



# County of Ottawa

Administrator's Office

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## County Administrator's Weekly Digest August 13, 2010

### **2011 BUDGET UPDATE**

Fiscal Services Director Bob Spaman and I provided an update on the County budget situation for the Board of Commissioners at the Board Work Session held after the regular meeting on Tuesday earlier this week. The good news is that we are projecting a \$3.7 million budget gap at this time instead of the \$5.7 million dollar projection that we have been working on for much of the year. One major reason for this is that the expected decline in taxable value has improved from a minus 5-8% to a minus 3.5%.

The \$3.7 million projected deficit is a "best case" scenario at this time. The State has a huge projected deficit to try to plug between now and October 1. Many State revenue programs are at risk including State Revenue Sharing, \$4.3 million expected by County from State in 2011; Community Mental Health is still being told that their State General Fund revenue will be cut by 20%; The Health Department LPHO revenue is still expected to take a 7% or \$75,000 cut; PA 416 Secondary Road Patrol is still lined up for a cut; and the State Jail Reimbursement Program is still at risk. Soil erosion and remonumentation are two other programs for which funding cuts are possible.

County Revenue Sharing was said to be at greatest risk if the Federal government did not pass the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) \$560 million budget. Congress did agree on and pass the FMAP program but at \$380 million. We do not know what the impact of the lower amount will be on local government at this time.

Administration will recommend a budget to the Board of Commissioners based on the best knowledge that we have at the time the recommendation is made. However, we may have to move to a plan b or plan c depending on what happens with a very serious State budget problem. There will be further updates as we learn more.

### **WATER QUALITY** (Adam London)

After hearing numerous misinterpretations of the beach story on the news, Adam London drafted the attached (to Digest email message) clarification for the media.

The press release related to the Holland beach advisory is also attached.

### **NEWS ARTICLE**

I've attached a Holland Sentinel article that reports that Ottawa County had the largest income per-capita drop in the State in 2009.

### **CMH AWARDED GRANTS** (Jane Longstreet)

The Community Mental Health Department has received unofficial word from the Department of Community Health that the two mental health block grant applications we submitted for FY 2011 have been approved. The first, a Children's Mental Health Block Grant, is worth \$262,764 over the next five years, and will allow us to hire a Parent Peer Specialist for the Children's Services team.

The second, worth \$140,000 over the next two years, is an Adult Mental Health Block Grant that will allow us to expand our counseling and Wellness Action and Recovery Plan groups to uninsured citizens throughout Ottawa County.

Together, the grants represent more than \$400,000 in funding for programming that will strengthen the services we deliver to CMH consumers and to the community at large. We are very excited about implementing these grants, and eagerly are awaiting official notification!

### **RESTORATION PROJECT COMPLETED ON GRAND RIVER** (John Scholtz)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), through the United States Department of Agriculture, assisted Ottawa County Parks with the planting of 15,000 native trees and shrubs to restore erosion prone farm fields at the recently acquired 111 acre Grand River property in Tallmadge Township. In the picture below, Heather Medina Saucedo, NRCS District Conservationist, and Heather Simeneta, Soil Conservationist, inspect a tree protector at the site. Restoration with native vegetation is intended to reduce soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat in the fields which were prone to frequent flooding.

Ottawa County Parks purchased property following the purchase of a conservation easement by the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service in January of 2010. Ottawa County Parks paid \$59,300 to add the land to the Grand River Greenway. The 111 acre property with 1.2 miles of Grand River frontage is designated as an Open Space property and is open to public use consistent with rules and regulations as posted.

The plan for restoration of 26.5 acres of previously farmed fields at this site was developed by the NRCS. The Ottawa Conservation District provided assistance in supplying the trees and shrubs for the project which was completed by a private contractor in June.

Future plans include marked trails, a small parking area and an information kiosk. Although not currently open to hunting due to the lack of trails and limited site access, Ottawa County Parks will reevaluate its hunting status following access improvements – possibly in 2011.



White oak  
American plum  
Sugar maple  
American witchhazel

#### Tree and shrub species include:

Black cherry  
Red Bud

Chokecherry

Highbush cranberry  
Elderberry

Northern hackberry  
Black walnut

Swamp white oak  
Silky dogwood  
Common elderberry  
Red maple

## **Ottawa County Sheriff's Office**

### **Citizen Police Academy**

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The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office began its inaugural Citizen Police Academy (CPA) in 2009. It gave a chance for a small group of business and community leaders an inside look at law enforcement. During the Academy, citizens visited the Sheriff's Office to be introduced to:

- Overview of the Ottawa County Sheriff Office.
- Sheriff's Office Road patrol
- Tour of the Ottawa County Correctional Facility.
- Tour of the Ottawa County Central Dispatch.
- Undercover Investigations (Narcotic)
- Marine Patrol/Dive Team duties.
- Sheriff's K9 Patrol duties/demo.
- Sheriff's E-Unit duties/demo.
- Criminal Scientific Support Unit (CSI)
- Use of force – explanation and demonstrations.
- Firearms, Range and Simulator.
- Sheriff's Office Special Operations (CRT TEAM)
- Criminal Justice Legal System.
- Accident and Fatal Accident Investigations.
- Community Policing

The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office hopes there will be a greater awareness and understanding of Law enforcement's role in the community through the education provided by the Citizen Police Academy.

#### **2010 Academy Schedule**

The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office is offering the Citizen Police Academy **September 8, 2010 - December 8, 2010**. Classes meet once a week for twelve weeks. Classes are held on Wednesday's from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The last session of the Academy is graduation. Classes are held at the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Fillmore complex 12220 Fillmore St.

**The students will also have the opportunity to ride with a Deputy to get a glimpse of what a typical patrol night might be like in Ottawa County.**

For more information on the Citizen's Police Academy and the selection process please call the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Lee Hoeksema (616) 738- 4041 or Sergeant Valerie Weiss (616) 738-4622

Complete your application on-line @ [miottawa.org](http://miottawa.org), or fax your completed application to **616-738-4062**.



## County income drop highest in state

By **PETER DAINING**  
**The Holland Sentinel**

Posted Aug 12, 2010 @ 05:30 AM

Ottawa County, MI — Ottawa County had the largest per capita income decrease in the state, topping Detroit. The Holland-Grand Haven statistical area — comprised of Ottawa County — was down to a \$31,735 per capita income in 2009, 3.9 percent less than 2008.

In a U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis report released this week, nationally, the average decrease was 2.8 percent. Ottawa County is one of 223 statistical areas in the country with a declining personal income with a total personal income was \$8.3 billion, down from \$8.6 billion in 2008. Ottawa's per capita income of \$31,735 is \$9,022 less than the national average. It's also slightly below those of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, but \$4,032 more than Muskegon.

### Michigan changes in income

Per capita income in 2009, change from 2008:

- Holland-Grand Haven: \$31,735, -3.9 percent
- Detroit-Warren-Livonia: \$37,541, -3.8 percent
- Ann Arbor: \$38,032, -2.7 percent
- Kalamazoo-Portage: \$32,972, -2.1 percent
- Grand Rapids-Wyoming: \$32,983, -1.8 percent
- Muskegon-Norton Shores: \$27,703, -1.3 percent
- Jackson: \$29,343, -0.9 percent
- Lansing-East Lansing: \$33,666, -0.5 percent
- Battle Creek: \$32,018, 1.2 percent

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