



EXTERNAL

Newsletter

EATON COUNTY



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Department Spotlight: Central Dispatch

Who We Are – Central Dispatch (911)

What We Do/Services Offered – For both emergency and non-emergency requests, we connect our community to police, fire and medical services. Our team works 24-7, 365 days a year and trains to best prepare for any and all types of situations.

Why We Do What We Do – We play a critical role in helping save people’s lives as well as property. Central Dispatch’s role in public health and safety helps make Eaton County such a great community to live, work and play.

How to Contact Us – For emergencies, we have the easiest number to remember: 911. For non-emergencies, you can reach us at 517-543-4913 or kcunningham@eatoncounty.org.

Township Showcase:

Benton Township, Eaton County, MI

Organized in 1843, Benton Township’s original name by the Michigan Legislature was Tom Benton after the notable U.S. Senator from Missouri. The community’s name simply became Benton two years later.

Portions of three communities actually make up Benton Township – Charlotte (48813), Grand Ledge (48837) and Potterville (48876). Each share some of the best in outdoor recreation, business and community life.

Spend a day on Fox Memorial Park’s cross country ski trails or gazing at the nighttime stars at the Fox Park Public Observatory. Benton Township also is home to the Thornapple River, an 88.1-mile tributary of the Grand River that cuts through Benton Township near Pinch Highway and exits through Potterville’s I-69 crossing. After a full day of activity, stop by the famous Joe’s Gizzard City in Potterville or enjoy everything apples at Country Mill Orchard & Cider Mill.



2,766

Total Population



1,133

Households



\$90,842

Median Household Income

Based on data from the 2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

Township Supervisor: Gary Suits

Learn More at <https://bentontownship.net/>



BENTON

CHARTER TOWNSHIP | EATON COUNTY, MI

EATRAN Resumes Connector Service

Eaton County just got more mobile thanks to recent action by the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) Board resume its Connector service. The Connector service will operate from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday with Saturday service from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Buses will serve stops at the County Courthouse on Independence Boulevard in Charlotte, the old courthouse on Bostwick Street in Charlotte, and Walmart on Marketplace Boulevard in Delta Township. The 30-minute route will travel along I-69 and I-96 between the two communities. Commuters can connect to CATA's Route 3 on Marketplace Boulevard for continued eastbound travel in Delta Township or downtown Lansing. The expanded Connector service will result in 14 additional hours of service each week for EATRAN.

Scheduled departure times are posted at bus stops. If arranged 24 hours in advance, Connector buses will deviate up to three-quarters of a mile from the established route for pickups beyond designated bus stops. Call 517-543-4087 to schedule a ride, or visit www.eatran.com for more details. Go to www.cata.org for Route 3 fare and service information.

Controller's Corner

The budget process is beginning! We will roll out the budget to all county offices on February 26 to begin department budget requests. We will present the personnel budget estimates in March, and then office requests will be presented to Ways and Means on April 12. We welcome participation and feedback during this process. We will post the Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget schedule later this month for those who want to get involved. - CS

Eaton County Fun Fact

Did you know that there are over 900 farms covering 200,000 acres of land in Eaton County? Of those farms, 97% are family owned and 55% practice conservation stewardship!



Soybeans for beans claim the title as the #1 crop in acres while milk from cows is the top for sales in the livestock, poultry and products category.

Sources: Eaton Conservation District & USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture.

Have a fun or interesting fact? Share with Logan Bailey at lbailey@eatoncounty.org.

Eaton County Land Bank Authority Gets to Work



Formed in 2019, the Eaton County Land Bank Authority (ECLBA)'s efforts were stifled and forced to delay many economic development and acquisition plans when the pandemic hit in 2020. ECLBA Board Chair and County Treasurer Bob Robinson could not be more excited about the possibilities the future holds as the ECLBA works to acquire funding to develop new housing and secure opportunities for the County.

"We have an eager and motivated leadership team," said Robinson. "We work to maximize impact for the entire County by leveraging grant funds and not being afraid to do the work."

The ECLBA Board also includes Vice Chair Bryan Myrkle, Becky Dolman, Andrea Cascarilla, and Chair Jim Mott of the Eaton County Board of Commissioners. Current projects include work on housing redevelopment and rehabilitation in Sunfield, which involves an approximately \$500,000 demolition project.

The Eaton County Land Bank operates in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Board meetings are scheduled for the 4th Wednesday each month. For more info, visit Eaton County Land Bank Authority | Eaton County, MI or contact Chairperson Bob Robinson at rrobinson@eatoncounty.org.

Picture of the Month



We live and work in one of the most picturesque counties in Michigan. From rolling farmlands dotted with iconic red barns to welcoming main streets that welcome us to shop locally, Eaton County has it all. We invite you to share your favorite snapshots showcasing our county. Send photos and a brief description to communication@eatoncounty.org to feature in upcoming newsletters and county communications.

Have something to add? Reach out!
communication@eatoncounty.org

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