



2019

A YEAR OF SUCCESS



VAIL RUBBER TO BUILD NEW \$8.3M FACILITY IN ROYALTON TOWNSHIP



Vail Rubber Works has been headquartered in St. Joseph since 1920 and has outgrown its downtown location. Cornerstone Alliance, the MEDC and Kinexus assisted Vail with its expansion which has an expected completion date of April 2020.

"We are very excited to expand our manufacturing footprint in Royalton Township and would like to thank the MEDC, Cornerstone Alliance, and Royalton Township for helping make this a reality."

— Bill Hanley, **President of Vail Rubber Works**



\$8.3+
Million
Investment

In 2019, Vail Rubber Works expanded in Berrien County, investing more than \$8.3 Million.

113 
NEW & EXISTING JOBS
in Berrien County

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER AT CORNERSTONE ALLIANCE

POWER IN MOTION MAJOR EXPANSION

Amber Williams, owner of Power in Motion, broke ground this summer on a new 16,500 square foot addition to her burgeoning gym, resulting in 33,550 square feet. She's become one of the most prolific and recognized clients of Cornerstone Alliance's Small Business Services and Women's Business Center.



16,500
FT EXPANSION

EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT NEW OWNERSHIP

After 12 years of serving more than 150 local businesses, Steve and Debra Murray sold Express Employment. The new owners pictured below are Ryan Smith and Afiya Latham. The WBC assisted with counseling regarding buy/sell agreement, loan preparation and new ownership set-up in 2019.



HARBOR CENTER BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT

Cressy Commercial Real Estate will redevelop the iconic Harbor Center Building into more than a dozen apartments and more than 3,000 square feet of commercial space in downtown Benton Harbor.



Built in 1882 and originally referred to as the Gray Building, it underwent a face-lift in 1961 and has since been referred to as the Harbor Center Building.

In March 2019, the Benton Harbor City Commission approved the \$3 million redevelopment project, with support from the MEDC.

\$3
Million
REDEVELOPMENT

“Every new renovation adds strength to those that have gone before. Every success attracts new interest; every success adds to the unique urban fabric of downtown. The transformation of Harbor Center underscores an established trend – people want to live in downtown Benton Harbor!”

— Ken Ankli, **Benton Harbor Area Developer**

CORNERSTONE ALLIANCE AND I&M LAUNCH SMALL BUSINESS FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM

Cornerstone partnered with Indiana Michigan Power on a Façade Restoration grant program that included an I&M Energy Efficiency review. Nine grant requests were approved, and five of the nine implemented I&M’s EE audit recommendations and received over **\$5,000** in EE rebates.



Partnership with NBA athlete Wilson Chandler to restore the façade of F&M Bank and OB Hipp Building on Main Street in downtown Benton Harbor.

UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TO PURCHASE FORMER WHIRLPOOL HILLTOP OFFICE

UFCU will use the approximately **80,000-square-foot building** as its new headquarters to support the credit union’s long-term corporate growth plans, and to serve as a multi-functional space for current employees.



\$9.6
Million
Investment

- Bring Teams Together
- Attract New Talent
- First-Class Working Environment

CORNERSTONE ALLIANCE LEADS COMMUNITY-BASED CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE POPULATION IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN



Cornerstone Alliance announced an initiative to address Southwest Michigan’s biggest obstacle – stagnant population growth. Cornerstone Alliance is collaborating with community organizations, companies and individuals on an innovative recruitment campaign – Vacay-Everyday.com

“The equation for long-term success is simple – we need more people. A review of the Michigan population statistics shows that we have largely reshuffled our population instead of growing it. There are tens of thousands of people coming into our community every year. They come here to swim at the great beaches, to taste the finest wines, to eat amazing food and to enjoy cross country and downhill skiing. We hear it time and time again, that they don’t want to leave.”

— Rob Cleveland, **President & CEO of Cornerstone Alliance**



B&L INFORMATION SYSTEMS PLANS FOR RENOVATION AND EXPANSION IN BRIDGMAN

B&L Information Systems will upgrade their existing interior by adding approximately 20 workstation areas. This project has an expected completion date of May 2020.

\$1.4+
Million
Investment



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