

## Upcoming Events

**October 27**

**5x5 Nights**

**Test the power of your Startup idea**

**Hosted by:** Emerge West Michigan

**Location:** The Start Garden

40 Pearl Street NW

Grand Rapids MI

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**More Information:** [Here](#)

**October 28**

**GROW Micro-loan Seminar**

**Location:** GVSU/MAREC

200 Viridian Drive, Muskegon

**Time:** 12:00 PM or 6:00 PM

**RSVP:** click [Here](#)

or call Jamaal Ewing at 616-458-3404

**November 10**

**Making it in Michigan**

**Conference & Premier**

**Specialty Food Marketplace**

**Trade Show**

**Host by:** The MSU Product Center

**Location:** The Lansing Center

333 E Michigan Avenue, Lansing

**Time:** 7:30 AM— 4:30 PM

**More Information:** [Here](#) or call Greta

McKinney at 517-353-7185 or

email: mckin134@msu.edu

**December 4**

**Get Paid Buying & Selling Overseas!**

**Hosted by:** VanAndel Global Trade Center

**Location:** 50 Front Avenue SW

Grand Rapids

**Time:** 8:00—10:00 AM

**RSVP:** 616-331-6811 or [www.vagtc.org](http://www.vagtc.org)

**January 29, 2016**

**Save the Date:**

**2016 Economic Forecast**

**Hosted by:** Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce

**Location:** Holiday Inn

939 3rd St, Muskegon

**Time:** 7:30 AM— 9:00 AM



## Muskegon County Casino in Fruitport Township

Proposed by Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Fruitport Township, MI— The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) plans to develop a casino in its southern tribal territory in Muskegon County. The proposed gaming site is at the former Great Lakes Downs racetrack site in Fruitport Township. A casino would be a great addition to Muskegon County's numerous tourist attractions. With its largest population base in the Muskegon region, the Tribe's goals are job creation and economic development.

The proposed Tribal casino is expected to generate approximately 1,200 jobs. The Tribe is planning to place 60 acres of its site in Fruitport Township in a "trust" for casino development.

A Tribal casino would be an economic catalyst for the region and for Michigan, and will:

- Create an estimated 215 indirect construction jobs
- Create an estimated 1,200 direct jobs
- \$180 million LRBOI investment will encourage growth
- Provide a steady flow of revenue for the Michigan School Aid Fund
- Insure that a Muskegon tribal casino would contribute to state and local revenues at the highest rate of any tribal casino in the state
- Will expand year-round tourism



The Project will include:

- 1,700 slot machines
- 35 table games
- Restaurants: 250 seat buffet, 80 seat specialty restaurant, 100 seat 24 hour café, 50 seat sports bar, 50 seat deli & food court
- 220 room hotel

For more information about this project, visit [www.muskegonjobsnow.org](http://www.muskegonjobsnow.org)



## 3rd Quarter 2015 Economic Indicators

### Labor Market Workforce Muskegon County

SEP 2015	N/A
AUG 2015	77,895
JUL 2015	78,709
SEP 2014	76,411

### Unemployment Rate Muskegon County

SEP 2015	N/A
AUG 2015	5.2%
JUL 2015	6.3%
SEP 2014	6.4%

### New Businesses Registered Muskegon County

SEP 2015	46
AUG 2015	41
JUL 2015	57
SEP 2014	52

### Gov't Contracts Awarded West Michigan

<i>3rd Quarter 2015</i>	\$40,353,416 (Jul, Aug, Sep)
<i>3rd Quarter 2014</i>	\$37,953,881 (Jul, Aug, Sep)

### Stock Market Indexes

DOW (↓)	17,489.16
NASDAQ (↓)	4,920.05
S&P (↓)	2,052.51

### Prime Lending Rate

SEP 2015	3.25%
AUG 2015	3.25%
JUL 2015	3.25%
SEP 2014	3.25%



The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has initiated the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential environmental consequences of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' (Tribe) application for the proposed casino project. For the purpose of the EIS, the BIA will serve as the Lead Agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The BIA issued a Notice of Intent on September 21, 2015 which opened the public scoping period to identify potential issues, concerns, and alternatives to be considered in the EIS. The public scoping meeting was held on Thursday, October 15, 2015, at Fruitport Middle School Auditorium at 6:00pm. Comments from the 650 community representatives were overwhelmingly in favor of the casino project. "For me, it went better than I even expected," said the Little River Band's Ogema leader Larry Romanelli. "This is a probability now," he added.

Both Muskegon Area First and the County of Muskegon Government have stated support for the project as consistent with the Economic Vision established for Muskegon County.

Below is the anticipated timeline for the final Environmental Impact Statement:

#### Anticipated EIS Schedule

This schedule is provided for general information and is subject to change at any time.

- Scoping
- Publication of Notice of Intent (NOI) – September 21, 2015
- Scoping Comment Period – September 21, 2015 – October 21, 2015
- Scoping Meeting – October 15, 2015
- Scoping Report – Anticipated Winter 2015
- Draft EIS and Public Comment Period – Anticipated Fall 2016
- Final EIS – To Be Determined

For more information, please visit [www.littlerivereis.com](http://www.littlerivereis.com).



## Jobs! JOBS! Jobs! and more Jobs!

According to Burning Glass, a leader of job market analytics, in the third quarter of 2015, **349 companies** advertised **1,801 jobs** online in Muskegon County. The **top 10 companies** posting these jobs were **Mercy Health Partners/Trinity Health, Snappy Apple Farms, Alliance Home Health Care Services, HCR ManorCare, MOKA Corporation, RW Bakers, Alcoa-Howmet, Muskegon County, Port City Group, & Great Lakes Die Cast Corporation.** In the second quarter of 2015, 329 companies posted 1,859 jobs online, which is further indicative of ongoing open positions in Muskegon County. Since the beginning of the year, approximately 5,000 open positions have been posted online.

For more information or questions, please visit the West Michigan Works! website at [www.westmichiganworks.org](http://www.westmichiganworks.org) or call (231) 724-6381.