

County Administrator's Digest

July 8, 2011

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

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OCEDO ACTIVITY REPORT (Ken Rizzio)

[Click here for Ken Rizzio's latest report on economic development activities, excellent job as usual!](#)

ESGR

ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) is a group that is dedicated to building support between employers and the Guard and Reserve. GH City Manager Pat McGinnis passed along the following message and the attached flier announcing an opportunity for county or local officials to tour the Mackinaw ice breaker and possibly ride on a life saving boat. I attended a similar event on an ice breaker in January up at the Mackinaw Bridge a few years ago and it was a great experience.

Click here for a flier announcing a great opportunity for you OR ANY area employer to get a wonderful tour of the Grand haven Coast Guard facility and the harbor aboard a Coast Guard boat. The Employer Support Group for the National Guard puts this on each year, and we are trying to reach employers from the area, but not from Grand Haven. It is a great, VIP way to experience the Coast Guard Festival without the hassle of the huge crowds.

Please pass this along to any employers (upper management is preferred – the group is trying to build support and good will for employees who serve in the Guard) that might enjoy an “inside” view of Coast Guard activities on the Great Lakes.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

Keith Van Beek, Bob Spaman and I had great attendance and a robust discussion at the brown bag lunch in Grand Haven today. We had in-depth conversation about what is going well and in some cases needs to go better with our new benefits program. We also heard some helpful tips that employees are learning to hold down individual health care cost. The new health management committee will likely begin to collect and pass these types of ideas on.

HOUSE BILL ON INSURANCE BENEFITS

Click here for an article that Bob Spaman forwarded on the House Bill recently adopted that combined into one piece of proposed legislation the Senate pro-



posal to require an 80/20 employer/employee health insurance cost split and the House proposal to mandate hard cap limits on what public employers can pay for employee health insurance. The resulting legislation, if approved would go into effect on January 1, 2012. I'll write more on this if the Senate approves the bill in upcoming weeks.

Ottawa County Economic Development Office, Inc.

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DATE: July 1, 2011

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 January – June 2011**

For your information, this memo provides a summary of the major work activities & results that occurred during the first half of this year. Please feel free to share this memo with your Board/Commission/Council members. If you have any questions or would like additional information on (most of) these items, please call me at 892-4120 or e-mail to: krizzio@altelco.net Thank you.

I. Industrial Retention & Expansion Activities:

Industrial retention visits were made to 22 manufacturing firms. Most of the visits were made jointly with Bill Kratz, Business Development Manager with the MEDC. Those firms are located in the cities of Holland, Hudsonville & Zeeland; and the townships of Allendale, Chester, Georgetown, Grand Haven, Holland, Jamestown, Olive, Tallmadge & Zeeland.

Assisted in administering four CDBG grant funded projects:

- City of Coopersville/Continental Dairy Products/CS Facilities' Wastewater System Upgrade (including the USDA bond closing)
- City of Coopersville/Saturn Electronics & Engineering Machinery & Equipment Acquisition
- Holland Charter Township/Request Foods' Wastewater Pre-treatment System Upgrade
- Holland Charter Township/Quincy Street Wastewater Pretreatment Phase II

Assisted Fillmore Township and DeWeerd Poultry Farm investigate the possibility of applying for a \$ 160,000 CDBG grant to help finance the construction of a sanitary sewer line to serve a new \$ 1.9 million egg processing plant. As part of the environmental review, prepared the wetlands notices and project notification letters to the SHPO and MDEQ. It was later decided that the Township would not to apply for the grant because the start of construction of the egg plant would have to wait until June 1st when all of the

environmental review record requirements would have been completed. The project continues on, but without the CDBG grant. All of the public and private activities will be financed by the poultry farm. This expansion project will create 16 jobs.

Began investigating the possibility of utilizing a CDBG grant to help finance the installation of a 3-phase electric line costing \$ 100,000 to serve an established metal fabrication shop located in Chester Township that will be expanding, only if the additional power is provided. The projected private investment is \$ 250,000 and 5 new jobs would be created over the next 24 months.

Prepared, edited and/or helped process an P.A. 198 industrial facilities tax abatement application for the following manufacturing firm:

<u>Manufacturers</u>	<u>Communities</u>	<u>Investments</u>	<u>Jobs</u>	
			<u>Existing</u>	<u>New</u>
Speed Wrench	Jamestown Twp	\$ 85,160	13	1

P.A. 198 prospects for which applications will be prepared in the near future, include firms located in the cities of Holland, Hudsonville & Zeeland; and Allendale, Holland, Olive and Tallmadge Townships.

Participated in a meeting at Lakeshore Advantage on forming an Advanced Energy Storage Network of suppliers to the new Johnson Controls/SAFT and LG Chem lithium ion battery manufacturing operations located in the City of Holland; advised Lakeshore Advantage's preparation of a federal grant application- Jobs Accelerator to EDA, ETA & SBA.

II. Industrial Attraction Activities:

Provided information on available industrial sites in Ottawa County to three prospects. The site searches were conducted in Coopersville, Olive Township and Port Sheldon Township.

Assisted the Center for Automotive Research at the University of Michigan in collecting primary information (including a site visit to Coopersville) on the experience of attracting Continental Dairy's milk processing project to utilize the former Delphi manufacturing plant. CAR's federally funded case study on the repurposing of closed U.S. automaker manufacturing facilities will feature only one site in Michigan- Coopersville.

III. Small Business Counseling Activities:

In conjunction with Lakeshore Advantage, prepared a grant application to the U.S. Small Business Administration for a \$ 420,000 grant (first year) under the Small Business Teaming Pilot Program. If awarded, the grant funds will be utilized to help teams of small

businesses throughout the West Michigan Region pursue federal government contracts valued over \$ 10 million.

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 22 short-term clients located throughout Ottawa County with information, including how to start a business, obtaining financing, required licenses & permits, writing a business plan and available local, State and federal business assistance programs.

OCEDO also assisted 24 long-term clients by providing one-on-one counseling. Those clients were located in the communities of Coopersville, Holland, Hudsonville, Allendale, Jamestown, Georgetown, Robinson, Heath, Fillmore, Grand Rapids, Tallmadge, Wright and Zeeland. Participated in MI-SBTDC meetings: Region 7 in Grand Rapids, a regional cluster in Kalamazoo and the Network in Traverse City.

Also, attended the Michigan Celebrates Small Business Banquet in Lansing with OCEDO nominated Lakeshore Cutting Solutions of Zeeland who was selected as one of the 2011 Michigan 50 Companies To Watch.

IV. Other Activities:

Assisted with the approval of the Brownfield TIF for Cedar Crest Dairy, Inc. project in the City of Hudsonville. Phase I will remove contaminated soils and pay for environmental studies. The \$ 577,357 project will create 3 to 5 jobs. Phase II in several years will be proposed to the MEDC for a CDBG grant to the City to help finance need machinery & equipment with a proposed expansion of the freezer. The proposed \$ 1.4 million project will create 15 jobs.

Participated in staffing the MEDC's booth at the International Auto Show in Detroit.

Participated in meetings of the MEDC's Advisory Group; Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign Trade Zone (KOM-FTZ) Authority Board (currently serving as Chairman); Ottawa County Land Bank Authority; Kent County Land Bank Authority, Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce (serving on the Board of Directors & Building Enhancement Grant Program Committee); and the Hudsonville Economic Development Committee.

Attended the 2011 Small Business & Rural Development Conference at Crystal Mountain.

Began assisting Wright Township in seeking federal, State & local funding to rebuild the bridge on 8th Avenue which had weight restrictions imposed since this spring due to its deteriorated condition.



Tenth Annual ESGR/Coast Guard - Employer Event 2011

Who: All Employers.

What: Tour of the Coast Guard Station and icebreaker MACKINAW, a ride on a 47' Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat (weather permitting), ESGR Information briefing, and lunch.

Where: Coast Guard Station Grand Haven, 650 South Harbor Dr., Grand Haven, MI 49417. All attendees should report to the second floor of the American Legion Post (700 Harbor Ave) next door to the Coast Guard Sector Grand Haven Headquarters.

When: 8:30 AM, August 2, 2011

All employers will receive a Department of Defense ESGR Statement of Support Certificate to display at their place of business.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Mel Bauman by filling out the bottom of this page and e-mailing it to artelb@sbcglobal.net, fax to 616-735-4060, or mail it to ESGR, 3870 Three Mile, Rd., Grand Rapids, MI. 49544

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____



State House OKs bill to cap costs of insurance benefits

BY CHRIS CHRISTOFF

DETROIT FREE PRESS LANSING BUREAU CHIEF

Jul 1, 2011

LANSING -- A bill to put a limit on what local communities and school districts can pay for employee health benefits narrowly passed the House on Thursday evening, but it will have to wait at least until mid-July before the Senate considers it.

The bill capped a long day of voting, which included a spirited House debate and vote to regulate wild hogs kept on hunting ranches.

The employee benefits bill was an attempt to bridge divisions between House and Senate Republicans over how to put a cap on the cost of health insurance for public employees.

Under the House bill, all counties, cities, townships, villages and school districts would be required to impose a strict dollar limit on health insurance policies, beginning with their next negotiated union contracts.

The law would also cover the Wayne County Airport Authority.

The limits would be \$15,000 for a family, \$12,500 for a single parent and children, \$11,000 for an eligible couple and \$5,500 for individuals.

However, the governments and school districts could choose instead, by a two-thirds approval of their elected boards or commissions, to use another limit: Employees would pay at least 20% of the cost of their health insurance policy premiums.

And cities, counties and township officials could choose to use no cost cap, by a two-thirds vote. School districts could not choose to opt out of the health cost limits.

The bill passed, 56-52, with the minimum number of votes needed, with only one Democratic vote: Rep. Tim Melton, D-Auburn Hills.

"I have said from the beginning that this House should lead by example, and I'm pleased with our action to rein in spending on public employee benefits," said House

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Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall.

The issue is considered a major reform by Republicans -- including Gov. Rick Snyder -- who say health care costs for public workers are becoming too burdensome for taxpayers.

Amber McCann, spokeswoman for majority Senate Republicans, said they chose not to remain in session Thursday night to concur with the House health insurance bill because too many details had to be addressed.

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