

# County Administrator's Digest

October 7, 2011

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

County of Ottawa  
Administrator's Office  
12220 Fillmore Street  
West Olive, MI 49460  
(616) 738-4068  
avanderberg@miottawa.org  
www.miottawa.org

## **FRED VANDERLAAN**

We were saddened to learn Wednesday of the passing of Fred VanderLaan. Fred is a former County Commissioner and was Vice-Chair of the Board when I started in December of 2003. Fred was also for many years Chair of the Community Mental Health (CMH) Board. Fred's father Ray VanderLaan was an icon of County politics as a former Commissioner, Board Chair and CMH Board Chair as well.

His obituary follows:

### **Obituaries**

#### **Fred VanderLaan**

(January 4, 1955 - October 5, 2011)

After a courageous battle with cancer, Fred VanderLaan, age 56, of Hudsonville, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. His family is very proud of his determination and strength throughout his illness. He is survived by his wife, Joanne; children, Stephanie (Paul) Bloem, Kelly VanderLaan, Richard VanderLaan, Lauren VanderLaan; grandchildren, Jaxson and Grayson Bloem; brother, Phil (Kellie Oom); sister, Brenda (Nick) Van Dyke; brother-in-law Mike (Carol) Rearick; many nieces, nephews, and cousins. The

family wishes to thank the staff at Saint Mary's Hospital, especially Tracey Caven-der and those at the Richard J. Lacks Cancer Center. Funeral services will be held Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Hudsonville Reformed Church with Rev. Don Van Slyke and Rev. Dr. Cecil Martens officiating. Interment Lake Forest Cemetery. Friends may meet with the family at the VanderLaan Funeral Home on Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Richard J. Lacks Cancer Center or Harbor Humane Society.



### **TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONERS** (Mark Knudsen)

The Ottawa County Planning Commission has announced that a *Planning Commission - Basic Training Seminar* has been scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011 from 6:30 PM. to 9:30 PM. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building in the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex in West Olive.

The training session is open to planning commission members, professional planners, local government officials, students, and interested citizens who want to learn more about issues related to planning. The seminar will provide participants with an overview of the following topics: origin and use of master plans and zoning ordinances; relationships between a planning commission and a zoning board of appeals; legal responsibilities relating to the zoning and rezoning of property; factors that can lead to an unconstitutional taking of property; and elements that are critical to running an effective and efficient meeting.

The instruction for this seminar is being provided by attorneys Ronald A. Bultje, and Daniel R. Martin from the law firm of Scholten Fant. Because Scholten Fant's services are being donated, there is no charge for this event. Pre-registration is appreciated. To register for classes or obtain additional information, please contact the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department at (616) 738-4852 or at [plan@miottawa.org](mailto:plan@miottawa.org).

### **SIXTH ANNUAL WATER QUALITY FORUM**

Don't miss out on Ottawa County's Sixth Annual Water Quality Forum scheduled for November 4, 2011. The Forum promises to be thought provoking, educational and informative. Register today either by filling out the registration form included in this document or by going online to [MIottawa.org](http://MIottawa.org). The draft agenda is also included.

### **STEVE JOBS**

Apple and Pixar founder Steve Jobs also died at the age of 56 on the same day that Fred VanderLaan died. I've included the following Jobs speech on a relatively slow Digest day because I found it to be informative and inspirational:

Stanford Report, June 14, 2005

#### **'You've got to find what you love,' Jobs says**

*This is a prepared text of the Commencement address delivered by Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Computer and of Pixar Animation Studios, on June 12, 2005.*

I am honored to be with you today at your commencement from one of the finest universities in the world. I never graduated from college. Truth be told, this is the closest I've ever gotten to a college graduation. Today I want to tell you three stories from my life. That's it. No big deal. Just three stories.

The first story is about connecting the dots.

I dropped out of Reed College after the first 6 months, but then stayed around as a drop-in for another 18 months or so before I really quit. So why did I drop out?

It started before I was born. My biological mother was a young, unwed college graduate student, and she decided to put me up for adoption. She felt very strongly that I should be adopted by college graduates, so everything was all set for me to be adopted at birth by a lawyer and his wife. Except that when I popped out they decided at the last minute that they really wanted a girl. So my parents, who were on a waiting list, got a call in the middle of the night asking: "We have an unexpected baby boy; do you want him?" They said: "Of course." My biological mother later found out that my mother had never graduated from college and that my father had never graduated from high school. She refused to sign the final adoption papers. She only relented a few months later when my parents promised that I would someday go to college.

And 17 years later I did go to college. But I naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford, and all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my college tuition. After six months, I couldn't see the value in it. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me figure it out. And here I was spending all of the money my parents had saved their entire life. So I decided to drop out and trust that it would all work out OK. It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out I could stop taking the required classes that didn't interest me, and begin dropping in on the ones that looked interesting.

It wasn't all romantic. I didn't have a dorm room, so I slept on the floor in friends' rooms, I returned coke bottles for the 5¢ deposits to buy food with, and I would walk the 7 miles across town every Sunday night to get one good meal a week at the Hare Krishna temple. I loved it. And much of what I stumbled into by following my curiosity and intuition turned out to be priceless later on. Let me give you one example:

Reed College at that time offered perhaps the best calligraphy instruction in the country. Throughout the campus every poster, every label on every drawer, was beautifully hand calligraphed. Because I had dropped out and didn't have to take the normal classes, I decided to take a calligraphy class to learn how to do this. I learned about serif and san serif typefaces, about varying the amount of space between different letter combinations, about what makes great typography great. It was beautiful, historical, artistically subtle in a way that science can't capture, and I found it fascinating.

None of this had even a hope of any practical application in my life. But ten years later, when we were designing the first Macintosh computer, it all came back to me. And we designed it all into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful typography. If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts. And since Windows just copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them. If I had never dropped out, I would have never dropped in on this calligraphy class, and personal computers might not have the wonderful typography that they do. Of course it was impossible to connect the dots looking forward when I was in college. But it was very, very clear looking backwards ten years later.

Again, you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.

My second story is about love and loss.

I was lucky — I found what I loved to do early in life. Woz and I started Apple in my parents garage when I was 20. We worked hard, and in 10 years Apple had grown from just the two of us in a garage into a \$2 billion company with over 4000 employees. We had just released our finest creation — the Macintosh — a year earlier, and I had just turned 30. And then I got fired. How can you get fired from a company you started? Well, as Apple grew we hired someone who I thought was very talented to run the company with me, and for the first year or so things went well. But then our visions of the future began to diverge and eventually we had a falling out. When we did, our Board of Directors sided with him. So at 30 I was out. And very publicly out. What had been the focus of my entire adult life was gone, and it was devastating.

I really didn't know what to do for a few months. I felt that I had let the previous generation of entrepreneurs down - that I had dropped the baton as it was being passed to me. I met with David Packard and Bob Noyce and tried to apologize for screwing up so badly. I was a very public failure, and I even thought about running away from the valley. But something slowly began to dawn on me — I still loved what I did. The turn of events at Apple had not changed that one bit. I had been rejected, but I was still in love. And so I decided to start over.

I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.

During the next five years, I started a company named NeXT, another company named Pixar, and fell in love with an amazing woman who would become my wife. Pixar went on to create the world's first computer animated feature film, *Toy Story*, and is now the most successful animation studio in the world. In a remarkable turn of events, Apple bought NeXT, I returned to Apple, and the technology we developed at NeXT is at the heart of Apple's current renaissance. And Laurene and I have a wonderful family together.

I'm pretty sure none of this would have happened if I hadn't been fired from Apple. It was awful tasting medicine, but I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't settle.

My third story is about death.

When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like: "If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right." It made an impression on me, and since then, for the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?" And whenever the answer has been "No" for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything — all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.

About a year ago I was diagnosed with cancer. I had a scan at 7:30 in the morning, and it clearly showed a tumor on my pancreas. I didn't even know what a pancreas was. The doctors told me this was almost certainly a type of cancer that is incurable, and that I should expect to live no longer than three to six months. My doctor advised me to go home and get my affairs in order, which is doctor's code for prepare to die. It means to try to tell your kids everything you thought you'd have the next 10 years to tell them in just a few months. It means to make sure everything is buttoned up so that it will be as easy as possible for your family. It means to say your goodbyes.

I lived with that diagnosis all day. Later that evening I had a biopsy, where they stuck an endoscope down my throat, through my stomach and into my intestines, put a needle into my pancreas and got a few cells from the tumor. I was sedated, but my wife, who was there, told me that when they viewed the cells under a microscope the doctors started crying because it turned out to be a very rare form of pancreatic cancer that is curable with surgery. I had the surgery and I'm fine now.

This was the closest I've been to facing death, and I hope it's the closest I get for a few more decades. Having lived through it, I can now say this to you with a bit more certainty than when death was a useful but purely intellectual concept:

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you, but someday not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it is quite true.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

When I was young, there was an amazing publication called *The Whole Earth Catalog*, which was one of the bibles of my generation. It was created by a fellow named Stewart Brand not far from here in Menlo Park, and he brought it to life with his poetic touch. This was in the late 1960's, before personal computers and desktop

publishing, so it was all made with typewriters, scissors, and polaroid cameras. It was sort of like Google in paperback form, 35 years before Google came along: it was idealistic, and overflowing with neat tools and great notions.

Stewart and his team put out several issues of *The Whole Earth Catalog*, and then when it had run its course, they put out a final issue. It was the mid-1970s, and I was your age. On the back cover of their final issue was a photograph of an early morning country road, the kind you might find yourself hitchhiking on if you were so adventurous. Beneath it were the words: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish." It was their farewell message as they signed off. Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish. And I have always wished that for myself. And now, as you graduate to begin anew, I wish that for you.

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.

Thank you all very much.

# Registration Form



## Ottawa County Sixth Annual Water Quality Forum

Friday, November 4, 2011  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(Registration at 8:30 a.m.)  
Registration Fee: \$10.00  
Ottawa County Administrative Complex  
Main Conference Room  
12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, Michigan

---

**NOTE:** If paying online, you do not need to return a registration form. You will receive a follow-up email confirming your registration.

### **Registration Information:**

Please provide the following information as you would like it to appear on a name badge.

Name:

---

Title:

---

Organization:

---

Email Address:

---

**Registration is limited to the first 150 participants**

### **Lunch Information:**

Please check the box to the right if you will NOT be staying for lunch

Please list any special food requirements:

---

---

**Please mail this form and payment to:**

County of Ottawa  
Administrator's Office, Attn: Misty Cunningham  
12220 Fillmore Street., Suite 310  
West Olive, Michigan 49460

**OR**

**Fax this form to 616-738-4888 and mail payment to the address above.**

---

### **Online Payment Instructions:**

Go to [miottawa.org](http://miottawa.org). Click on "Online Services" from the menu at the top of the page or use the scrolling menu. Select "Payment Center". Use the arrow on "Category/Service" to select "Water Quality Forum Registration". Complete all of the fields on the first page, and click "Continue" to enter your credit card information.

A \$2.00 convenience fee will apply. Please call Misty Cunningham at 616-738-4898 with questions.



TENTATIVE

**OTTAWA COUNTY  
SIXTH ANNUAL WATER QUALITY FORUM AGENDA**

November 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
Ottawa County Administrative Complex, Main Conference Room  
12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, Michigan

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Welcome and Introductory Remarks   | Alan G. Vanderberg,<br>Ottawa County Administrator   |
| <b><u>Session 1 Moderator: Al Vanderberg</u></b>                       |  |  |
| 9:15 a.m.  | Recreational Water Quality:<br>Current Problems and Future Directions                  | Vijayavel Kannappan, Environmental Health Specialist,<br>Ottawa County Health Department   |
| 9:45 a.m.  | <b>BREAK</b>   |  |
| 10:00 a.m.   | Gulls at Great Lakes Beaches   | Dr. Elizabeth Wheeler Alm, Ph.D., Professor,<br>Microbiology, Central Michigan University  |
| 10:30 am.  | Update on Michigan GLRI Beach Projects   | Dr. Shannon Briggs, Toxicologist, MDEQ,<br>Water Resource Division   |
| 11:00 am.  | Environmental Canine Service: Lake Macatawa<br>Scent tracking project overview         | Adeline Hambley, Environmental Health Manager,<br>Ottawa County Health Department and<br>Scott Reynolds, Environmental Canine Services   |
| 11:45 a.m.   | <b>Polling/Q &amp; A</b>   |  |
| 12:00 p.m.   | <b>LUNCH</b>   |  |
| <b><u>Session 2 Moderator's: Mark Knudsen &amp; Keith Van Beek</u></b> |  |  |
| 12:45 p.m.   | <b>BREAK OUT SESSIONS</b>  |  |
| <b>Main<br/>Conference<br/>Room</b>                                    | Stab Irrigation Wells: Do's and Don'ts   | Joe Crigier, R.S., Environmental Quality Analyst<br>(Contractor Registration) MDEQ,<br>Well Construction Program   |
|  | Update on the Macatawa Watershed   | Mary Fales, Watershed Coordinator,<br>Macatawa Area Coordinating Council   |
|  | Wastewater Management and Permitting<br>Standards for the Food Processing Industry     | Jay Poll, Senior Hydrogeologist,<br>Lakeshore Environmental  |
| <b>Board Room</b>  | Pharmaceutical Collections: A Prescription for<br>Safe Kids and Clean Water            | James Carmody Police Chief, City of Wyoming;<br>Dave Oostindie, Environmental Services Supervisor,<br>City of Wyoming and<br>Matt Allen, Waste Supervisor,<br>Ottawa County Health Department  |
|  | Water Quality Management Techniques  | James Smalligan, P.E., Senior Vice President,<br>Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.  |
|  | Communication and Social Media to Get Your<br>Message Heard                            | Shannon Felgner, Communication Specialist,<br>Ottawa County Health Department  |
| 1:45 p.m.  | <b>BREAK</b>   |  |
| <b><u>Session 3 Moderator: Adeline Hambley</u></b>                     |  |  |
| 2:00 p.m.  | A Water Quality Study of Lake Macatawa: Sources<br>of sedimentation and microorganisms | Travis Williams, Executive Director,<br>Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway;<br>Dr. Graham Peaslee, Professor,<br>Hope College Chemistry Department, and<br>Dr. Michael Pikaart, Associate Professor<br>Hope College Chemistry Department |
| 3:00 p.m.  | Multispectral Laser Imaging for Microbial Source<br>Tracking                           | Dr. Bin Chen, Assistant Professor,<br>Purdue University Calumet and<br>Dr. Charles C. Tseng, Professor,<br>Purdue University Calumet   |
| 3:45 p.m.  | Invasive Species in the Great Lakes  | Dr. Daniel O'Keefe, Southwest District Extension<br>Educator, Michigan Sea Grant,<br>Michigan State University   |
| 4:30 p.m.  | Polling/Q & A/Closing Remarks  | Alan G. Vanderberg   |