

# County Administrator's Digest

August 5, 2011

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## **GRAND HAVEN – OTTAWA COUNTY COOPERATION**

The Grand Haven City Council voted 5-0 Monday to approve the agreement between the city and Ottawa County for assessing services. The agreement is a great example of how the County and local units can cooperate in manner that produces cost savings and maintains or improves levels of service. The agreement goes to the Finance Committee and Board later this month.

We also learned this week that the Michigan Municipal League Foundation approved the grant for half the cost of the study to determine collaboration possibilities between Grand Haven and Ottawa County in the areas of Finance, Treasury, Information Technology, and Assessing. The Assessing contract will have already gone to the Board but aspects of assessing will still be studied as we would like to achieve scalability when we embark on cooperative ventures – i.e. a way to add and detract local governments from a particular service without further studies.

We are excited about this new cooperation venture and what it could lead to in the future.

## **NEW BILLS WOULD ELIMINATE CA'S**

Dr. Michael Brashears forwarded on a message (see below) regarding the introduction of legislation that would have the effect of combining Coordinating Agencies such as the Lakeshore Coordinating Council with mental health departments/authorities.

*Earlier this week, Rep. Earl Poleski (R – Jackson) introduced House Bills 4862 & 4863 which would statutorily merge substance abuse services with mental health and eliminate coordinating agencies. Both bills were referred to the House Health Policy Committee. We have worked hard to merge some or all Coordinating Agency functions and Medicaid funding for substance abuse with CMH for a few years now.*

It is too early to know whether these bills will see legislative action and Dr. Brashears will evaluate the legislation.



### **HOLLAND HARBOR FISHING ACCESS PROJECT UPDATE** (John Scholtz)

Construction is finally nearing completion on the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project. Located on the north shore of Lake Macatawa at the eastern end of the Holland harbor channel adjacent to Holland State Park, this \$600,000 project will provide an extensive system of docks and boardwalks to provide access to a particularly scenic and productive fishing location known locally as 'the cove'. The project continues implementation of the Park 12 master plan which was approved in 2004. Two fishing piers will extend from the shoreline into the deeper and more desirable portions of the lake and a 340' long boardwalk with fishing locations along its length will traverse a significant portion of currently inaccessible shoreline (see photo below).

The docks are designed to be completely barrier free to accommodate fishing by people of all abilities. In addition, the boardwalk provides a key link for a proposed half-mile lakeshore trail planned to connect the Holland State Park beach to the Black Lake Boardwalk at the east end of County-owned property. A grant application is pending with the State for funding assistance to complete the waterfront walkway.

Additional amenities included in the current project include a 10-car parking area, benches, and interpretive signage highlighting the history of maritime activities in the area plus information on past and present fisheries resources in the immediate area as well as the Great Lakes.

This project is made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust (GLFT). The GLFT provides funds to enhance, protect and rehabilitate the Great Lakes fishery including assistance to expand access for fisherman. The balance of funds are coming from the parks and recreation millage. The goal is to complete the project by Labor Day.



### **CUSTOMER SERVICE** (Misty Cunningham)

Have you been anywhere lately and you think to yourself, "man that person must really hate making money"? I have and it isn't pleasant, especially when they make you feel like you've burdened them. People sometimes forget that your business helps to keep them employed. In my opinion the most important aspect of almost all jobs is customer service. I know everyone has a bad day now and then, but when it comes to serving those who help contribute toward your paycheck you should always give them the best customer service possible. In my case, and many of you reading this, we work for the taxpayers and they should be given the utmost respect! Remember to always treat people how you yourself would like to be treated! I always make this a priority and hope you always have great customer service when contacting the County Administrator's Office!

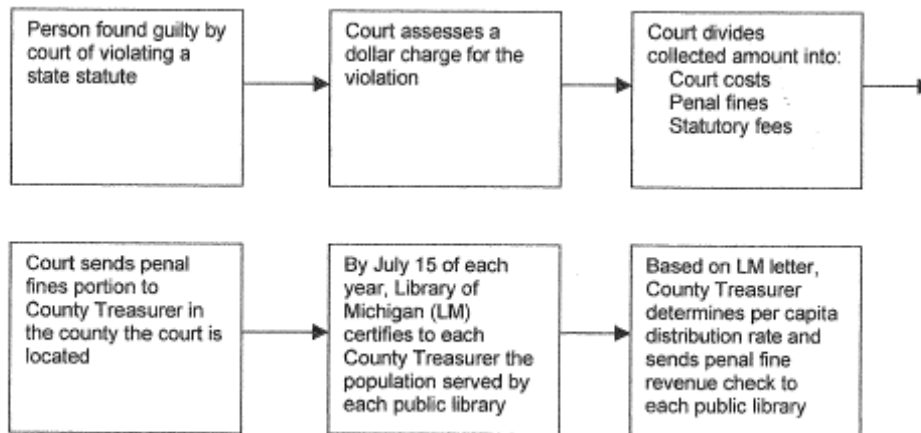
### **LIBRARY PENAL FINES** (Brad Slagh)

The 1963 State of Michigan Constitution requires that a portion of all penalties collected for violations of the state penal laws, including some traffic citations, be used for the support of public libraries. Throughout the year, the County Treasurer collects the penal fine portion from the County Court and in July of each year pay

out to the local libraries their share of the total collected including any interest earned.

The amount paid to each public library is determined by the percentage of total county population living in the area which each library has an agreement to serve. The population value is fixed at each Census.

Please refer to the flow chart below for a picture of the process that brings the funds to the libraries.



The 2011 Distributions in dollars and percentages are available on the attached page ([click here](#)). (Because Crockery Township is not represented in any library agreement at this time their funds are, being kept in escrow for them.)

### **CREDIT RATING MAINTAINED**

Moody's Investors Services of all triple rated debt (Aaa) and their associated ratings under review for possible downgrade. A total of 162 governments were reviewed including Ottawa County. Ottawa's rating was maintained at the highest level, Aaa. Some governments were downgraded.

### **TRICK FARM/MUSKETAWA TRAIL** (Mark Knudsen)

After many months of negotiations, the contentious situation involving the Triick Farm and the Musketawa Trail is resolved. An alternative route was finally approved, and the revised pathway plan has been advertised and bid for construction. The new pathway route, although slightly longer than the original route, will still connect the Musketawa Trail with Kent County. However, the Triicks' cattle feedlot will not be negatively impacted by disturbances from the trail or its users.

Additionally, the alternative route will not result in any substantive delays to the project schedule, and the project cost may be less than originally anticipated. Construction of the pathway is still scheduled to commence in September or October of this year. An added benefit of the alternative route is that the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Department has acquired property which will provide public access to the previously land-locked Marne Bog which was donated to the Parks Commission several years ago.

The successful resolution of this issue involved local citizens, agricultural representatives, township officials, county officials, state department directors and their staff, and others. Our County lobbyist and the Park's De-

partment were also instrumental in the process. Although formal communications will be sent to express the County's appreciation to the many individuals and organizations assisting in this effort, it is worth noting that the Directors of the Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, and Natural Resources demonstrated exemplary leadership, responsiveness, and collaboration to ensure this issue resulted in a win-win outcome for our agricultural and recreational communities.

### **OCCDA JULY PERFORMANCE MEASURES** (Tim Smith)

To say everyone was busy last month would be a bit of an understatement!!!!

The numbers handled through Central Dispatch for July 2011 were:

<b>Total Incidents –</b>	12,154 up 7.6% over July 2010 and up 3.7% YTD over 2010
<b>Fire Incidents –</b>	1,378 up 14% over July 2010 and up 8.4% YTD over 2010
<b>Law Incidents –</b>	10,776 up 6.8% over July 2010 and up 2.6% YTD over 2010
<b>911 Calls –</b>	10,071 even with July 2010 and up 2.8% YTD over 2010
<b>911 Hang Up calls -</b>	1,135 up 6.1% over July 2010 and down 1.3% YTD over 2010
<b>Wireless 911 calls –</b>	80.3% of 911 calls for July and 82.7% of 911 calls YTD
<b>911 calls answered in 10 seconds or less -</b>	93.1% for July and 95.6% YTD 2011
<b>(NENA recommended standard is 90% within 10 seconds)</b>	

### **LOCAL UNIT QUADRANT MEETINGS**

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

#### **Northwest**

October 4, 2011 from 10 AM – 12 PM at Grand Haven Charter Township

#### **Northeast**

TBA

#### **Southwest**

September 29, 2011 from 2 – 4 PM at Holland Charter Township

#### **Southeast**

September 26, 2011 from 2-4 PM at the City of Zeeland

**KUDOS!**

Congratulations to Grand Haven for having the beach at Grand Haven State Park listed as an Honorable Mention by Dr. Beach.

Congratulations to the Ottawa County Road Commission for the organizational achievement award they received from the Michigan Asset Management Council for its 2011-2016 Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP).

**STYPULA RESIGNATION**

Don Stypula announced his resignation as Executive Director of the Grand Valley Metro Council to the Board of Directors yesterday. Stypula has served in this capacity for just over 8 years. He will remain while a search committee that I have been asked to assist seeks his replacement. A statement that Don sent out later follows:

*My good friends!*

*I apologize for the duplicate message if you have already received this.*

*This morning, following the regular business at the Metro Council Board meeting, I stepped to the podium and called it a career.*

*I announced my intention to retire as Executive Director of the Grand Valley Metro Council by the early part of 2012 or whenever the Board hires a new person to take this exciting and challenging position.*

*My reasons for stepping aside at this time are several:*

*1. I'm just plain out of gas. This is an exciting but mentally challenging job that requires me to be ready for action 24/7/365. My energy levels are not what they used to be and I'm just looking to do something new but less intense.*

*2. Stypula, LLC. I'm gonna take a small, but growing entrepreneurial spirit that I have, kick the ties and see where it leads. I'm going to form my own two-person (my wife Jan, and I) company; do some consulting; some lobbying; some public speaking; and some other activities and see where it leads. I also may come full circle and get back into some form of news reporting. That's how I got my start in this public policy game in January '74. Just for the sheer joy of telling a great story, I may jump back in from time to time. If none of that works out, my fallback plan is to see some of you from time to time, extend a handshake and say "Welcome to Meijer!"*

*3. It's time. Last month, a long-time friend of mine died after a very brief fight with liver cancer. I'm truly struggling to get past that one. I want to lower the stress levels, find something that I can passionately advocate for or communicate about and get back to the time-honored idea of "doing what you love, and loving what you do."*

*It has been a profound honor to work with county and local officials and our terrific regional partners across West*

*Michigan over the past eight years. I'll have some other thoughts to share over the next several months as I help my Board members and my outstanding staff associates in the transition to new leadership at this wonderful organization.*

*In the meantime, I'm heading to the Rocky Mountains in Utah and Wyoming for the next week to clear my mind and prepare for the next chapter.*

*Take care!*

*Djs*

### **PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX**

It appears that the Lt. Governor is hot on the trail of personal property tax reform, or at least cut as the case may be. The early thinking is that the personal property tax would be cut from commercial/industrial properties and left on utility properties. This would cut local government personal property tax revenue by approximately half. With no replacement revenue this would be devastating for local governments across the state. The Governor seemed to understand this in an address that he made to the Michigan Local Government Management Association Summer Workshop in St. Joseph last week. However, Lt. Gov. Calley also was quoted last week as indicating that a replacement stream is necessary. However, the devil is certainly in the details on this one. When you consider State promises on revenue sharing in the past, many local governments will be leery of having replacement revenue less protected than personal property tax currently is. More on this later, Ottawa County receives \$2.7 million of its General Fund revenue from personal property tax.

**OTTAWA COUNTY**  
**PENAL FINE COLLECTIONS**  
**Year: 2011 Distribution**

July 27, 2011

Library	Certified Population	Interest	Principal	Total Distribution
Allendale Township	19,923	160.61	80,513.24	80,673.85
Coopersville Area District	11,846	95.50	47,872.30	47,967.80
Georgetown Township	41,658	335.83	168,349.18	168,685.01
Patmos (Jamestown)	5,062	40.81	20,456.66	20,497.47
Herrick District	82,549	665.48	333,598.75	334,264.23
Gary Byker Memorial	10,021	80.79	40,497.07	40,577.86
Loutit District	35,510	286.27	143,503.75	143,790.02
Spring Lake District	13,140	105.93	53,101.64	53,207.57
Howard Miller	16,279	131.24	65,787.03	65,918.27
Funds in Escrow-Crockery Township	3,782	30.49	15,283.90	15,314.39

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>239,770</b>	<b>1,932.95</b>	<b>968,963.52</b>	<b>970,896.47</b>
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