019. During the same time period, the labor force in Michigan increased by 12,000 people. The labor force consists of individuals working or seeking employment.

Source: BLS LAUS



## MFG Employment

**Q1 2019**

**Michigan: 628,978**

**Livingston: 9,840**

Employment in manufacturing remains flat in Livingston County. Employment in manufacturing increased by 3% statewide between Q4 2018 and Q1 2019.

Source: BLS QCEW



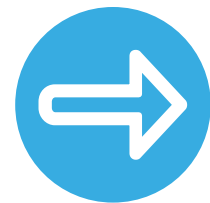
## Job Postings

**Q3 2019**

**Livingston: 9,432**

The total number of job postings in Livingston County increased by 10% between Q2 and Q3 2019.

Source: Workforce Intelligence Network



## Home Sales

**Q2 2019**

**Livingston: 895**

The number of home sales in Livingston County statistically remained the same in Q2 2019 compared to Q2 2018.

Source: LCAR





# 2019 Call Program



Company Name		Location	Company Name		Location
Q1	Hug-A-Plug	Brighton Township	Q2	FlexDex, Inc.	Brighton Township
Q1	ASTI Environmental	Brighton Township	Q2	Eberspaecher North America, Inc.	City of Brighton
Q1	Empower HR	Brighton Township	Q2	TG Fluid Systems, Inc.	City of Brighton
Q1	Thai Summit America	City of Howell	Q2	FT Techno North America	Handy Township
Q1	BD Electrical	Howell Township	Q3	ChemTrend	City of Howell
Q1	AA Gear & Manufacturing	Howell Township	Q3	CAE Incorporated	Hamburg Township
Q1	Boss Engineering	Genoa Township	Q3	SLS RFID	Howell Township
Q1	Mt. Brighton	Genoa Township	Q3	JNB Machining	Village of Fowlerville
Q1	Export Corporation	Green Oak Township	Q3	Vconverter	Green Oak Township
Q1	Carl Zeiss Industrial Metrology, LLC	Green Oak Township	Q3	Dunnage Engineering	City of Brighton
Q1	C & B Machinery	Green Oak Township	Q3	Fortech Products	Green Oak Township
Q1	Legacy Center	Green Oak Township	Q3	Flexible Metal	Hamburg Township
Q1	Total Security Solutions	Village of Fowlerville			
Q1	Asahi Kasei Plastics North America	Village of Fowlerville			
Q2	Brighton NC Machine Corporation	Green Oak Township			
Q2	Transtar Autobody Technologies	Genoa Township			
Q2	Highland Engineering	Genoa Township			
Q2	bryllan, LLC	Brighton Township			
Q2	IEC Fabrication, LLC	Village of Fowlerville			

**+ TOTAL** **\$286,767.22**

+	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$112,000</b>
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+	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$297,552</b>
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## State grant awarded for employer collaborative

A circular portrait of a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a black top and has her right hand resting under her chin. The background is a snowy, outdoor setting with some bare branches visible.

After completing the Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) academy, SPARK and the Brighton Chamber convened an employer-led collaborative to identify and address critical positions in the county's manufacturing sector. Eight employers have joined this collaborative that SPARK and Chamber staff guide using the TPM strategies.



SPARK and Chamber staff applied for a state grant to support the work of the collaborative moving through the TPM strategies including assistance in research and compiling data, marketing training opportunities, and planning for future training programs.

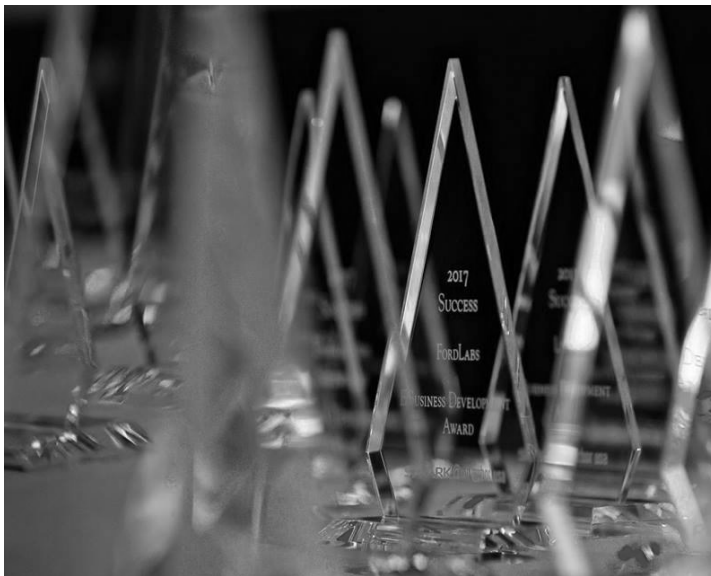
The grant award of \$63,000 will ensure the collaborative will continue using the TPM process, as well as train and retain critical positions.



# Events



Community events are a great way to make connections between local leaders, and industry to create a vibrant network of individuals committed to economic prosperity.



## FUTURE TRENDING

### 2019 State of the County Address

John E. LaBelle Public Safety Complex - Howell, Michigan  
2nd Floor Auditorium Room at 6:00 PM  
Wednesday, October 30, 2019

**Donald S. Parker**  
Chairman, Livingston County

### EDCLC Annual Meeting

November 6, 2019  
Crystal Gardens  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The Economic Development Council of Livingston County's Annual Meeting is attended by business, government, and academic leaders from across the county and provides a unique networking opportunity.

The event will recognize the top economic drivers in our community and preview new projects and initiatives for the coming year.

Keynote Speaker will be Michelle Ureste, executive director of Workforce Intelligence Network. Register online at: [bit.ly/EDCLC2019](http://bit.ly/EDCLC2019).

### State of the County Address

October 30, 2019  
2nd floor auditorium, Livingston EMS Building  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The 2019 State of the County address, titled **Future Trending**, will be given by Don Parker, Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners.

The address, which highlights regional issues that local leaders deem important for the community to be aware of, is part of Livingston County's strategic plan to engage residents and educate them on the condition of the area.

Parker says the address will provide a macro perspective, adding he'll discuss current and anticipated trends they see in the county and state, and how those trends will affect Livingston County.

## Report Definitions



## COMPANY VISITS:

Meetings with local businesses regarding their current business outlook. This is a core “economic gardening” strategy that provides opportunities for referrals like workforce development training, state-level resources, tax incentives, business development opportunities, cost reduction strategies, access to capital, etc.

## EMPLOYMENT MULTIPLIER:

Figure calculated by economic modeling through Regional Economic Models, Inc., which quantifies the indirect assistance provided through new job creation. For example, an employment multiplier of 2.0 would indicate that one new job would affect two total jobs (the new job itself, and another indirect job). Employment multipliers are based on the company's industry and investment, among other factors.

## PROJECT PIPELINE:

The project pipeline represents potential projects that have been identified, along with their current status and probability of completion.

## REFERRALS:

Referrals to outside resources or value-added services provided by staff. This could include a referral regarding a state-level program, a review to determine the feasibility of entry into a new sector, or technical assistance with local or state-level programs.



