

County Administrator's Digest

October 30, 2012

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OTTAWA COUNTY'S SEVENTH ANNUAL WATER QUALITY FORUM NOVEMBER 1, 2012

Last call to register for this year's Seventh Annual Water Quality Forum. This year's Forum is Thursday, November 1, 2012 starting at 9 AM. Dr. Vijay Kannappan, Environmental Health Specialist, with the Ottawa County Health Department will be revealing the study that discriminates the source of fecal indicator bacteria (*E. coli* and *Bacteroides*) along the Grand River, one of the original reasons for starting the Water Quality Forum seven years ago. Dr. Kannappan collected water samples from Grand River sites throughout the summer months to test for *E. coli* and *Bacteroides* markers (human, cow, and swine).

Please click on the invitation below for a full agenda and registration information.



register now



ottawa county
water quality forum
november 1 • 9 am

This year's distinguished speakers will feature the initiatives and research that is being conducted to preserve one of our most valuable resources – **Water**.

View the agenda, register or print a registration form at www.miOttawa.org/WQF. Registration fee is \$12 online or \$10 by mail and is limited to the first 150 participants. Registration must be received by October 24. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please contact Misty Cunningham at 616-738-4898 or mcunningham@miottawa.org with questions.



ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION MEMBERSHIP (Shannon McGoran)

Have you ever noticed your brain's quick response when you see someone in front of you in the express lane with too many items? You quickly start counting the items. You may start to get angry when they are over the limit and now you have to wait for them before you can checkout your two items. This processing comes from the Gator Brain or stem brain. It processes and reacts to sensory input. Invading ideas are treated in the same way it treats strange, invading creatures.

Another brain energy conserving strategy is patterning. Elephants are conditioned at a young age to stay with the herd by being tethered to a stake. Though as adults they have the strength to break loose from the tether, they don't try. Our patterns are like tethers pulling us back to the known, which is familiar and safe. Your mind follows well-worked patterns rather than generating new thoughts. From a thinking point of view, patterning can be a problem.

Three characteristics of creative thinking are 1) generative - make something out of nothing 2) nonjudgemental - ideas can be judged out of existence and 3) expansive - make long lists and let the ideas cultivate. The Alliance would provide Ottawa County with a major tool to foster more innovation as the organization strives for more efficiency and cost savings. The University of Arizona said, "82% of Alliance members are above the average rate in their adoption of innovative practices, and over half are in the very high category."

Last week, the Board of Commissioners approved membership in the Alliance for Innovation. In collaboration with the ICMA and University of Arizona, the Alliance is a forum for sharing ideas and solutions, including reflections, analysis and debate. There are 300 total members including 38 counties. Ideas left idle are only ideas, but put into action are innovation. Creativity calls us to allow room for failure and recognize those failures as well as successes. As Albert Einstein said, "Problems cannot be solved by the same kind of thinking that created them".

Services provided by the Alliance within the **Innovative Content** include news alerts on leading practices, e-newsletter highlighting innovation, case studies and white paper research. The **Knowledge Network** contains ongoing dialogue sharing local government topics, on-demand webinars and digital documents. They assign an **Ambassador** as a primary point of contact and also post members' job openings and provide a suggested book club reading list. *The most unique feature of the Alliance is that memberships are available to all employees.* Every employee is eligible for all the above listed services.

In speaking with the Michigan governments, there was a high level of enthusiasm toward and excitement in using the Alliance for innovative projects and programs. The City of Novi used the Knowledge Network to assist with telecommunications, social media and GIS projects. The City of Ann Arbor uses the newsletter as a reference for what other governments are doing and

Washtenaw County monitors best practices through the Alliance. They've also brought the Central Director in house to provide information on employee wellness programs.

Ottawa County is known around the State for innovative problem solving and service delivery. We believe that the Alliance for Innovation membership offers another 'tool in the toolbox' to enhance future innovation and serve as a preface and aid in continuous improvement. Memberships will be rolled out soon to the Management Group and later to other employees.

PA 152 COMPLIANCE

PA 152 of 2011 requires public employers to pay no more than 80% of health benefit expense for employees, or to meet "hard cap" maximum expense benchmarks by making sure that the average cost of all plans is below benchmarks established for single, two-person and family coverage.

In 2012, County health benefit expense was \$1,962,678.90 under the hard cap benchmark. We are projecting that County health benefit expense will be \$453,784.90 under the 2013 hard cap benchmark.

The third option was to "opt out" if a public employer did not desire to meet either the 80-20 or hard cap provisions. We have met both provisions in one way of thinking. Employees that take the 100-80 or the 90-70 fully-funded health insurance options pay 20% of the premium for these plans. Employees who choose the high deductible HSA plan paid a 5% premium co-pay in 2012. For 2013, employees choosing the HSA option will pay no premium co-pay but will pay 25% of the deductible for this plan. This represents a continuation of the County focus on reducing future claims cost as the most optimal way of helping employees achieve excellent health while dramatically reducing future claims and the resulting cost.

Thus, for this year, we meet the requirements of PA 152 and no further action is required by the Board.

THE SWEET SMELL OF COOPERATION (Matt Allen)

We can probably all recall using a municipality owned landfill growing up, going to one to watch the bears, or just wondering whatever happened to that big pile of trash down by the river. Over the last 25 years, landfill design and management has taken many steps forward. From siting a landfill in the proper area, to placing down a thick plastic lining that wraps around all the material and is sealed at the top much like a Ziploc baggie, to designing a wastewater treatment system. In all aspects, a modern landfill is designed to prevent adverse environmental impacts.

Counties and municipalities are required by state regulations to have adequate space to meet the solid waste needs of their communities. This may be accomplished through a local landfill or agreements with various regional landfills. In Ottawa County we have two landfills that accept waste from many neighboring municipalities and counties, and provide adequate space for regional needs. In an effort to meet the needs of the communities they serve, landfills often need to expand to ensure adequate space for the materials they accept. Such is the case with the Autumn Hills Landfill in southeast Ottawa County.

As you might expect, the request to expand a landfill's disposal area is not undertaken lightly. In the case of Autumn Hills, county officials were approached over a year ago and advised on the expansion plan. After a year of preliminary engineering and design work by Waste Management, an official proposal was submitted to the Ottawa County Solid Waste Program for evaluation. During this time frame, openings for the Ottawa County Solid Waste Planning Committee were posted, applicants were interviewed and open positions were filled. It is this committee that will evaluate the proposed expansion, assign a facility review subcommittee to make a recommendation, and ultimately take a vote on whether the proposed expansion is consistent with the Ottawa County Solid Waste Management Plan. If the proposal is found to be consistent, the application is forwarded to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for technical review and actual approval of the construction permit.

One aspect that makes the Autumn Hills' situation unique is the public/private partnership that is driving it. Out of the 400 acres of property owned by the landfill, only about 170 will ultimately end up as disposal capacity for solid waste. This leaves several hundred acres for green space. The landfill has agreed to donate approximately 50 acres to Zeeland Township for future park space and use. The township is working with the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department to design a recreational use suitable to the site and the terrain features it offers. At this point in time, a sledding hill and park are being considered.

By securing a construction permit for the remainder of the property they plan to use, Waste Management ensures adequate disposal capacity for county and regional needs for many years. In addition, Zeeland Township is able to proceed with plans for a recreation area knowing the end use plans for the entire site. By working together and planning for the future, this public/private partnership is a model for land use planning and communication.

The expansion of a landfill is no simple thing, but done with communication and forethought, it can create a mutually beneficial outcome for all involved.

PURE MICHIGAN EXECUTIVE GROUP

I attended on Friday afternoon at the Secchia Center in Grand Rapids hosted by the Pure Michigan Executive Group. Shortly after taking office, Governor Snyder reorganized the executive branch into six groups. The Pure Michigan Executive Group is made up of five departments: MDOT; MI Landbank; Licensing & Regulatory Affairs; MEDC; and MSHDA. The presentations emphasized the work being done to drive the Governor's 10 point plan, specifically point #1 - Create more and better jobs. The focus on economic gardening, structural improvements in the business environment, stepping away from tax incentives, talent enhancement and closing the skills gap were the focal points of this discussion.

The group has the goal of having Michigan crack the Top 10 in employment nationally. Michigan is \$162,178 jobs away from realizing this goal at this point in time. Current goals include creation of 15,000 jobs that pay \$20 per hour or better, and \$3 billion in private investment.

Michigan went from 49th in the nation to 7th in terms of business taxes after the Corporate Income Tax was recently implemented. Another interesting statistic was that 20% of the national economy is impacted by state regulation!

There was a strong contingent present from Ottawa County local units of government and economic development agencies including Lakeshore Advantage, Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce, Grand Haven Area Chamber of Commerce.

O.C. JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER RECEIVES ACA RE-ACCREDITATION (Sandi Metcalf)

Congratulations to the Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center and the 20th Circuit Court, Juvenile Services Division. On September 24 - 26, the American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation review team audited the Center on over 400 mandatory and non-mandatory standards and awarded the Center the highest evaluation score in its ACA accreditation history - 99.2% compliance!

The American Correctional Association and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (ACA) are private, nonprofit organizations that administer the only national accreditation program for all components of adult and juvenile corrections. Their purpose is to promote improvement in the management of correctional agencies through the administration of a voluntary accreditation program and the ongoing development and revision of relevant, useful standards. The Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center is the only ACA accredited juvenile detention facility in Michigan and this truly makes the Center a leader in the field and an asset to the communities it serves.

Thanks to all the staff whose commitment to a caring and efficiently-run facility has directly contributed to this outstanding accreditation score. This external evaluation of the facility confirms the Detention Center is one of the best juvenile detention facilities in the land, and it is because of the consistent, hard work of the staff!

Upon final review, the auditors noted the following:

- 1) The Detention Center is a "gem" of a facility. The auditors commented about how difficult it is for facilities to maintain the ACA standards in an ongoing manner, and complimented the Court/Detention Center for doing so. They also remarked about the sense of caring and accountability at every level; it was "palpable".
- 2) Their environment conveys a very "sophisticated educational, treatment and detention milieu which works extremely well". They were impressed the teachers manage their classrooms well and their classrooms are an extension of the mutual respect the auditors noticed throughout the building. The auditors do not witness this in other facilities as most classrooms in other jurisdictions are staffed with guards.
- 3) The Lighthouse and Substance Abuse programs were noted as "outstanding". The auditors were impressed with the level of education, concern and treatment in both programs. The substance abuse therapist's role was described as "engaging, effective and respected". There was significant support for Lighthouse and for this program to be "published, documented, etc. You should be singing its praises beyond Michigan because others could learn from what you are doing in that program!"
- 4) The auditors were impressed with the exchange of information through the shift change process. They felt this really allowed for consistency throughout the facility and also, contributed to the respect of the residents toward staff because they know everyone is on the same "page".
- 5) Healthcare for residents was found to be excellent, and the protocols, as well as documentation, were well implemented.
- 6) The auditors cautioned that because the Juvenile Detention Center is such an outstanding facility, sometimes it is easy for the funding unit to "chip away" and more or less, reduce the resources. They encouraged administration to protect the quality of this facility because it translates well into an extremely valuable resource to the County, the community and the continuum of services the court provides youth and families.

Overall, it was clear the auditors enjoyed talking with detention staff, the kids and were very impressed with the operation. They commented several times that it is not often they see a facility

that merges the corrections and treatment models in a manner that is effective, mutually respectful and beneficial to the residents. They were impressed how this approach has been very successful for the benefit of kids, community ... and staff.

ROAD COMMISSION QUARTERLY MEETING NOTES (Keith Van Beek)

1. Bypass Update ... the various contracts for the bridge construction will be let in December. Will discuss with MDOT any plans to have a ceremony when the bridge construction begins and coordinate that with a tour for commissioners if desired to see the project area.
2. Compensation for Road Commissioners ... Board of Commissioners acted yesterday to establish new salaries of \$9,000 for road commissioners and \$9,500 for road commission chair. This increases the salary but is offset in cost by discontinuing health care. This will take effect 1/1/13.
3. Traffic Lights on US 31 ... traffic engineer will look into question about the timing of traffic signals on northbound 31 from James Street.
4. Study Committee Update ... respective staffs from county and road commission are working to establish process, data and first meeting times for the two committees studying the road commission and public utilities option.
5. Appointment Process ... there are two openings on the road commission beginning 1/1/13. Applicants can apply on the county website at www.miottawa.org. Target would be to make appointments in December.
6. 2012 Project Summary ... Brett Laughlin distributed and reviewed the 2012 summary of projects, most of which have been completed or are in the final stages. (see handout)
7. Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) Summary ... Brett Laughlin distributed and reviewed the MTF history from 2005 through 2012 showing funding for primary and local roads. (see handout)
8. 2013 Budget Summary ... Brett Laughlin distributed and reviewed the budget summary for 2013. (see handout)

BLOOMBERG REPORT

Back when my daughter Anna and I were camping on Beaver Island, Keith fielded a call from the

Bloomberg Report and it was an excellent article that I thought you would enjoy reading.

Michigan Auto Revival Spreading Stabilizes Property After Slide

By Jeff Green - Sep 2, 2012 12:00 AM ET

Property values in Ottawa County, Michigan, a lakeside community of 266,300 known for its annual Tulip Time festival, may halt a three-year slide in 2013 as the auto-industry comeback spreads across the state's economy.

"We do think things are improving," said Keith Van Beek, assistant administrator for the county that was forced to eliminate 46 positions in recent years to balance its budget. "We're still not looking at restoring things we cut. It's not that good yet. But we feel like we're getting back to equilibrium."

Michigan's economic health ranked second among U.S. states in the first quarter, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The state trailed only [North Dakota](#), which is benefiting from an oil-drilling boom.

The improving economy means only one-third of Michigan's local governments say they're somewhat or significantly less able to meet their fiscal needs this year, according to a survey released today by the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. That compares with 48 percent in 2011 and 61 percent in the 2010 survey of 1,856 general-purpose governments. About a quarter said conditions improved in the latest report.

"We see a clear easing trend," said Thomas Ivacko, one of the study's authors. "But you can't yet say it's a good time for local government in Michigan."

Economic Chaos

The 18-month recession that ended in June 2009, and bankruptcies that year of two automakers, plunged Michigan's economy into chaos. Detroit and three other cities are under state-appointed emergency managers because of failing finances.

Three years after the federally backed rescue of [General Motors Co. \(GM\)](#) and Chrysler Group LLC, 2012 U.S. light-vehicle sales are on pace to exceed 14 million, the industry's best year since 2007, according to Autodata Corp., which collects sales information in [Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey](#). Industrywide deliveries through July climbed 14 percent, to 8.43 million. That puts the market on track for a third-straight year of at least a 10 percent gain, the first such streak since 1973.

Michigan's unemployment rate of 9 percent is down from 14.2 percent in August 2009, shortly after GM and Chrysler emerged from the rescue effort. The current jobless rate, even after three

straight months of gains, marks the biggest decrease in that measure over the last three years among all 50 states.

Along [Lake Michigan](#) in Ottawa County, 167 miles (269 kilometers) west of [Detroit](#), unemployment, which peaked at 12.3 percent in 2009, has fallen to an annualized rate of about 6.8 percent so far this year, Van Beek said.

Auto Suppliers

The county has operations for large auto suppliers such as [Johnson Controls Inc. \(JCI\)](#), [Gentex \(GNTX\)](#) Corp. and [Magna International \(MGA\)](#) Corp., he said. Another example of improving fortunes is the conversion of an idled Delphi Automotive Plc auto-parts plant into a dairy processing operation, Van Beek said.

Tax valuation, which had been improving at an annual rate of 6 percent in 2008 started to weaken in 2009 and then fell the next three years, he said.

This year, projections suggest the values might hold steady, he said.

"We're at a point where we probably don't need to make additional cuts in employees," said Van Beek, whose county is the state's leading blueberry and turkey producer, according to its website.

The [University of Michigan](#) survey marks the first time in four years that more officials predict good times in the upcoming year than expect bad times. Yet it also shows that communities are working to offset continuing declines in revenue with more cost cuts, Ivacko said.

Of communities responding to the survey, 64 percent said property tax revenues continue to fall and 46 percent said state aid was reduced. About 14 percent said they'll reduce services and 19 planned to increase fees.

Health-Cost Shifting

About 40 percent of communities plan to increase cooperation among governments while 36 percent intend to increase privatization and 62 percent expect to shift more health care costs to employees, the survey found. About 19 percent cut the number of workers among all communities, including 59 percent of places with 30,000 or more residents, according to the survey results.

Home foreclosures rose in 41 percent of the communities this year, compared with 56 percent last year, according to the survey.

As its economy has gained, [Michigan's](#) state and local bonds have beaten the \$3.7 trillion municipal market this year through Aug. 29, returning about 5.5 percent, including price change and interest, versus the U.S. average of 5.4 percent, according to Barclays Capital index data.

The economic improvement has also helped the state and its municipalities win a decline in their [relative borrowing costs](#). Michigan securities maturing in 10 years yielded 69 basis points more than top-rated muni debt as of Aug. 30, down from 101 basis points on Jan. 2, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

“The devil is in the details, and hundreds of communities are still in trouble,” Ivacko said. “But I am surprised how many fewer communities are expecting hardship.”

To contact the reporter on this story: [Jeff Green](#) in Southfield, Michigan, at jgreen16@bloomberg.net.

To contact the editor responsible for this story: William Glasgall in [New York](#) at wglasgall@bloomberg.net

HOLLAND SENTINEL ARTICLE - JUDICIAL AWARD

An earlier Digest article covered the Judicial Excellence Award bestowed upon Chief Judge Bradley Knoll and Judge Susan Jonas by the Michigan District Court Judges Association. The Holland Sentinel did a follow-up article which is included with the digest ([click here](#)).

HOLLAND SENTINEL BUDGET ARTICLES

After a rocky start with the initial article on the Sheriff's Office, the last two Friday budget articles on the Correctional Facility ([click here](#)) and the Environmental Health Division of the Health Department ([click here](#)) have been well done and they are included with the digest.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION DUTIES TRANSFERRED TO FISCAL SERVICES (Aaron Bodbyl-Mast)

Effective immediately, all grant reviews will be handled through the Fiscal Services Department. County Administrative Rule #004-02 requires that any County agency seeking to submit a grant must first have it reviewed for record keeping and administration purposes. Previously, the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department conducted these reviews. However, due to pre-existing grant-monitoring responsibilities of Fiscal Services and new requirements related to implementation of the new fiscal MUNIS software system, it was determined that it would be more efficient to consolidate the grant review and monitoring process under Fiscal Services.

To obtain information about the grant submission review process, please contact Dawn Scholten in Fiscal Services by phone or email at 616-738-4844 or dscholten@miottawa.org.

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

The GVMC Weekly Update for October 26, 2012 is included with the digest for your review ([click here](#)).

58TH DISTRICT COURT



Judge Susan A. Jonas presides over Sobriety Court at the 58th District Court in Holland on Sept. 19. Sobriety Court participants are second-time drunken driving offenders and this speciality court helps them avoid jail time while maintaining jobs and family relations. DENNIS R.J. GEPPERT/SENTINEL STAFF

Benchmarking sobriety

Local judges honored for alcohol-treatment court

By Peg McNichol
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A creative approach to trying and sentencing drunken drivers has earned Holland's two 58th District Court judges this year's Michigan District Judges Association's Judicial Excellence Award, a nod from their peers for "serving the state and local community in an exemplary manner."

Judges Bradley Knoll and Judge Susan A. Jonas have run a special court, the Sobriety Treatment Program, since 2004. Since then, more than



County officials who participate as 58th District Court's informal jury observe cases during a series of hearings on Sept. 19 before Judge Susan A. Jonas. DENNIS R.J. GEPPERT/SENTINEL STAFF

three-quarters of those enrolled, 227 people — all second-time drunken driving offenders — have

successfully completed an accountability program that can last up to two years.

"They have achieved incredible success in compassionately holding people to be fully accountable while still enabling them to heal, and reconstruct their lives and become productive active members of the community," said Allegan's 57th District Court Judge Bill Bailargeon.

Holland's Sobriety Court, as most call it, allows nearly 70 people an alternative to a year in jail, but they must meet high expectations. Court officials say the time-intensive program keeps people

SEE COURT, A2

COURT

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out of jail, and it keeps them at work and helps them reconnect with families.

"We know not everyone is



Knoll

going to stay sober," Knoll said. But as participants move through each Sobriety Court phase, he said, it's possible "they start to think maybe that sobriety is better.

"We have had some wonderful surprise success stories, and we've had tragedies," Knoll said. A recovering alcoholic himself — his last drink was in 1994 — Knoll said he understands the struggle for sobriety.

Knoll and Jonas show a softer side during twice-monthly brief, informal hearings, at times exchanging jokes with participants about sports or other interests. They know about participants' personal lives. Before each hearing, the judges meet with an assessment team including Ottawa County Assistant Prosecutor Craig Bunce, attorney Don Hann, Ottawa County Assistant Director of Probation Alma Valenzuela, and case manager Leticia Gonzalez-Ortiz, as well as counselors and probation officers.

If they are lucky, second-time drunken driving offenders may get into the court's sobriety program. It's not open to those with criminal histories of violence or drug abuse.

Those admitted commit to more than sobriety. They agree to random, around-the-clock spot checks by probation officers, practical punishment (from writing essays or performing community service to higher fines and time in jail), daily drug testing, community service, mental health counseling and alcohol monitoring devices.

Inside Sobriety Court

Each judge dispatches nearly 30 cases in about an hour. Participants stand before the judge to hear reports from therapists and probation officials before the judge offers encouragement or hands out consequences.

A man who failed his car's ignition breath test and didn't report it would spend two weekends in jail; a smoker falling behind in court payments saw his pay garnisheed in the amount of his two-pack-a-day habit.

But the man ticketed for driving on a restricted license — he told Jonas he'd been called to work unexpectedly — stood as a lesson for others. "This is a good thing for everyone to keep

"When people realize we're here to help, not punish, there's a change in that person and they being to make changes in their lives."

Ottawa County Assistant Prosecutor Craig Bunce

in mind," Jonas said. "Always carry proof of employment — a work schedule, a letter from your boss."

Jonas ordered an essay on the importance of punctuality from that man who was late to court appointments but not late for work.

Word of the project is spreading. Knoll and Jonas have been named one of four "academy" or training courts nationwide by the National Center for DWI Courts, a nonprofit that aims at reducing drunken driving crimes by rehabilitating rather than imprisoning. Earlier this year, court officials shared the program with 600 attendees of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference.

Community benefit

Holland District Court's sobriety treatment program is a one-shot deal to get sober and begin a normal life. A graduate who resumes drinking and driving will go to jail, Knoll said, but while actively in Sobriety Court, "we make it as hard as possible to flunk out."

That's one reason, he said, that some law enforcement

officials call Sobriety Court a "Hug-a-Thug" program.

Bunce said the program's value lies in keeping families intact, especially young mothers with young children, rather than have them fall apart when a parent goes off to jail. Counseling sessions give participants new ways of coping with new or lifelong stresses, he said.

"When people realize we're here to help, not punish, there's a change in that person and they begin to make changes in their lives," Bunce said, adding that he was most affected by a little girl thanking the court because her now-sober mom cooks family meals and is able to drive the children to school.

Court requirements to be on time and "jump through hoops," Hann said, help participants practice a new, more disciplined lifestyle, "which lasts long enough for them to see the benefits of sobriety."

Putting a dollar value on benefits, Hann said, is impossible. To do so, he said, would require finding the value of jobs not lost, families not broken, lives not destroyed by drunks.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN**\$8,774,791 in Ottawa County Sheriff Corrections Division****By Annette.Manwell**@hollandsentinel.com
(616) 546-4270

WHAT Along with law enforcement, the second primary duty of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office is maintaining the correctional facility. The 462-bed jail is located in Olive Township within the County's Fillmore Administrative Complex. County officials say the facility is an asset to Ottawa's Criminal Justice System and contributes to the safety and security of Ottawa County residents. Along with housing inmates, the corrections system provides programs that assist

inmates on becoming productive, law abiding citizens upon their release. Examples include GED programs, anger management and substance abuse treatment. The Corrections Division also provides security for the courthouses in Holland, Grand Haven, Hudsonville and Olive Township.

WHAT IT WAS LAST YEAR
\$8,774,791

OVERALL COUNTY BUDGET \$141,437,696
TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET \$63,650,007
PERCENT OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET 13
TOTAL DEPARTMENT BUDGET \$26,531,425
PERCENT OF TOTAL

DEPARTMENT BUDGET 33 EXPLANATION The Corrections Division employs 58 full-time and eight part-time corrections officers, 14 court services officers, three civilian support staff and three cadets. Wages, benefits and other mandatory employer costs account for \$5,655,933 of the budget and \$735,299 is used for supplies. The remaining \$2,482,741 is used for contracts, \$467,881; memberships and dues, \$900; data processing services \$180,278; health services, \$415,000; telephone, \$14,870; conferences, travel, mileage, \$448; gas and oil, \$45,000; vehicle repairs

and maintenance, \$12,000; vehicle insurance, \$14,350; insurance and bonds, \$175,910; equipment repairs, \$5,000; building rental, \$1,080,000; equipment rental, \$56,104; and employee training, \$15,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visits miottawa.org/sheriff. Ottawa County's complete budget is available at miottawa.org.

Where should we look next in the budget?

Contact us at:
MAIL 54 W. Eighth St. Holland, Mich. 49423
EMAIL newsroom@holland-sentinel.com

BUDGET BREAKDOWN**\$1,445,770 Ottawa County Environmental Health Services**

By Annette.Manwell
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(616) 546-4270

WHAT Environmental Health is a division of the Ottawa County Health Department. Its programs protect residents through control and prevention of environmental conditions that may endanger their health and safety. Environmental Health specialists inspect restaurants, school kitchens and other food service venues to prevent food-borne illnesses. Sanitarians monitor

public and private water wells to eliminate the risks of water-borne disease and toxic exposure. Soil evaluations, issuance of permits and inspections of new sewage disposal systems also protect against illness. Water quality testing is done at public swimming pools, spas and beaches. Home buyers are provided with results of water quality and condition of sewage disposal systems through a real estate evaluation program. Specialists also inspect and evaluate mobile home parks,

campgrounds, child care centers, adult and child foster homes, marinas, schools, new sub-divisions, and respond to general nuisance complaints.

OVERALL COUNTY BUDGET \$141,437,696
PERCENT OF OVERALL BUDGET 1
TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET \$63,650,007
TOTAL DEPARTMENT BUDGET \$4,209,139
TOTAL FROM GENERAL FUND \$375,530
PERCENT OF TOTAL DEPARTMENT BUDGET 34

EXPLANATION The Ottawa County Environmental Health Services employs one division manager, two supervisory level staff, 10 full-time environmental health specialists, one part-time environmental health technician and three support staff. Personnel costs total \$1,245,687. The department budgeted \$44,932 for supplies. Other expenditures include contracts, \$31,957; memberships and dues, \$713; telephone, \$9,328; mileage, \$56,500; conferences and training, \$10,719;

building rental, \$44,969; equipment rental and repair, \$965.

FOR MORE INFORMATION For more information visit miottawa.org.OCHD. Ottawa County's complete budget is available at miottawa.org.

Where should we look next in the budget?

Contact us at:
MAIL 54 W. Eighth St. Holland, Mich. 49423
EMAIL newsroom@holland-sentinel.com



Michigan Transportation Commission Meets in Grand Rapids

On Wednesday I had the opportunity to open the Michigan Transportation Commission's October Meeting and welcome them to our region. On behalf of GVMC I spoke briefly about our organization and the work that we do. My focus was on collaboration, cooperation and our strategic initiatives. GVMC is pleased to have been able to assist in bringing the Transportation Commission to our area and appreciate the assistance of Grand Valley State University and our member Tom Butcher for the assistance. During the session several of the speakers recognized and thanked GVMC for our cooperation/collaboration efforts. It was a great opportunity to highlight the success of our community and all our efforts before the Transportation Commission.

Board Meeting November 1st

Our next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on November 1st at 8:30 am. The Meeting will be held in the Kent County Commission Chambers.

On the agenda will we will have two presentations that fit into our emerging issues strategic initiative. Jared Rodrigues, President of the West Michigan Policy Forum will give a report of this year's

event. We were able to have 8 members of GVMC attend the event with the help of scholarships. Governor Snyder will be in town for a luncheon on Monday and will discuss the Policy Forum. Jared will give us the details of that event and plans for the next West Michigan Policy Forum.

Erika Rosebrook will also inform the Board of the work being accomplished toward a Michigan Urban Agenda. Erika along with a few representatives from GVMC along with community leaders in other parts of Michigan have been meeting to develop a new urban policy for the state. This is a very significant emerging issue that we will hear about often in the future as the Governor puts the final touches on his urban agenda for Michigan. Those of us that participated from our area enjoyed the opportunity to represent our community and its unique challenges and opportunities in this critical effort for the future of Michigan.

GVMC On the Road

We had several opportunities recently to bring the GVMC message to our community. Our **Quarterly Luncheon** with Attorney General Schuette was attended by 160 people including

many guests from business and the legal professions.

Recently, I spoke to a class of graduate students at **Grand Valley State University** about the activities at GVMC. These students along with their professor, Haris Alibasic (City of Grand Rapids) are studying metropolitan and regional cooperation and governance.

On October 10th, we hosted a **Press Conference on Proposal 5** and the event received statewide media coverage. Participating in the press conference along with myself were Rick Baker, CEO of the Grand Rapids Chamber, Mark Murray, President of Meijer and Steve Heacock, Senior Vice President of Spectrum Health.

This week, I met with the **Ottawa County Board of Commissioners** to inform them of our many activities and bring them up to speed on all the new programs and initiatives being undertaken by GVMC.

If you would like to bring the GVMC message to your organization or service club, do not hesitate to contact me.

Please Email Your Community's
Programs and Ideas for
Cooperation!