

County Administrator's Digest

January 6, 2012

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We have an exciting year ahead. Many predict that 2012 will be another year of fast paced change in Michigan with Governor Snyder and the Legislature completing work on many reforms and new initiatives. That sounds like enough for me without Porter Stansberry's prediction that the United States will end in 2012 and the mid 1500's prophecy of Nostradamus that the world would end in 2012 after a huge comet strikes the earth and sends it into chaos and anarchy.

In any event we certainly wish you and your families and organizations a very happy and prosperous 2012!

COUNTY HIRES NEW FACILITIES DIRECTOR (Keith Van Beek)

We are pleased to announce the hiring of a new Facilities Director Richard "Rick" Vandekerckhoff. Rick was chosen from a large pool of quality applicants and went through a thorough interview process. Rick will begin his employment this coming Monday, January 9. A special thanks to the Human Resources Department, including Jennifer Orme, Marcie VerBeek, retiree Mark Scheerhorn and Undersheriff Greg Steigenga who assisted in the interview process.

Rick is a resident of Rockford and has a long history of managing facilities. His resume includes a degree in facilities management from Ferris State University along with business management studies at Davenport. He has been active with local building associations, including the Integrated Facility Management Association (IFMA) and the LEED Building Council. He has an extensive work history with Ameritech, Johnson Controls and General Motors in various aspects of facilities management. Rick also served as the Mayor for the City of Rockford.

Please join me in welcoming Rick in his new role!



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH OFFICE HOLIDAY EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR CHARITY**I received this note from Community Mental Health staff after the last Digest went out:**

Just read your Administrator's Digest for 12/16/11 and wanted you to know Community Mental Health - A Building, also had a Holiday Potluck and each Program in A Building, was asked to donate a homemade 'Festive Centerpiece'. During the potluck we had a silent auction and we raised \$300.00 for charity. The charities that we chose were the Housing Coalition and Harbor Humane Society! Can't wait to see without your mustache!!

SENATE COMMITTEE HEARING AT THE FILLMORE COMPLEX**The Fillmore Complex will soon be the site of a Michigan Senate Hearing:**

Hearing on Agricultural Growth; Challenges and Opportunities

Convened by Senator Arlan Meekhof

January 16, 2013

Ottawa County Administrative Offices

12220 Fillmore Street

West Olive, Michigan 49460

Agenda

1:00 P.M. Call to Order and Introductions

Senator Meekhof (I will suggest some comments/talking points)

1:10 P.M. Overview of Michigan Agriculture, Challenges and Opportunities Jim Byrum, Michigan Agri-Business Association

1:25 P.M. First Panel: Rail (10 minutes per speaker)

Adam Geers, Michigan Agricultural Commodities, (Grain Handling) Newaygo

Jim Doyle, King Milling, (Flour Milling) Lowell

Tim Boals, Wilbur-Ellis, (Agronomy – Fertilizer and Crop Protection and Seed – Distributors and Retailers) Sparta

Questions for each presenter after they speak from Senator Meekhof, and other legislators in attendance

(I will also suggest some questions for each)

2:10 P.M. Second Panel: Additional Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities (10 minutes per speaker)

Brian Brink, Brink Farms, (Trucking, Storage and Distribution Company) Hamilton

Dave Boerema, Michigan Rail and Storage, (Intermodal Freight, Rail Shipping Facilitator, Transloading Business) Grand Rapids

Jim Shea, PK Construction, (Road Construction)

Questions for each presenter after they speak from Senator Meekhof, and other legislators in attendance

2:50 P.M. Closing comments from Senator Meekhof and others in attendance

(I will suggest some closing talking points)

3:00 P.M. Adjourn

2012 HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN CHOICE NUMBERS

In the 2011 budget we were not sure what to expect regarding employee response to the new health care benefit options so we budgeted 33% each for the 100-80 Plan, the 90-70 Plan and the High Deductible HSA Plan. We ended up pleasantly surprised with virtually 50% signing up for the High Deductible HSA Plan in its first year and 50% in the 100-80 plan with a very small number in the 90-70 Plan. As everyone knows, we made a major push to encourage employees to consider the High Deductible HSA Plan and a positive response was received. Approximately 80% chose the High Deductible HSA Plan, 20% chose the 100-80 plan with another very small number choosing the 90-70 plan which will generate over a half-million dollars in savings.

AUTUMN HILLS LANDFILL EXPANSION (Donovan Thomas)

Few people think much about their household refuse once it leaves the curb. However, there are multiple regulations guiding how the waste is transported, disposed, and maintained to ensure the health and safety of the community and environment. One of the primary regulatory tools at the local level is the Ottawa County Solid Waste Management Plan. Every county in Michigan is required by the state to maintain a plan that defines how waste is handled within a county. Ottawa County's plan is administered by the Health Department's Solid Waste Program.

One particular area of the plan regulates when, where and how a landfill will be sited, and regulates the expansion of existing landfills. Last summer, Ottawa County was notified by Zeeland Township, and Waste Management, Inc., Autumn Hills Landfill (located in Zeeland Township), that the landfill would be seeking the County's approval to expand the facility. It should be noted that in this case "expansion" does not mean the landfill will get bigger, but that they want to open more of their current site to waste disposal. Currently, about

half of the landfill site is permitted for waste disposal.

The Ottawa County Solid Waste Management Plan is very specific on the process required for landfill expansion, and is purposefully written to ensure community participation and representation throughout the process. This is accomplished in part through the creation of the Solid Waste Planning Committee. The committee includes a cross section of community stakeholders that are tasked to review the expansion plans and engineering designs to determine if the proposed expansion meets all requirements of the Solid Waste Management Plan. If the committee is satisfied that the proposal meets all requirements they will provide a letter of support, so the landfill can then seek a permit from the state. If the committee finds the expansion to be inconsistent with the plan, the landfill has an opportunity to revise the proposal for further consideration.

While Ottawa County, Zeeland Township and Autumn Hills Landfill have been working together on this project since summer, the landfill has not yet completed the expansion plans or submitted a formal request for expansion approval. The planning and engineering is a substantial task. However, to facilitate the review process in the near future, Ottawa County has been assembling the necessary committee members, and preparing for the process. I will continue to provide updates to the digest as the project develops. Questions about this project or the Solid Waste Management Plan can be directed to Matt Allen, Solid Waste Supervisor at 616-494-5569.

OTTAWA COUNTY LAND BANK – THE NEXT PHASE (Brad Slagh, County Treasurer)

After 2 years of planning and organizing to establish the Land Bank Authority, it finally has its first property. This property is in the City of Holland on Lincoln just north of 32nd, and was the site of Boeve Oil Company (a petroleum distributor) for more than two (2) generations. After the company went out of business, they were unable to sell the property because there was a known EPA fuel spill and unknown issues regarding usage history and multiple underground fuel tanks on the rest of the site. The property owners eventually stopped paying taxes and the commercial property and the house were foreclosed on for unpaid taxes.

With the help of Macatawa Area Coordinating Council we were able to get several grants to undertake the environmental impact studies required, so that a purchaser could easily understand all the ramifications and constraints of the site. Additionally, the grants for the Phase II study enabled us to not only determine the extent of pollution concerns, but also remove underground tanks and clean up some of the physical site problems as we did the study. Costs for these studies and clean up totaled more than \$80,000.

The properties, which include a house and commercial building, are now listed for sale through Signature Associates. We look forward to selling the properties and getting them back on the tax role in the City. As there is no funding mechanism for the Land Bank other than selling properties and the revenue generated from 50% of taxes paid over 5 years on property the land bank sells, the Land Bank Board of Directors will now be able to begin looking for ways to bring on other tax foreclosed properties. We anticipate being able to use the funds raised to either clean up and sell, or bring other properties back to private ownership.

Attached are a set of pictures showing the Before and After of the Lincoln Ave property. The Before shows the mess that was there, including one of the gas pumps and the edge of the canopy over the underground tanks. The After shows the yard cleaned up and the tanks, canopy and gas pumps removed. Now the properties just need a private owner(s) to really bring the "cared for look" back to the site.

The County Board of Commissioners has established the Land Bank Board of Directors to include: two township representatives (Glenn Nykamp & Leon Stille), two city representatives (Ryan Cotton & David VanderHeide), Ken Rizzio, one County Commissioner (Roger Rycenga), one citizen (Dave Van Dyke), the County Administrator & the County Treasurer. If you have any questions about the Ottawa County Land Bank please contact me or one of these other representatives.

Before



After



DECEMBER OCCDA - DISPATCH STATISTICS (Tim Smith)

Total Incidents –	8,475 down 1.4% over December 2010 and up 1.8% YE over 2010
Fire Incidents –	1,004 down 3.8% over December 2010 and up 4.9% YE over 2010
Law Incidents –	7,471 down 1% over December 2010 and up 1.5% YE over 2010
911 Calls –	8,093 up 3.5% over December 2010 and up 3.8% YE over 2010
911 Hang Up calls -	1,038 up 27.2% over December 2010 and up 12.1% YE over 2010
Wireless 911 calls –	86.7% of 911 calls for December and 78.2% of 911 calls YE
911 calls answered in 10 seconds or less -	94.7% for December and 94.9% YE 2011

(NENA recommended standard is 90% within 10 seconds)

GRANT AWARDED FOR OTTAWA BEACH WATERFRONT WALKWAY (John Scholtz)

Ottawa County Parks has been working steadily to implement its master plan for the “Park 12” park parcels, now known as the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks, since approving a master plan for the controversial properties in 2004. With the announcement of a \$300,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in early December, the end is in sight for completion of the master plan.

The grant will help fund the construction of the final segment of a waterfront walkway linking the initial phase of the Black Lake Boardwalk, constructed in 2005, with the Holland Harbor Fishing Access completed and dedicated this past September. When completed, the waterfront walkway will extend for 2,400 along Lake Macatawa and link to Holland State Park near the Holland pier. Ottawa Beach Road corridor is one of the busiest recreation corridors in Michigan due in large part of Holland State Park which attracted over 1.9 million visitors in 2010, the most of any of Michigan’s state parks.

The “Park 12” properties were controversial because of longstanding disputes between Ottawa County and a neighboring cottage association over ownership of the park parcels. Those disputes were finally laid to rest when an agreement was reached and approved through the courts in 2005. Since that time, Ottawa County Parks has completed the following projects to improve public access to the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks:

Extensive clean-up of the waterfront including removal of old docks and structures in 2005. Completed two phases of Black Lake Boardwalk (2006 and 2009), located just east of the Coast Guard station, including a section of waterfront walkway, parking, fishing dock, picnic tables and viewing deck. Partnered with Park Township in 2008 on improvements to the Ottawa Beach Road bike path, moving the path off the road shoulder and on to park property. Construction of the popular Mount Pisgah Dune Stairs in 2009 plus dune restoration work. Development of the Holland Harbor Fishing Access in 2011 with fishing docks, waterfront walkway,

parking and interpretive displays. The \$300,000 grant still needs approval of the Michigan legislature, which is expected mid-year in 2012. Ottawa County Parks will match the grant with \$300,000 from the county parks millage. Construction of the walkway project will likely begin in early 2013.

Another project on the drawing boards at the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks is restoration of the historic pump-house building and development of a museum. Ottawa County Parks is partnering with the Historic Ottawa Beach Society, a non-profit organization, which is fund-raising for the project and will lease the renovated building and operate the museum. The new waterfront walkway grant project will provide access to the future museum and fund the waterfront deck and outdoor interpretive displays.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT INTRODUCES INCIDENT MAPPING WEBSITE (Grand Haven Tribune)

[Becky Vargo](#)

11:05 AM
Dec 30
2011



West Olive

Ottawa County's online incident mapping has pushed the Sheriff's Department far past the pin map stage, according to Sheriff Gary Rosema.

"It's much more efficient," Rosema said. "When you have detectives out working a scene, you don't need a separate team back in the office putting together the data."

That data is now available at the push of a computer button. Much of that data is also available to the public.

"I think it's a pretty powerful tool for neighborhood watches," said programmer Justin Munsters, an employee of

the county's Geographical Information Systems Department, and the main force behind the construction of the website.

The incident mapping website has actually been online for about a year, but the number of incidents it covers has been expanded, said Undersheriff Greg Steigenga. Although it currently only shows calls handled by the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, Steigenga said several other municipal departments may soon have their information included.

The incident mapping website has a public side and a law enforcement side, according to Scott Brovont, records director for the Sheriff's Department.

The public can look up incidents by date range; by township or city; and by types of incidents such as crimes against person, health-safety, property, service and traffic crashes.

While the mapping works on PCs, there may be some trouble using it on Apple computers, Munsters said. He is working on resolving that issue.

The incident mapping can be found by going to the Ottawa County website at www.miottawa.org, navigate to the "Courts and Law Enforcement" bar and click on the "Sheriff's Department" tab. On the lower left-hand side of the screen, you will find a listing of online services, under which you will find "Incident Mapping."

As this continues to be a work in progress, Munsters said he welcomes any comments and suggestions. Send them to him at gisdept@miottawa.org.

To read more of this story, see today's print or e-edition of the Grand Haven Tribune.