

# County Administrator's Digest

April 22, 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

## **LOCAL UNIT QUADRANT MEETINGS**

The spring local unit quadrant meetings have been scheduled as follows:

### **Northwest**

May 4, 2011 from 10 AM -12 PM at the City of Ferrysburg

### **Northeast**

May 16, 2011 from 2-4 PM at Allendale Charter Township

### **Southwest**

May 20, 2011 from 10 AM - 12 PM at the City of Holland

### **Southeast**

May 23, 2011 from 2-4 PM at the City of Hudsonville

## **COUNTY RECEIVES COMPLETED COMMUNITY MOVIES** (Keith Van Beek)

Last summer several members of the community contributed to a series of short "community movies" promoting Ottawa County and the many positive attributes that reside in this place we call home. Movies were made regarding Quality of Life, Economic Development, Education, Tourism and six other topics. Anyone can view the movies from the front page of the County website, [www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org), by clicking the tab Community Movies next to the picture of "Big Red" in Holland. The movies were provided free-of-charge by CGI Communications as part of a National Association of Counties initiative. CGI Communications did require that the movies be viewed from their website, and as part of their business model is now selling advertisements to interested businesses and community organizations. We have received some inquiries about this company and can confirm that they did complete the movies on our behalf. Please check-out the movies and consider linking them to your websites as we attempt to promote all that our community has to offer!

## **CONTINENTAL DAIRY** (Mark Knudsen)

During the public comment period of the April 12, 2011 Board Meeting, a mem-



ber of the public questioned the appropriateness of allotting Recovery Zone Bonds to Continental Dairy because they had been hiring a disproportional number of workers from states other than Michigan to construct their powdered milk facility in Coopersville. This allegation is untrue. In actuality, there are 150 workers at the site each day on average. 135 of the 150 workers are either from this area or somewhere else in Michigan.

### **NEW FOOD SANITARIAN NAMED** (Adeline Hambley)

**I received this note from Adeline about a month ago so it is a little out of date but I thought the Board would be interested in knowing that we have a new Sanitarian on the job.**

As many of you are aware, Deb VandeBunte will be retiring after 32 years of service here at Ottawa County. I would like to announce that Spencer Ballard will be moving in to the role of Food Supervisor. Spencer has been with Ottawa County for six years, having previously worked at Oakland County conducting food inspections, and at GM as a shift supervisor and project engineer. Spencer has demonstrated great abilities in relationship building and program management in his position as Type II Coordinator here at Ottawa County.

Spencer began his new role on April 4. I hope you will join me in welcoming Spencer to his new position here at the Health Department.

### **QUARTERLY ROAD COMMISSION MEETING** (Keith Van Beek)

Leadership and staff from the Board of Commissioners and Road Commission meet quarterly to discuss topics and maintain open lines of communication on various issues. We will outline those discussions in Digest communications as those meetings occur. Listed below are the topics discussed in the April meeting, attended by Phil Kuyers, Roger Rycenga, Don Disselkoen, Al Vanderberg, Keith Van Beek, Dennis Kent, Vicki Weerstra, David Vander Kooi, Tom Palarz and Brett Laughlin.

- MDOT officials provided the latest update on the M231 bridge and bypass project. Work is underway clearing land for the bridge. The bridge itself is being designed, with an estimate that the bridge construction will begin perhaps in October of 2011. Property acquisition is also underway. The money has not been raised for the non-motorized trail bridge crossing but the current design does allow for the addition of that item. The design also ended up NOT including infrastructure for a second span for expanded traffic in the future. Future schedule is currently outlined as follows, depending on funding; segment north of the bridge construction in 2012 and 2013, improvements in Holland in 2016, improvements in Grand Haven in 2018.
- Managing Director Laughlin distributed a handout (included with this document [click here](#)) promoting the 100-year anniversary of the Ottawa County Road Commission. An open house will be held on May 4 from 3 to 7 PM at the Grand Haven facility at US-31 at Rosy Mound.
- Managing Director Laughlin distributed preliminary totals on winter maintenance expenditures. Overall colder temperatures and additional weekend storms caused more expenditures than budgeted.
- Managing Director Laughlin distributed an overview of projects contracted for the seal coat program in 2011, totaling nearly 29 miles. This process involves applying an emulsion and then chips (small stones) and maintain the integrity of surfaces at a very economical rate. These roads are always crack-sealed prior to this application.
- Managing Director Laughlin distributed an overview of projects contracted for crack sealing in 2011. The

road commission has two crews that complete about 60 miles of work, and this contract will additionally complete 106 miles.

- The group discussed an emerging issue about bridges in the County with imposed weight limits because of structural deficiencies. All bridges are on a 2-year inspection schedule as required by the state, and early this year two bridges were found to have issues that caused the road commission to impose immediate weight limits for safety issues. Those two bridges are now added to a list of three previous bridges that require various levels of attention to allow full use. The primary source of funding for these repairs is the State bridge program, which will shortly be accepting applications for funding in 2014. The group discussed if any other sources of funding might be available.

### **COUNTYWIDE WIRELESS BROADBAND INITIATIVE** (Paul Sachs)

As a result of the County's public-private partnership to expand wireless broadband countywide, approximately 95% of the population has access to high-speed, fully-mobile broadband service. In an effort to expand coverage to the remaining 5% of the County, a new communications tower is being proposed in Robinson Township. Robinson Township is one of four remaining underserved areas in the County. The three other areas include Wright Township, Tallmadge Township, and the Spring Lake Township.

The Planning and Performance Improvement Department is currently in discussions with officials in Robinson to construct a 199 foot wireless communications tower on the County's Johnson Street Forest property (12255 Johnson Street). The proposed tower is strategically located in one of four remaining underserved areas of the County and is situated just west of the new M-231 Bypass (refer to map below). Because of the tower's desirable location, two national wireless carriers have already agreed to co-locate their broadband equipment on the tower if constructed.

The tower that is being proposed is a 199 foot monopole that is similar, if not exactly the same as the County's Fillmore Street tower in Olive Township. That tower was constructed in 2009 as part of the Countywide Wireless Broadband Initiative. A 199 foot tower was selected by the County because it is the height that the wireless carriers have requested in order to maximize their coverage area for providing high-speed, wireless broadband service to underserved residents in the Township. The 199 foot tower can also provide co-location facilities for up to four different carriers, which can reduce the number of towers that may be needed in the Township in the future. Additionally, by limiting the tower to less than 200 feet the County has avoided the FAA requirement for 24-hour lighting of the structure.

Because Robinson Township's Zoning Ordinance does not permit towers over 150 feet in height, the Planning and Performance Improvement Department is requesting a dimensional variance from the Township Zoning Board of Appeals, in addition to a variance on the tower setback and proposed gravel driveway. If approved for the variances, the County hopes to begin construction of the tower in June, 2011. Tower construction is expected to take 3-4 months. The wireless carriers would like to start providing broadband service to residents in the Township by September, 2011.

# OTTAWA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

## *100 Year Celebration*

*1911-2011*

### OPEN HOUSE

May 4 – 3:00pm to 7:00pm

Grand Haven Facility: US-31 @ Rosy Mound Drive

