

Community Profile

Alma, Michigan, is located in the geographical center of the Lower Peninsula about an hour and a half drive from major metropolitan areas such as Grand Rapids, Lansing and Midland. A rural city of about 10,000, Alma is truly "small town USA." The city is situated on the Pine River in Gratiot County, one of the premier agricultural counties in the state. Two major airports, in Lansing and Saginaw, are less than an hour away.

The city has several major industries such as Alma Products Company (auto parts), Merrill Tool (welding), Legend (trailer manufacturing) and Garr Tool (carbide cutting tools) as well as two pontoon boat factories and numerous small industries.

Alma College, a liberal arts school of 1,350 students, is known throughout the Midwest for its quality programs. The Alma Public Schools includes three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Fifteen miles away in Mt. Pleasant is Central Michigan University, a state school of 18,000 students. Also in Mt. Pleasant is a campus of Mid-Michigan Community College.

The city has an attractive downtown, with a main street lined with trees and flower boxes. On the north side of the city is a new shopping/restaurant district which includes major chain stores such as Meijer and Walmart. A short 15-minute drive to Mt. Pleasant offers most major chain cuisine and shopping.

Alma is the location of the Michigan Masonic Home, a sprawling facility serving nearly 400 elderly residents. Mid-Michigan Health has a reputation as an excellent health care facility which offers services often found only in larger hospitals. The city sponsors a library that has recently undergone a major transformation and offers many community activities.

The city is the location of an annual Gratiot County Fair for Youth as well as the annual Highland Festival and Games, a three-day Scottish event that draws thousands from the U.S. and Canada. Community Education provides a wide variety of recreational activities. Both Alma College and Alma High School have swimming pools with open swim times.

Churches in the city include most mainline denominations, as well as Catholic, Pentecostal, and Evangelical fellowships.

Alma is a quiet, safe town with pleasant parks, local farmers market, new and old residential areas, apartment complexes, and mobile home parks. It is also the start of the Fred Meijer trail that is utilized by bikers and walkers on a daily basis. Conservation Park is also home of a single track mountain bike trail. The cost of living in the area is very reasonable.

The city of Alma has much to recommend it as a good place to live and work.