



# County of Ottawa

Administrator's Office

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## County Administrator's Weekly Digest July 30, 2010

### **MLGMA SUMMER WORKSHOP**

I returned this afternoon from the 2010 Michigan Local Government Management Association Summer Workshop held in Crystal Mountain this year. The conference sessions focused heavily on the current economic forecast for the State of Michigan and State of Michigan Budget issues. Other conference sessions included ethics work sessions, the impact of the film industry on the Michigan economy in light the still new tax credit program and other revenue related and professional development sessions. This is the group that I am president of this year so I had some additional duties at the conference.

### **SHERIDAN PARK-BRIDGE WALK PARTY** (Lisa Stefanovsky)

The Ottawa County Wellness coalition (lead by the Ottawa County Health Department) has been working with their many partners in the Polkton Charter Township area to increase access to physical activity through the creation of the new Sheridan Park.

On July 29, the "Bridge-Walk Party" was held to kick off the new Sheridan Park in Polkton Charter Township and proved to be a huge success. Over 250 area residents attended the event. Healthy, locally grown blueberries and apples were served. Walking sticks were made and donated by Matt Hehl, Ottawa County Commissioner and were provided to all adults. Door prizes were donated by local businesses and farmers. Funding was provided by the Michigan Department of Community Health through the Ottawa County Wellness Coalition. Walking bridges, picnic tables, benches and trail directional signs are all beautiful enhancements to the park that will encourage physical activity. A new 50ft suspension bridge crosses Deer Creek which allows access to twice the number of walking trails in Sheridan Park.

### **PERTUSSIS OUTBREAK** (Dr. Heidel)

Michigan is one of several states across the country currently experiencing a sharp increase in the number of cases of pertussis ("whooping cough"). The disease, which is characterized by severe coughing spasms, is particularly dangerous to infants and young toddlers. More than half the children under one year of age who get pertussis require hospitalization and often experience secondary complications such as pneumonia (22%) and seizures (3%). Michigan presently has the fourth highest number of cases in the country with 557, while here in Ottawa County we have seen a sharp increase as well. As of 7/30/10 Ottawa County has reported 28 cases since the first of the year, which is more than the total number of cases for our three adjoining counties combined (Kent County 3, Allegan County 8, Muskegon County 11). Although pertussis vaccine has been available since the mid 1940s, many children are either unimmunized or have not completed the vaccination series. Waning immunity is felt to be another important contributing factor in the increasing number of pertussis cases, as is the fact that no vaccine is 100% effective.

The Ottawa County Health Department is actively encouraging parents to make sure that their children are fully immunized, and also encouraging adolescents and adults to receive the "Tdap" booster if they have not received one previously. Recent data has shown that children over 10 years of age and adults

are responsible for almost 60% of pertussis cases here in Michigan, and are often the source of infection to younger, more vulnerable children. The “Tdap” booster is licensed for individuals between the ages of 10-64 and can be obtained from local health care providers or at the Ottawa County Health Department.

### **BEACH WATER QUALITY UPDATE** (Lisa Stefanovsky)

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recently released its annual report of the quality of beaches throughout the country. As part of that summary of the 2009 beach season, the NRDC evaluated 200 of the nation's most popular beaches based on indicators of beach water quality, monitoring frequency, and public notification of contamination. Of those 200 beaches, only a handful received a 5-star rating as highest quality beaches; and only two of those beaches were found in Michigan. Ottawa County's North Beach Park and Berrien County's Silver Beach were awarded 5-star status. Ottawa County's other Lake Michigan beaches have also demonstrated superior water quality during the past couple of years. Tunnel Park was the only Lake Michigan beach in Ottawa County to require an advisory last year due to high levels of E. coli bacteria. Overall, only 3% of the samples collected from Lake Michigan beaches here in Ottawa County were found to contain excessive levels of bacteria in 2009. Statewide, over 5% of all Great Lakes beach samples were found to have too much bacteria for swimming. Beaches in Macomb, Alpena and Arenac counties had the highest percentages of samples with excessive bacteria - 24%, 20% and 15% respectively. On all counts, Ottawa County's beaches scored very well, however, among the 50 states, Michigan was ranked a disappointing 26th in relative water quality and monitoring.

The quality of our beach water in Ottawa County is especially impressive when one considers the many threats to our water quality from sewage overflows, population density, large seagull populations and heavy bather loads. Fortunately, Ottawa County recognizes that the public health, economic health and cultural health of our region is inseparably linked to our water resources. As a result, we have many groups working to protect those resources. Local municipalities continue to make improvements to wastewater treatment systems. These improvements have vastly reduced the volume and severity of sewage overflows into our waterways. Local watershed groups, such as the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, are engaging the community to improve buffer zones, reduce waste runoff, protect storm drains, and improve citizen awareness. Non-profit groups such as the Alliance for the Great Lakes and Clean Our River Environment have been organizing volunteers to clean our waterways and protect them from pollution. Our Ottawa County Parks Department does an excellent job of keeping the trash - which would otherwise attract excessive numbers of bacteria-depositing seagulls - off our county park beaches. The Ottawa County Health Department is also playing a critical role by identifying failing septic systems and requiring correction. Just last year, the health department required the correction of 210 failing septic systems which were discharging a daily total of almost 37,000 gallons of untreated wastewater into the environment. This equates to over 13 million gallons of pollution which did not enter our environment in 2010 because the health department addressed it in 2009.

Collectively, the work of these groups and many others are helping to ensure that Ottawa County remains a premier place to live, work and play.

### **OCEDO SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT** (Ken Rizzio)

# Ottawa County Economic Development Office, Inc.

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DATE: July 21, 2010

TO: OCEDO Board of Directors  
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners  
Financial Contributors

FROM: Kenneth J. Rizzio, Executive Director



RE: **OCEDO's Work Activities & Results for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2010**

For your information, this memo provides a summary of the major work activities & results that occurred between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2010. Please feel free to make copies of this memo for your Board/Council/Commission members. If you have any questions or would like additional information on most of these items, please call me at 616-892-4120 or e-mail to: [krizzio@altelco.net](mailto:krizzio@altelco.net) Thank you.

## **I. Industrial Retention & Expansion Activities:**

Industrial retention visits were made to 11 manufacturing firms. Most of these visits were made jointly with Bill Kratz, Business Development Manager with the MEDC. These firms are located in the cities of Holland, Hudsonville & Zeeland; and the townships of Allendale, Crockery, Georgetown, Olive and Wright.

Prepared an application to designate the 24-acre site of Request Foods' proposed new 200,000 square foot manufacturing plant in Holland Township an Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone. (This is the third APRZ established in Ottawa County.) Also, wrote an application for a \$ 5.4 million CDBG infrastructure grant to help finance needed upgrades to their wastewater pre-treatment system. This \$ 35 million private expansion project will create 155 new jobs over 3 years and a total of 250 new jobs over 5 years. As part of the CDBG grant application process, a Notice of Intent and Environmental Review Record were prepared.

Continued to assist with the start-up of Continental Dairy Products, Inc.'s/CS Facilities, LLC's proposed new \$ 100 million milk processing plant on the former Delphi property in the City of Coopersville. Assisted the Company's consultant with the provision of data & information for input into a Feasibility Study required for obtaining a USDA Loan Guarantee. Participated in the effort to award all of Ottawa County's \$ 31 million Recovery Zone Facility Bond allocation to this project. Advocated for the Company's acceptance of the Grant Agreement so that the City could receive a \$ 2.4 million CDBG

infrastructure grant to help finance needed improvements to the municipal wastewater treatment system. Continued to search for tenants to occupy the front half of the existing plant. This ag/industry project will create 70 direct new jobs over the next two years, 150 construction jobs at peak construction and an estimated 447 indirect new (spin-off) jobs in other economic sectors. The expected start date of construction on the new 45,000 square foot plant is Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Prepared two CDBG-Recovery grant Quarterly Reports and a 6-month CDBG Progress Report for the Quincy Street Expansion/Wastewater Pretreatment Phase II project. Also, prepared an amendment to request another \$ 110,000 in CDBG-R funds. The Environmental Review Record was also amended. The \$ 1 million CDBG-R grant will fund needed improvements to an existing, on-site wastewater pre-treatment system. The utility upgrade will support a \$ 1 million internal expansion project (acquisition of new machinery & equipment) at Quincy Street, Inc. This food processor in Holland Township will create 20 new jobs in the next 24-months.

Prepared a revised grant application for a \$ 500,000 CDBG Implementation Grant for Saturn Electronics & Engineering, Inc., a manufacturer of solenoids located in the City of Coopersville. Also, advised the Company to request a one-year extension to the term of their P.A. 198 Certificate to account for the delay with their expansion project. This approximate \$ 14.5 million internal expansion project (acquisition of new automated machinery & equipment) will create at least 26 new jobs over the next two years.

Closed-out two CDBG grant funded projects for Holland Township (with the preparation of the close-out documentation): the Wastewater Pre-treatment System & Road Improvements/Boar's Head Provisions Expansion Project AND the Wastewater Pre-treatment/Request Foods, Inc. Expansion Project.

Prepared, edited and/or helped process P.A. 198 industrial facilities tax abatement applications for the following four manufacturing firms:

<u>Manufacturers</u>	<u>Communities</u>	<u>Investments</u>	<u>Jobs</u>	
			<u>Existing</u>	<u>New</u>
DeWys Manufacturing	Wright Twp	\$ 1,520,000	95	10
Magnum Coffee	Crockery Twp	1,315,000	42	10
Pac CNC	Allendale Twp	475,000	19	4
Port City Racing	Coopersville	<u>564,531</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTALS		\$ 3,874,531	192	32

Advocated the preparation of a Water Supply System Master Plan for Wright Township to support a request from a local manufacturer seeking municipal water service.

**II. Industrial Attraction Activities:**

Assisted at least three prospects searching for industrial buildings and sites in Ottawa

County. One of the prospects was Charity USA of Seattle, Washington. The Company, a fulfillment center which promotes a variety of charities, has purchased the former Nicholas Plastics building in Allendale. Charity USA imports fair trade products from all over the world. All of its sales are generated over the internet. The Company will create approximately 15 full-time jobs and many part-time jobs on a seasonal basis.

Also, worked with Lakeshore Advantage to identify potential sites along the three railroad corridors in Ottawa County to offer a foreign prospect proposing a heavy manufacturing operation. A third out-of-county prospect was looking for a building in Ottawa County in which to expand its building materials manufacturing/distribution operation.

### **III. Small Business Counseling Activities:**

As a satellite office of Region 7 of the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center Program at Grand Valley State University, OCEDO assisted at least 35 short-term clients located throughout Ottawa County with information, including how to start a business, where to obtain financing, what are the required licenses & permits, how to write a business plan and what are the available local, State and federal business assistance programs. OCEDO also assisted 12 long-term clients providing collectively about 94 hours of one-on-one counseling. Those clients were located in the cities of Coopersville & Zeeland; and the townships of Allendale, Crockery, Georgetown, Holland, Tallmadge, Wright and Zeeland. MI-SBTDC Network & Region 7 meetings were attended as well as the 2010 Michigan Celebrates Small Business Celebration in Lansing where DeWitt Barrels of Marne was awarded the designation of Family Owned Business of the Year by the SBA.

### **IV. Other Activities:**

Participated in meetings of the Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign Trade Zone (KOM-FTZ) Authority Board (currently serving as Chairman), Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce (serving on the Board of Directors & Building Enhancement Grant Program Committee), Hudsonville Economic Development Committee and the Hudsonville Parks Board. Started preparing an application for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$ 500,000 to help fund the construction of a proposed Interpretive Center Building in the Hudsonville Nature Center. The project was not supported by the City and the Committee stopped the application process.