



**County of Ottawa
Administrator's Office**

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**County Administrator's Weekly Digest
October 29, 2010**

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS, INC. – NEW COURTHOUSE AWARDS

The West Michigan Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. – West Michigan Chapter, recently released their Construction Awards for 2010. The new Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven figured into two awards. Nugent Builders, Inc. won the *Subcontractor – New Construction Award* and Owen-Ames-Kimball (O.A.K.), General Contractor on the project won the award for *Governmental Construction*.

Congratulations to Nugent, O.A.K., and everyone else who made this project a success!

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES EVENT (Lisa Stevanovsky)

What kind of design fosters community, enhances economic growth, and promotes good health? How can we creatively plan for streets that are for everyone, not just cars, and for travel alternatives such as walkable paths, bike trails, and a coordinated network of viable public transit options? At the same time, how do we preserve a sense of place, a unique character and identity that feels like home?

To explore these questions, *Disability Network/Lakeshore and our partners will host a Livable Communities event on Tuesday, November 9th from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. located at the Alpenrose Restaurant in Holland, MI.* As a community member interested in issues regarding health, recreation, sustainability, and economic growth of a community, we would like to invite you to attend!

Christopher Zimmerman of Arlington, VA, will be the evening keynote speaker on the topic of economic development as related to smart growth. Mr. Zimmerman, a County Commissioner, specializes in affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and other related urban design. **Marjora Carter**, Executive Director of Sustainable South Bronx, will provide a live video feed; and **Dan Burden**, founder and Executive Director of Walkable and Livable Communities, Inc., will be on hand for the question and answer session.

The invitation for this event is attached to this email. For more information, or to register for this event, visit: www.dnlakeshore.org/events.html . The registration *deadline for this event is Monday, November 1st*.

Lastly, we would like to thank our sponsors for making this event possible: [MAX Transit](#), [City of Zeeland](#), [Hope College](#), and [Holland Charter Township](#).

Look forward to seeing you on November 9th!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Gray
Public Policy Specialist, Disability Network/Lakeshore
On behalf of the Livable Communities Event Planning Committee

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE: THE LEGAL CONSIDERATION (Dave Hulst)

Follow this link to a paper that Dave submitted regarding legal considerations of electronic signatures.

http://www.imagesoftinc.com/email_newsletter/e.101025.whitepaper-legal-considerations.html

RESIDENTIAL HOME STARTS (Mark Knudsen)

Third quarter residential home starts data have been released. These data reveal that the number of single family home starts in Ottawa County through the third quarter of 2010 has surpassed the total number of single family home starts for all of 2009. Multi family home starts, however, continue to be below the 2009 level. The attached file depicts the number of residential home starts in Ottawa County as well as each local unit of government from 2003 through the third quarter of 2010.

UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (Mark Knudsen)

Jobless rates continue to show improvement, with Ottawa County's monthly unemployment rate down to 11.1% in September from a high of 14.0% in March. Unemployment rates are also down in each of the three largest local units of government (Georgetown Township, Holland Township, and the City of Holland). The attached files include the annual and monthly unemployment rates for Ottawa County, the three largest local units of government, Michigan, and the U.S.