FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 18, 2015

Contact: Ronda Foreman, Parks & Tourism Clerk <u>269-686-9088</u> / tourism@allegancounty.org

Award-Winning Winter Images Selected for "Picture Yourself in Allegan County" Photo Contest

(ALLEGAN, Mich) - The Allegan County Tourist Council is pleased to announce the winners in the "Picture Yourself in Allegan County" 2015 Winter Photo Contest. The winning photo in the Adult Division titled "Frosty Morning at the Todd Farm" was submitted by Wayland resident Carrie Bush and captured a magnificent winter wonderland. Her prize this season is a \$25 gift card to the LYNX Golf Course and Grill in Otsego; prize donated by the LYNX Golf Course and Grill.

A serene photo titled "Wintertide" was selected as the Youth Division winner for the 2015 Winter Photo Contest. The winning photo was submitted by fourteen year old Allison Merda of Wayland and depicted a frozen Rabbit River at the nature trail in Wayland. Her prize this season is a \$25 gift card to the LYNX Golf Course and Grill in Otsego; prize donated by the LYNX Golf Course and Grill.

The winning photos will be posted on the Tourist Council's website at <u>www.VisitAlleganCounty.com</u>, as well as the organization's Facebook group page (search Allegan County Tourist Council) and will be submitted to local newspapers along with a media release. They will also appear in the 2016 Allegan County Visitor's Guide.

The Tourist Council hopes the photo contest will inspire local residents and visitors alike to get out and capture the true flavor of the county – in pictures. All submitted images are forwarded along to members of the Tourist Council without photographer identification, to keep the judging fair.

Photos are judged in Youth (17 and under) and Adult (open to both amateurs and professionals) divisions. The next deadline is September 1st for summer images. All those with great 2015 summer photos are encouraged to enter! All entries must be in color and print submissions must be at least 8x10 in size. Attach a label to the back of the print with your name, address, phone number and email (if available). <u>Do NOT write on the photo itself.</u> Also, please do not put a backing on the photo. Digital images must be of a high resolution and must be of sufficient quality to be used in print media. Prints, negatives and CDs will be not returned, so please retain your original. Entries may be dropped off at or mailed to the Allegan County Parks Recreation & Tourism Office at 3255 122nd Avenue (Suite 103) in Allegan, 49010. Images may also be emailed to <u>tourism@allegancounty.org</u>

Questions about the contest should be directed to the Parks/Tourism office at 888-4-ALLEGAN. Complete contest rules and photo submission guidelines are available online at www.VisitAlleganCounty.com or by contacting the Parks/Tourism office.

-end-