

Quick Synopsis for Alpena County. Prepared by Target Alpena EDC. (Lee Shirer)

Doug,

Here are some positive highlights for the Alpena Area!

Our biggest project is the reopening of the Thunder Bay Manufacturing facility. A former tool and dye company for the automotive industry that closed a year ago, is now being reopened by a new company called ATI Casting Inc. ATI Casting is affiliated with Allegheny Technologies and will be producing casting for the wind turbine industry! ATI Casting will employ 150 employees.

Another major growth sector for the Alpena area is the Health sector, Alpena Regional Medical Center is the largest employer in Alpena county with 980 employees. ARMC is affiliated with U of M Hospital through its cancer center, this partnership brings state of art cancer care to Northeast Michigan. Another partnership by ARMC was with National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration which recently constructed a hyperbaric chamber for health and recreational needs. In addition to NOAA and U of M, the federal government has announced funding and is currently pursuing a location in Alpena for a Veteran's Affairs Hospital. This announcement goes hand in hand with the Business Journal article identifying Alpena as Michigan's number 1 retirement destination.

The Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary home to hundreds of shipwrecks just received a 2 million dollar appropriations from the federal government for construction of a new exhibit at the TBMS museum. Along with the US-23 Heritage Route, Northeast Michigan's recreational tourism is growing and is playing a significant role in economic development.

Economic growth in Alpena continues to be driven by small businesses and cottage industries. Alpena's natural resource base and renaissance zones has made the area attractive to many small industries specializing in alternative energies and for businesses looking to take advantage of the tax abatements!

Alpena is also home to the Air Force National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center. This facility provides training for military and civilian emergency organizations. This facility is being earmarked for significant federal funding for additional training programs for military, homeland security and civilian organizations.