ROBINSON TOWNSHIP TOWER (Paul Sachs)

On Tuesday (October 16) AT&T’s wireless broadband service went “live” on the County’s new Robinson Township tower. The County is also in receipt of a signed Lease Agreement from Verizon Wireless to co-locate their broadband equipment on the new tower. Verizon expects to commence with the installation of its broadband equipment at this site before the end of the month.
HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION (Donovan Thomas)

On October 8th, the Health Department received the official letter from the Michigan Department of Community Health conferring state accreditation with commendation status. Accreditation with commendation is currently the highest accreditation status possible in Michigan. This designation is awarded to local health departments that fully meet the following requirements:

- Meet 95% of the Essential Indicators during a multi-day on-site review process. Sections evaluated include Department Administration, Food Service Sanitation, Communicable Disease, Hearing, Vision, Immunization, Sexually Transmitted Disease and On-Site Sewage Disposal.

- Miss not more than two indicators in any program.

- Have zero repeat missed indicators from the previous accreditation process.

- Meet 80% of the Quality Improvement Supplement.

While the Health Department has traditionally scored very well in the accreditation process, the department met 100% of all Essential Indicators and Quality Improvement requirements in the recent evaluation. Accreditation with commendation is a reflection of the continued hard work of the Health Department staff, and their commitment to providing the highest level of service, and quality programs to Ottawa County residents and visitors.

HOLLAND COUNTRY CLUB RESTORATION NEARING COMPLETION (John Scholtz)

The former Holland Country Club property, now known as Macatawa Greenspace, is a 122 acre Ottawa County Park located in the City of Holland where habitat restoration and park improvements are currently underway and nearing completion. Construction is expected to be mostly completed by late November with the park scheduled to officially open in the spring of 2013, although public access will be allowed over the winter.

Ottawa County Parks received a $646,800 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant program for habitat restoration work at the site. Matched by $100,000 in county park funds, the $750,000 project involves implementation of best management practices identified in the Macatawa Watershed Implementation Plan including wetland and stream restoration focused in the lower elevation riverfront areas of the site. The project includes 32 acres of wetland restoration which supplements 22 acres of wetland mitigation funded by Request Foods, a private business that purchased a conservation easement from Ottawa County and funded a 22 acre wetland mitigation project on the property.

The restoration project focuses on wetland construction and stream bank stabilization which will reduce non-point source pollutant loading to Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan and reduce phosphorous levels. With its highly visible urban location, the restoration project will also provide opportunities for watershed education through interpretive signing and public programs.
Concurrent with the restoration work, Ottawa County Parks is also constructing park facilities identified in a recent master planning process. Construction of a parking lot, restrooms, trailhead, bike paths, boardwalks and trails are nearing completion. Picnic areas and interpretive signs along with a disc golf course will also be provided. A children's nature play area will be included in a future phase.

The Holland Country Club property was acquired in March of 2010 for $450,000. Funding was provided by the county parks millage plus $70,000 in donated funds raised by the Outdoor Discovery Center – Macatawa Greenway Partnership, a project partner.

EMPLOYEE AWARDS BANQUET

The 25th Annual County Employee Awards Banquet was held last night at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville. This is truly one of the fun and special nights of the year when we pause to recognize the years of service of our outstanding employees. Occasionally I will get a question from one of our local unit officials on how the County is able to pay for such an event. The answer is that we worked with our auditors to amend County policy to include the banquet as a “deminimis” benefit of employment. Twenty-five years ago, the banquet replaced department by department employee recognition expense. With a complex organization such as the County with 35 departments, offices, courts and agencies, it makes sense to have some standardization and equality among employees.

I've included a list of all employees who met the various years of service distinction even though all were not able to attend the banquet. Congratulations to all on a job well done! Many thanks goes to the Board of Commissioners for their continued support of this valuable recognition activity.
5 Year Recipients

Abel Arispe    Facilities Maintenance
Victoria Benavidez   Circuit Court (Juvenile Detention)
Keith Biros    Sheriff’s Office
Jon Braxmaier    Drain Commissioner’s Office
Laura Catalino    District Court
Pamela Coleman   Community Mental Health
David DeWitt    Sheriff’s Office
Vicki DeWitt    Fiscal Services
James Douglas    Sheriff’s Office
Melissa Doxey    Public Health
Michael Hallmeyer   Sheriff’s Office
Jeanette Heckman    Facilities Maintenance
Vernon Helder    District Court
Bruce Hoisington   Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
James Holtvluwer    Board of Commissioners
Suzanne Kennedy    County Clerk
Elizabeth Lange    Register of Deeds
Malorie Langford   Circuit Court (Friend of the Court)
Daniel Lewkowsk    Sheriff’s Office
Matthew Lowe    Community Mental Health
David Macias    Circuit Court (Friend of the Court)
Margaret Mitten    Community Mental Health
Laura Mousseau    Human Resources
McCauley O’Connor    Sheriff’s Office
John Ortman    Sheriff’s Office
Paula Parker    Sheriff’s Office
Jason Quinn    Sheriff’s Office
Mary Beth Rokisky   Register of Deeds
Tabitha Rowley    Parks & Recreation
Kyle Schuitema    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Bradley Slagh    County Treasurer
Michael Stock    Michigan Works!/CAA
Stephanie Stoddard    Prosecutor’s Office
Matthew Twa    Facilities Maintenance
Katherine VanSweden    Michigan Works!/CAA
Bethany Vukusic    Community Mental Health
Marie Waalkes    Human Resources
Elizabeth Wiersema    District Court (Probation)
Christine Williams    District Court
Susan Young    Equalization
Craig Zysk    Equalization

10 Year Recipients
Heather Alberda    Public Health
Stephanie Ash    Circuit Court (Friend of the Court)
Craig Brondyke    Community Mental Health
Kerri Cannata    Sheriff’s Office
Linda Cashman    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Teresa Conrad    Drain Commissioner’s Office
Wende Cook    Community Mental Health
Laura Deal    Fiscal Services
Jeremy Derksen    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Frank Dobroc    Sheriff’s Office
Brent Ferris    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Susan Flynn    District Court
Jennifer French    District Court
Veronica Garcia    Community Mental Health
Michelle Gerard    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Karen Glockzin    District Court
Joan Gordillo    District Court (Probation)
Michael Gregory    Circuit Court (Juvenile Detention)
Kristen Grissom    Fiscal Services
Christopher Harwood    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Kelli Headley    Fiscal Services
Paul Heidel    Public Health
Kimberly Hewitt    Community Mental Health
Soonja Hixon    Prosecutor’s Office
Nancy Hoffmeyer    Sheriff’s Office
Deb Kay-Hayford    Michigan Works!/CAA
Jennifer King    Community Mental Health
Paula Kretschmer    Circuit Court (Juvenile Services)
Ann Mapes    County Clerk
Lesley Morano    Prosecutor’s Office
Tim Moungkhoun    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Eugene Murin    Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Susan O’Connor     District Court
Jeremy Osbun     Sheriff’s Office
Jeffrey Roffey     Circuit Court (Friend of the Court)
Paul Sachs     Planning & Performance Improvement
Mandi Schebor     Community Mental Health
Amanda Sheffield     Probate Court
Eric Smith     Sheriff’s Office
Wendy Solis     District Court
Barb Sychowski     Community Mental Health
Michael VandenBosch     Sheriff’s Office
Michael Vander Laan     Sheriff’s Office
Flora Varga     Fiscal Services
Roger Willard     Sheriff’s Office
Peter Zeedyk     Circuit Court

15 Year Recipients

Brian Buter     Sheriff’s Office
Barbara Cherry     Circuit Court (Friend of the Court)
David Colvin     Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Albert Cortez     Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Bill Cousins     Sheriff’s Office
Mary Dykstra     Prosecutor’s Office
Ray Gress     Sheriff’s Office
Jennifer Gustafson     Prosecutor’s Office
Harold Harper     Information Technology
Hank Hawley     Circuit Court
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Holden</td>
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<td>Johanna Wallace</td>
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<td>Jeanne Waterway</td>
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20 Year Recipients

Bob Alward     Circuit Court (Juvenile Detention)
Jeffrey Bewalda    Circuit Court
Nicole Bierema    Circuit Court (Juvenile Services)
Mary Derksen     Community Mental Health
Rita Huron      Public Health
Elisabeth McNeil    Public Health
Steven Namenye  Information Technology
Charly Nienhuis  Public Health
Jack Seinen    Sheriff’s Office
David Vanderploeg  Sheriff’s Office
Sally Vukits  Community Mental Health
Dennis Wright    Sheriff’s Office

25 Year Recipients

Steven Baar      Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Barbara Berghuis  Community Mental Health
Dennis Boeve    Sheriff’s Office
Sandra Boven    Public Health
Linda Brown    Drain Commission
Patricia Ellis  District Court
Karen Flowerday  Public Health
Maria Guffey    Community Mental Health
Bob Matyas      Community Mental Health
Andrea Mendoza  District Court (Probation)
John Scholtz  Parks & Recreation
Debbie Walker-Zattlin   Community Mental Health
Kathy Winston     Circuit Court (Friend of the Court)
Julie Yoas     Public Health
Troy Young     Equalization

30 Year Recipients
Mary Cushman     Public Health
Tanja Kelly     Circuit Court

35 Year Recipients
Ronald Frantz     Prosecutor’s Office
Jill Jessup     Circuit Court
Lynn Simpson     Circuit Court

40 Year Recipient
Gary Scholten     Register of Deeds

Retirees
Maggie Boeck     Public Health
Dennis Boeve     Sheriff’s Office (Corrections)
Rita Dyke     District Court/ROD
Deb Fett     Circuit Court (Friend of the Court)
Barbara Fix     Public Health
Sally Gelderloos     Facilities Maintenance
Susan Hornacek     Circuit Court (Juvenile Detention)
Jill Jessup     Circuit Court
Brian Johnson     Equalization
Mary Jones     Community Mental Health
Barry Kantz     District Court
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