

County Administrator's Digest

April 26, 2013

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

The past two weeks have certainly been challenging nationally with the Boston Marathon attack, regionally with the record flooding, and for the County with the horse farm situation that unfolded last week.

HORSE FARM

I received my first call about a situation involving undernourished horses at a location on Cleveland Road in Wright Township at about 11:00 a.m. Wednesday. The conversation was with a woman who owns a horse ranch and she was calling from Delaware. Minutes after hanging up, a caller from Utah expressed concerns with the same location. Then the calls started rolling in...We ultimately received hundreds of calls from approximately 20 different states and Canada.

A local animal activist had photographed nearly 20 horses and a donkey in various conditions and posted the photos on her Facebook which is linked to horse rescue operations across the nation. My name, title, and direct phone line were included with the photos, along with a request to call me as the person who had the authority to rescue the animals. One impacting image showed a dead horse in the paddock. About half the callers had questions as to what was going on and the other half were insulting and threatening. Most had no patience for how Michigan law works regarding property rights and insisted that I immediately remove the horses. An even greater number of callers had no idea how County government works, at least in Michigan, and assumed that the Sheriff and its sub unit Animal Control, as well as the Prosecutor, report to the County Administrator.

The real fun came when people kept sharing the story to their friends on Facebook and even though we put out information to the media and some on the original Facebook post, because of the continued sharing, even two and three days later people are still calling in as if it is fresh news. While it was heartening to see the passionate concern that many callers had for the plight of the horses, it was disturbing to hear all of the assumptions regarding our County character and assumed lack of resources to deal with this. I was even accused of not caring about the heritage of America and what the horse symbolizes to this heritage when the horses were not removed immediately.

The good news is that the system worked as it should. The Animal Control Unit of the Sheriff's Office completed a report, which the Prosecutor's Office reviewed



and determined that criminal charges were not warranted at this time. Also, the property owner fully cooperated with authorities in dealing with the situation. I've included below information sent to me by Undersheriff Greg Steigenga which outlines steps taken to deal with this situation.

1. The Sheriff's Office through its Animal Control Unit has been involved with this situation ever since we were made aware of the concern by a citizen. (April 18, 2013)
2. Our Animal Control Unit conducted an initial investigation and made immediate acknowledgement that food/water was in place along with assisting the owner in moving the horses to an area of the property that was not being flooded at the time by the heavy rains.
3. Two Animal Control Officers from our agency then made arrangements the very next morning to meet a Veterinarian with the West Michigan Veterinary Service on the property along with the horses/property owner to take even a closer look at the animals themselves and the conditions in which they were being kept.
4. During that inspection, the Veterinarian determined that there were 18 horses, one donkey and one deceased horse on the property and that the owner had placed a tarp over the deceased horse until arrangements could be made for removal. It was also noted at that time that adequate food and water was in place for the animals.
5. During that initial inspection it was also noted by the Veterinarian that many of the horses on the property were of an old age and were showing signs of that aging that are not consistent with not having food or water available to them. He also noted through records that the animals were current on vaccinations.
6. The Veterinarian also examined the deceased horse and could not make an exact determination of the cause of death but he indicated that death could have come as a result of old age, stress from the heavy rains/flooding or a lightning strike.
7. The inspection conducted by the Veterinarian and the Animal Control Officers did reveal some concerns with some of the sheltering in place for the animals and the owner acknowledged these concerns. In addition specific improvements were pointed out to the owner in these areas and he was receptive to making these changes moving forward.
8. As a result of the inspection and our agency's investigation, a report and the Veterinarian's findings were turned over to the Prosecutor's Office for review of possible criminal behavior on the part of the owner in this instance. Based on the situation at hand and the fact that the owner was cooperating with making some necessary improvements moving forward, the Prosecutor did not authorize a criminal charge(s) against the owner at this time.
9. A plan has been put in to place by the Veterinarian, our Animal Control Unit and the owner moving forward that will include the following:

- Our Animal Control Unit and the Veterinarian will continue to monitor the premises for adequate food and water for the animals moving forward.
 - The Veterinarian will work with the owner to reduce the number of animals on the premises by euthanizing some of the older horses that are underweight.
 - Repair and improvements to the sheltering areas is completed by the owner.
 - Clean-up of the majority of the junk items and metal hazards around the horse paddocks and to improve the general appearance of the premises.
 - By the Veterinarian assisting the owner with some additional vaccines, de-wormers and dental care.
10. In the event we discover non-compliance on the part of the owner in areas of animal care, the matter will again be documented and turned over to the Prosecutor's Office for further review and alternative placement options will be considered as needed.
11. The Veterinarian was at the farm on 4/25/2013 and euthanized two of the older/sickly horses and at this point several of the other horses have been moved off site to various other farms for care and keeping based on the owner's attempt to remedy this situation.

A couple of news links on this event follow:

[Dead, starved horses found; owner not charged](#)

[Not enough evidence in horse neglect case](#)

FLOOD

Beth Thomas, Emergency Management Director

- The Red Cross distributed clean-up kits across Ottawa County on April 25 & 26
- Total Preliminary Damage Assessment is estimated at \$3,216,420
 - Preliminary Public Damage Assessment is estimated at \$2,830,420
 - Roads and Bridges \$279,920
 - Water Control Facilities \$2,430,000
 - Public Buildings \$55,000
 - Public Utilities \$19,000
 - Parks and Recreational Facilities \$46,500

- Preliminary Private Damage Assessment is \$386,000
 - 5 homes considered major
 - 85 homes considered minor
 - 30 homes considered affected
- River levels have gone down to 15.1 ft. still 2 ft. over flood stage at 13.3 ft., hope to reach flood stage sometime this weekend
- Local Declaration of Emergency extended to May 14

Lisa Stefanovsky, Health Officer

"The Ottawa County Public Health Department is providing guidance to residents affected by recent flooding. Possible disease causing contaminants, such as fecal matter or agricultural and industrial by-products, may be present in flood waters. Contact with flood waters may also be a health hazard. For more information on flood health concerns; such as wells, septic systems, food safety, flood clean up, mold prevention, licensed well drillers or septic pumpers, please visit <http://www.miottawa.org/MediaRoom/flooding.htm> or call (616) 393-5645"

<http://www.miottawa.org/blog/>

LAW WEEK (Kevin Bowling)

The 20th Circuit Court, 58th District Court, Ottawa County Probate Court and the Legal Self-Help Center would like to invite you to attend our celebration of Law Week 2013. Law Week is a celebration of Law Day, May 1st each year. Our celebration includes various events ranging from seminars on relevant legal topics and a mock trial to the recognition of public service by former judges. This year our program will be held the week of April 29 – May 3.

I have included ([click here](#)) a copy of the brochure that explains in detail the topics that will be presented along with a schedule. The events being held throughout the week are free and open to the public.

PARK TOWNSHIP STRATEGIC PLANNING

Administrative Intern Chris Eakin and I spent more time Wednesday evening assisting Park Township with their strategic planning efforts. It was a productive session as the Township Board developed a vision statement, mission statement, values statement, over-arching goals, and reviewed a draft work plan.

JOHN SCHOLTZ FEATURE ARTICLE

The Bridge newsletter of The Center For Michigan had an excellent article about the accomplishments of Parks Director John Scholtz (see below).

[In Ottawa County, parks leader shepherds quarter-century of green growth](#)

[Featured Quality of Life Success](#) — 16 April 2013

By Jeff Alexander/Bridge Magazine contributor

The Lake Michigan coast near Grand Haven features two spectacular natural areas, each of which gives rise to towering sand dunes that are cloaked by lush forests.



John Scholtz, as head of Ottawa County's Parks Commission, has spearheaded a massive increase in parks acreage in the county just west of Grand Rapids. He's shown on a bridge spanning the eponymous waterway in Pigeon Creek Park in West Olive. (Bridge photo/Sam Zomer)

The Rosy Mound Natural Area and North Ottawa Dunes are stellar examples of freshwater dune ecosystems in the Great Lakes region, which has the largest assemblage of freshwater dunes on the planet.

Both sites would likely be sand mines or residential subdivisions today were it not for the work of Ottawa County Parks Commission Director John Scholtz.

Local officials and conservation leaders say Scholtz, 59, has been the central figure in efforts to increase public ownership of park lands and preserve valuable natural features in Ottawa County — one of Michigan's fastest-growing counties.

"John Scholtz is the Teddy Roosevelt of Ottawa County," said Spring Lake Township Supervisor John Nash. Roosevelt, a century ago, established five national parks and is considered one of the nation's greatest conservation leaders.

Twenty-five years at parks helm

Scholtz has been at the helm of [the Ottawa County Parks Commission](#) since 1987. He was hired from the

Saginaw County Parks Department shortly after Ottawa County created its Parks Commission.

At the time, Ottawa County owned 419 acres of park; today, the figure is 6,349 acres of land in 40 parks and natural areas.

The county's parks portfolio includes six parks with Lake Michigan beaches, 14 parks or natural areas along the Grand River, 70 miles of recreational trails and a year-round recreation program.

"It's a world-class county park system because of citizens who cared enough to establish designated funding and John's quiet, trusted leadership and vision," said Julie Stoneman, program manager at the Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy in Grand Ledge. "John might not be aware of how powerful his role has been ... and he won't take credit."

Scholtz said Ottawa County's establishment of a Parks Commission in the 1980s, followed by a parks millage that county voters first approved in 1996, laid the foundation for an ambitious land acquisition program. That millage now generates about \$3 million annually — all of which goes to the parks system.

But it was Scholtz who leveraged revenue from the parks millage to obtain numerous large grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund over the last quarter-century.

In fact, Ottawa County has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Natural Resources Trust Fund, **a state fund that uses oil and gas royalties to acquire and develop recreational land**. The Trust Fund has given the county \$15.1 million in grants over the past three decades, according to state data.

"I think we've been able to acquire properties that captured the public's imagination ... and we presented quality projects to the Trust Fund," Scholtz said.

Ann Conklin, chief operating officer at the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, said Scholtz is a leader among municipal parks managers.

"He understands the process of getting grants, he develops quality projects that the community wants and those are tied to great planning," Conklin said. "He's really been a pioneer in a lot of ways."

Scholtz says he's always had "a love of the natural resources in this area" — a passion that led him to earn an advanced degree in parks management at Michigan State University and into a long career.

Rapid growth spurs parks drive

Ottawa County parks, by the numbers:

6,349: Acres of county-owned parks, trails and natural areas.

5,930: Acres of land the county parks system has acquired since 1987.

40: County-owned parks and natural areas.

14: Parks or natural areas along the Grand River.

6: County parks on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

\$15.1 million: Sum of grants the county parks system has received from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

53: Percent of Ottawa County voters in 1996 who approved a 10-year property tax of 0.33 mills to increase funding for the parks system.

67: Percent of voters who approved a 10-year renewal of the parks millage in 2006.

\$3 million: Approximate revenue generated annually by the parks millage. (Actual revenue varies yearly, depending on property values).

Sources: Ottawa County and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Ottawa County began its aggressive pursuit of parklands in the mid-1990s. Scholtz said many residents were concerned that rapid growth was consuming too much open space, particularly near Lake Michigan, the Grand River and other waterways.

“I think your average person could see that we were losing a lot of open space,” Scholtz said. “There was this sense that if we didn’t do something in the 1990s it was going to be too late.”

The 1996 parks millage of 0.33 mills was supported by 53 percent of Ottawa County voters. In 2007, 67 percent of county voters supported a 10-year renewal of the millage.

Given the anti-tax sentiment with many voters, it seems almost quaint that Scholtz and the Parks Commission were able to raise property taxes for parks in one of Michigan’s most politically conservative counties. (Mitt Romney won 68 percent of the county’s votes in 2012 – outpacing his statewide total by nearly 25 percentage points.)

Scholtz said the keys were: Allowing voters to decide the fate of a parks millage; leveraging county funds to secure state grants; convincing politically conservative voters that acquiring parkland was an investment in the community’s future; and making good on the promise to develop high-quality parks.

The state Trust Fund contributed \$3.9 million toward Ottawa County’s purchase of the 513-acre North Ottawa Dunes property from a sand mining firm. The county chipped in \$2.1 million and local residents donated the remaining \$1.5 million.

But Scholtz’s calm demeanor, reputation and savvy negotiating skills created an opportunity for the county to acquire the North Ottawa Dunes.

He intervened amid a heated public debate over plans to mine the dunes and then build homes on the site. Scholtz persuaded the mining firm’s owners to sell Ottawa County the site for \$2 million less than its appraised value.

That acquisition was one of Scholtz’s greatest achievements because it fit with his underlying mission: To create greenways that preserve large tracts of undeveloped land while providing recreational opportunities for the public.

The North Ottawa Dunes project created a five-mile long greenway along the Lake Michigan coast by linking the county’s North Beach Park to P.J. Hoffmaster State Park in Norton Shores.

The county has also acquired large tracts of land to create greenways along the Grand River.

“The best way to preserve the ecological integrity of the landscape is to focus on corridors, so wildlife can move; even plants move within corridors,” Scholtz said.

This stewardship of the outdoors has become a family affair, too.

Scholtz’s wife, April, is land protection director for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

Fittingly, Scholtz's private interests mirror his career. The married father of two likes to hike, cross-country ski and lakeshores:

"I actively use our parks, so I see the system from a park user's perspective."

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

[Click here](#) for the most recent updates.

20th Circuit Court THE 58th District Court
Ottawa County Probate Court The Legal Self-Help Center
PRESENT:

realizing the dream

human rights tolerance gender diversity respect
freedom empathy rule of law civility
liberty acceptance dignity
voting rights inclusiveness
justice fairness
due process women's rights
equality for all

Law Day 2013
May 1

A Celebration of Law Day 2013
April 29 - May 3, 2013

**“NO MAN IS ABOVE THE LAW,
AND NO MAN IS BELOW IT”**

**~THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
26TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

LAW WEEK 2013

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What is Law Day?
- 2 About the Theme
- 3 Event Host: The Legal Self-Help Center

- 4 Complete Schedule

EVENTS

- 5 **Monday**
 - *Making Michigan a Gang-Free State*
 - *Employment Law*
- 6 **Tuesday**
 - *Immigration Issues*
 - *No Fault Insurance*
- 7 **Wednesday**
 - *People v. Clevenger: Mock Trial*
 - *"Hanging of the Judges" Portrait Ceremony*
- 9 **Thursday**
 - *Identity Theft*
- 10 **Friday**
 - *Medical Marijuana*

- 11 Recognition

CONTENTS

AN INTRODUCTION TO LAW DAY 2013

Law day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize the role of courts in this democracy and the importance of jury service to maintaining the integrity of the courts.

The 20th Circuit Court, 58th District Court, Ottawa County Probate Court and the Legal Self-Help Center present Law Week 2013, a celebration of Law Day 2013, which includes various events ranging from seminars on relevant legal topics, a mock trial, and recognition of previous Judges.

HOW DID LAW DAY BEGIN?

- 1957:** American Bar Association (ABA) President Charles S. Rhyne, a Washington, D.C., attorney, envisions a special day for celebrating our legal system.
- 1958:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower establishes Law Day as a day of national dedication to to the principles of government under law.
- 1961:** By joint resolution, Congress designates May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

HOW IS LAW DAY CELEBRATED?

Law Day programs are designed to help people understand how law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice. Thousands of Law Day programs are conducted each year for youth and adults across the country. In addition, every year since 1958 the president of the United States has issued a Law Day proclamation recognizing the importance of this day.

WHEN IS LAW DAY CELEBRATED?

May 1 is the official date, but many celebrations take place either before or after that date. Some bar associations celebrate Law Week.

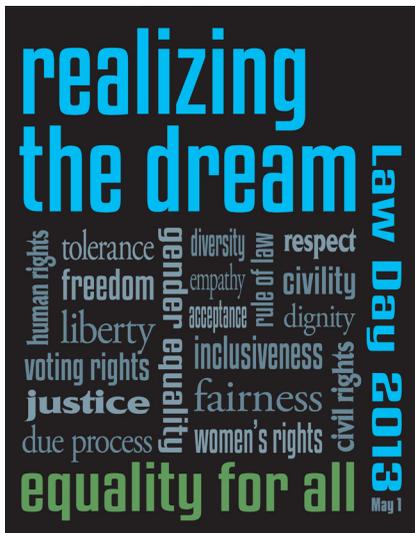


REALIZING THE DREAM: EQUALITY FOR ALL

The promise of equality under the law is what has made America a beacon to other nations. It is a pledge clearly set forth in the Declaration of Independence and in the opening words of the Preamble of the Constitution, “We the People.” It is, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, the proposition to which our nation is dedicated.

The year 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. In 1963, during the Proclamation’s centennial, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial and called upon our nation to live up to the great promise, enshrined in its founding documents, of equality for all. Five decades later, the inspirational words of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech continue to resonate and challenge us to live up to our national ideal of equality under the law. The legacy of the Civil Rights Movement can be seen in the strides that have been made against discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation.

This year’s Law Day theme, “Realizing the Dream: Equality for All,” provides an opportunity to explore the movement for civil and human rights in America and the impact that it has had in promoting the ideal of equality under the law. It will provide a forum for reflecting on the work that remains to be done in rectifying injustice, eliminating all forms of discrimination, and putting an end to human trafficking and other violations of our basic human rights. As Dr. King pointed out in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”



**“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS
A THREAT TO JUSTICE
EVERYWHERE”**

~DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



THE LEGAL SELF-HELP CENTER

HELPING PEOPLE,
HELP THEMSELVES

<http://www.miottawa.org/Courts/Legal>

The **Legal Self-Help Center** was established to assist patrons on a walk in basis who wish to resolve a variety of non-criminal matters without the assistance of a lawyer. Staff cannot represent patrons in court, however they can provide patrons information and legal documentation related to their concern.

A hub for information, the Legal Self-Help Center contains an assortment of forms and packets, as well as information about the many public resources available in Ottawa County. Opening its doors in January of 2010, the center has assisted more than 8,500 patrons and continues to assist new patrons daily.

EVENT HOST

THE TEAM

The Legal Self Help Center's highly trained and experienced staff of volunteers is dedicated to serving the public. All staff members undergo a rigorous training program to ensure that they are able to provide timely and accurate information to help patrons navigate the legal system more efficiently.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Aside from the low-cost forms and packets, the Legal Self-Help Center is free to use. Available forms and documents begin at \$.25 each, whereas complete legal proceeding packets begin at \$5.00. In addition, there may be filing fees due upon the party filing the legal document with the appropriate court.

OUR SERVICES

The Legal Self-Help Center may be able to help you in a variety of non-criminal case types, including:

- Adoption
- Child Support
- Conservatorship
- Custody
- Divorce
- Guardianship
- Landlord/Tenant
- Small Claims
- VA Benefits

AND MANY MORE!



Visit us on
Facebook

HOURS:

Monday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Tuesday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Wednesday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Friday: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

LAW WEEK 2013

APRIL 29 - MAY 3

Law Week 2013 offers a variety of experiences that cover relevant legal topics. All events are open to the public, however seating is limited. Participants are encouraged to arrive prior to the scheduled start time.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Making Michigan a Gang-Free State	Sgt. Chris Munley Ottawa County Sheriff's Department	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
Employment Law	Nelson Miller Cooley Law School	6-7 PM Jury Assembly

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Immigration Issues	Susan E. Reed Michigan Immigrants' Rights Center	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
No-Fault Insurance	Nelson Miller Cooley Law	6-7 PM Jury Assembly

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

People v. Clevenger Mock Trial	Hon. Jon Hulsing, 20th Circuit Court Judge Corpus Christi Catholic School St. Mary's Catholic School	10 AM - 12 PM Courtroom 3B
"Hanging of the Judges" Portrait Ceremony	Hon. Edward R. Post Chief Circuit Court Judge Attny. David Rhem President-Elect, Ottawa County Bar Assoc.	3 - 4:30 PM Courtroom 3B

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Identity Theft	Lt. Lee Hoeksma Ottawa County Sheriff's Department	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
----------------	---	----------------------------

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Medical Marijuana	Karen Miedema Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
-------------------	--	----------------------------

EVENT INFO/PRESENTER BIOS PAGES 5 - 10

**EVENT LOCATION:
OTTAWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
414 WASHINGTON
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417**

5
MONDAY, APRIL 29



MAKING MICHIGAN A GANG-FREE STATE

SGT. CHRIS MUNLEY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Christopher J. Munley will present a video presentation that discusses the destructive nature of gang activity, explores why children are lured into gangs, and illustrates ways to prevent children from joining gangs.

This presentation exposes the dark reality of gangs preying upon our children through lies and manipulation.

This presentation is a valuable law enforcement tool to help educate parents, school officials, and communities about the realities of gang life. This frank and unscripted documentary is an extraordinary opportunity for pre- and early teens to learn about the false promises gang members make to lure them into their ranks. Gang members, law enforcement, and children speak about gang recruiting methods, specifically ways kids can avoid joining a gang, and, most importantly, offer lifestyle choices to help them stay away from gangs.

Sgt. Munley is currently one of the Operations Supervisors at the Ottawa County Adult Correctional Facility and he has an extensive background with gang research and identification. Sgt. Munley is a certified "Gang Expert" through the National Gang Crime Research Center located in Chicago and he has worked closely with Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies on criminal street gang investigations.



EMPLOYMENT LAW

NELSON MILLER
COOLEY LAW SCHOOL

Nelson Miller will address recruiting, interviewing, and testing employees, employment at will, compensation including minimum wages and overtime, personnel files, discrimination, family and medical leave, employee discipline and termination, surveillance, labor unions, OSHA, worker's compensation, and layoffs.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

SUSAN E. REED MICHIGAN IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS CENTER

Reed will provide framework for understanding the basic structure of the immigration law system and the most common legal difficulties faced by immigrants and refugees in West Michigan. Current proposals for reform will also be examined

Susan E. Reed is Supervising Attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center. Susan is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and Marquette University. Susan has practiced immigration and immigrant rights law since 2003. Susan has also served as a staff attorney at Farmworker Legal Services of Michigan and as a regional attorney for Justice for Our Neighbors, the immigration legal services program of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Her particular interests include the intersection of family and immigration law, the rights of unaccompanied immigrant children, immigrant eligibility for public benefits and programs, and civil rights matters.



NO-FAULT INSURANCE

NELSON MILLER COOLEY LAW SCHOOL

Nelson Miller will discuss Michigan's no-fault insurance law requiring that vehicle owners carry coverage for personal injury protection and property damage benefits without respect to fault. He will address coverage, exclusions, setoffs, priority, benefits, property damage, and liability claims. He will also address proposed changes to the no-fault law in light of the new federal health-insurance mandate.

Nelson Miller, a graduate of Indiana University and the University of Michigan Law School, is a law professor and dean who has published 17 books on law and legal education. Dean Miller practiced civil litigation for over a decade and a half before joining the Thomas M. Cooley Law School faculty in 2004, where he is the dean of its Grand Rapids campus and teaches Michigan No-Fault Insurance Law, Employment Law, and other courses. He has argued cases before the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, and United States Court of Appeals, and filed briefs in the United States Supreme Court, representing individuals, private corporations, non-profit corporations, government agencies, public schools, and public and private universities.

9
TUESDAY, APRIL 30

7
1
MAY,
WEDNESDAY

PEOPLE v. CLEVINGER

MOCK TRIAL

HON. JON HULSING
20TH CIRCUIT COURT
CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC SCHOOL
& ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

In the early morning of February 9, Whitney Marshall, Sierra City High School's computer teacher arrived at his classroom to discover his classroom window shattered, chairs overturned and papers everywhere. Scrawled on the viewing screen in red paint were the words "Marshall is a Facist".

Casey Clevenger, a student who had recently received a lower grade than anticipated was charged with the crime after multiple pieces of evidence were found in his locker and on school grounds that seemingly link him to the crime.

Presided over by 20th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Honorable Jon Hulsing, Corpus Christi Catholic School 8th graders present "People v. Clevenger", a case which addresses issues of vandalism, computer crimes, and search and seizure. Students will act as both prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses and the accused. St. Mary's School will provide the jury for the trial and decide the fate of Mr. Clevenger.



The mock trial is open to the public will be located in Courtroom 3B from 10 - 12 pm. Seating will be limited. Video of the mock trial with alternative viewing options will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Come see the students and Court in action!



St. Mary's School
421 E Exchange Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456



**Corpus Christi
Catholic School**
12100 Quincy Street
Holland, MI 49424

“HANGING OF THE JUDGES” 8 PORTRAIT CEREMONY

HON. EDWARD R. POST

CHIEF JUDGE, 20TH CIRCUIT COURT

DAVID RHEM

PRES.-ELECT, OTTAWA COUNTY BAR ASSOC.

Join Chief Judge Hon. Edward R. Post and Attorney David Rhem, President-Elect of the Ottawa County Bar Association for a historical ceremony to unveil and dedicate portraits of all previously presiding Judges of the 58th District Court, the 20th Judicial Circuit Court and the Ottawa County Probate Court. This momentous occasion will chronicle more than 177 years of the heritage of the Ottawa County Court System.

Hours of hard work by the Courthouse Learning Committee went into the compiled Judicial Biography books which are located at various county courthouses. Almost fifty portraits and their corresponding biographies will line the hallways of the Ottawa County Courthouse for the celebration, a unique opportunity to relive the past and reflect on where we go in the future.



“Hanging of the Judges” Portrait Ceremony

Welcome

*Hon. Edward R. Post
20th Judicial Circuit Court*

The Importance of Law Day

*Attny. David Rhem
Ottawa County Bar Association*

The Research Process

*Kevin Bowling
Circuit Court Administrator
Patricia Gelderloos
Circuit Court Referee*

Closing Comments

~Portrait Viewing~

IDENTITY THEFT

LT. LEE HOEKSEMA SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Lt. Hoeksema will examine the world of identity theft. His presentation aims to inform the public about different types of identity theft and offer tips for living in our technological society so that you can protect yourself and your loved ones from identity thieves.

Lt. Lee Hoeksema began his career with the Sheriff's Office in Sept, 1984 beginning in the Reserve and Marine Units. Lt. Hoeksema attended Grand Valley State University where he earned a Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice. He received his Law Enforcement Certification through the Grand Valley State University Police Academy in 1984. Prior to beginning full time employment with the Sheriff's Office Lt. Hoeksema worked for Meijer as a Loss Prevention Manager and Regional Training Instructor. Lt. Hoeksema was hired full time with Ottawa County in February 1989. During his tenure with the Sheriff's Office, Lt. Hoeksema has worked the Law Enforcement Division and was one of the first D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Officers for the county. He served as a Community Policing Officer in Holland and Park Township before being promoted to Sergeant in 2000. Lt. Hoeksema supervised the School Resource and Community Policing Programs until his promotion to Lieutenant in 2005. Currently Lt Hoeksema oversees the Uniformed Services Unit of the Sheriff's Office which includes our community policing programs, volunteer services (which include the Victim Services Unit) and the Cities of Coopersville and Hudsonville.



**IDentity
Theft**

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

10

KAREN MIEDEMA PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Karen Miedema of the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office will discuss developments in the ever changing Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. She will provide insight on the current law and enforcement of this impactful legislation.

Karen Miedema has been with the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office for 23 years. Karen is a native of Ottawa County and a graduate of Wayne State Law School. Karen first worked for the Prosecutor's office in Oakland County, Michigan before coming to Ottawa County where she currently enjoys her role as a Training Senior Attorney.



FRIDAY, MAY 3

Law Week 2013
is made possible through the efforts of the
following volunteers:

Strategic Planning Team #2

Access to Courts

- Jennell Challa, Co-Chair
Friend of the Court
- Kathy Winston, Co-Chair
Friend of the Court
- Emily Achterhof
Adult Drug Court
- Johanna Wallace
Probate Court
- Brenda Kamphuis
Friend of the Court
- Shannon Kapala
Friend of the Court

Attorney Sheri Szymczyk, Director of the
Legal Self-Help Center

Courthouse Learning Center Committee

Video Recording Services Provided by
James Kozakiewicz

**VALUED
SUPPORTERS**



20th Circuit Court
Probate Court
58th District Court



Ottawa County



Grand Haven Area

community foundation

This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the
Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Family Fund,
the Families in Crisis Fund, and
the Zenko Family Fund of the
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation



community foundation
Holland/Zeeland Area

This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from
the Holland/Zeeland Area Community Foundation



This program is made possible, in part, by a grant
from the JSJ Corporation.

Coopersville Area

community foundation

This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the
Coopersville Area Community Foundation.

**Program Designed by Matthew Mapes
Ottawa County Friend of the Court**



THE
20th Circuit Court
Probate Court
58th District Court
The Legal Self-
Help Center



LAW WEEK 2013 APRIL 29 - MAY 3

PRESENTS:

EVENT SCHEDULE

OTTAWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE / 414 WASHINGTON / GRAND HAVEN

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Making Michigan a Gang-Free State	Sgt. Chris Munley Ottawa County Sheriff's Department	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
Employment Law	Nelson Miller Cooley Law School	6-7 PM Jury Assembly

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Immigration Issues	Susan E. Reed Michigan Immigrants' Rights Center	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
No-Fault Insurance	Nelson Miller Cooley Law	6-7 PM Jury Assembly

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

People v. Clevenger Mock Trial	Hon. Jon Hulsing, 20th Circuit Court Judge Corpus Christi Catholic School St. Mary's Catholic School	10 AM - 12 PM Courtroom 3B
"Hanging of the Judges" Portrait Ceremony	Hon. Edward R. Post Chief Circuit Court Judge Attny. David Rhem President-Elect, Ottawa County Bar Assoc.	3 - 4:30 PM Courtroom 3B

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Identity Theft	Lt. Lee Hoeksma Ottawa County Sheriff's Department	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
----------------	---	----------------------------

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Medical Marijuana	Karen Miedema Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office	12 - 1 PM Jury Assembly
-------------------	--	----------------------------

Law Week 2013 is a celebration of the rule of law and underscores how law and the legal process contributes to the freedoms that all Americans share. Law Week 2013 offers a variety of seminars and events that discuss relevant legal topics presented by local leaders in various legal fields. All events are open to the public, however seating is limited. Participants are encouraged to arrive prior to the scheduled start time.



VALUED SUPPORTERS

Coopersville Area
[community foundation](#)

This program is made possible, in part,
by a grant from the
Coopersville Area Community Foundation.

Grand Haven Area
[community foundation](#)

This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the
Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Family Fund,
the Families in Crisis Fund, and
the Zenko Family Fund of the
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation



This program is made possible, in part,
by a grant from the
Holland/Zeland Area Community Foundation



This program is made possible, in part, by a grant
from the JSJ Corporation.



April 26, 2013

A few thoughts about local government...

Over the past week, our region has been challenged with record rainfalls, floods, evacuations, and emergencies of all kinds. Through it all, local government was there to assist our citizens.

In the past, we have all heard the criticism of local government and experienced significant reductions in personnel, revenues and resources. Yet, in times of need, it was our local police, public works, fire, road commissions and public safety departments that were on the job serving the public.

Watching the broadcast news or reading the print media, we all saw images of people being rescued. If you looked closely you not only saw the citizens in need but the local government employees walking waist deep in water carrying the child, pushing the rescue boat, helping the elderly, filling the sand bag or providing necessary information to assist the public.

Throughout our flood emergency local government was on the job doing what they do best. We saw photos of police officers working side by side with emergency personnel from other communities. Available rescue equipment from municipalities was dispatched wherever it was needed.

During this emergency there were no boundaries, no municipal borders and no limits to the cooperation. If there was a need, it was

fulfilled. It did not matter where the personnel or equipment came from.

Collectively, local government was there when needed and local government answered the call in a professional, efficient and cooperative manner.

We can all be proud of the way this emergency was handled and feel confident in the knowledge that if anything like this happens again, local government will be there to assist our citizens. Job well done!!

John Weiss

LGROW Spring Forum

The 10th Annual Lower Grand River Organizations of Watersheds Spring Forum was a success. It was held at the East Grand Rapids Community Center on Thursday, April 25th with a turnout of 60 guests. This year's speakers discussed local watershed issues along with addressing recent flooding in the Grand Rapids area.

Rodney Stokes, Special Advisor for Place-making to Governor Rick Snyder and former DNR Director came with a message from the Governor to continue to work on watershed issues, saying the governor "knows you can't do everything". Rodney also talked about place making initiatives and the role of our great water resources in this process.

Alan Steinman, PhD, presented

on climate change and water levels. According to Dr. Steinman, although we have recently had huge rainfalls our lake levels are still going to be lower than average. This is due to higher rates of evaporation and a net decline in precipitation over the years.

Mike Lunn gave an overview of the City of Grand Rapids water quality monitoring system and its importance to the community. Water Quality has improved over time and we need to keep up that trend.

Finally, The Grand Rapids Restoration Project was present to give an update on their exciting project for the Grand River. They are still in the planning and testing phase of the project. The project will help restore the river to its natural state.

A special thank you to the Spring Forum planning committee and East Grand Rapids Community Center for their help in planning this event.

*Katherine Collen,
GVSU Graduate Assistant*



Rodney Stokes, Special Advisor to Governor Snyder addresses the LGROW Forum.



April 19, 2013

Excerpt from the Capitol Update
by Rep. Winnie Brinks:

Bus Tour Highlights Road

Funding Need



This week, I had the pleasure of joining local mayors, senators, state representatives, city officials and business people as part of the Rebuilding Our Region 2013 West Michigan Street Summit. We took a two-hour bus tour of Kent County on The Rapid to view many of the area's dilapidated roads and infrastructure and hear how the poor road condition is impacting local businesses and economic growth. This eye opening experience really hit home the need for additional road funding in Michigan and highlighted the need for more funding in our community. More than 60 percent of Grand Rapids roads are considered to be in poor condition. A collaborative approach to solve our long-term problem in building and maintaining a first-class infrastructure system in Michigan is crucial for our region's economic vitality.



Public Hearing Held on 2014-2017

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

On Tuesday, April 9, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council held its first public hearing for the draft FY2014-2017 TIP. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input on the draft project lists for the FY2014-2017 TIP. Twenty-nine individuals attended the meeting, including an Introduction to Transportation Planning class from Grand Valley State University. The meeting itself featured an informative presentation on the TIP development process, multiple maps of transportation projects provided as visual aids, and several staff members were in attendance to answer questions.

TIP Dollars by Year

2014 - \$77,000,000

2015 - \$61,000,000

2016 - \$33,000,000

2017 - \$53,000,000

Total - \$224,000,000



GVMC Receives \$3.7 Million for Additional Projects

The Michigan Department of Transportation recently informed us that GVMC has an additional \$3.7 million carryover funding from previous years. This funding is available for 2013 and will help finance 10 projects currently under consideration. Those projects include improvements to 44th Street, Lake Michigan Drive, Monroe Avenue, Ivanrest, 36th Street, 3 Mile Road, Lake Drive, 32nd Street and Elmridge Avenue. Also ITP will receive funds for replacement buses.

LGROW SPRING FORUM APRIL 25th

LGROW will be hosting it's 10th Annual Grand River Forum and Spring Meeting on **Thursday, April 25th, 2013** at the East Grand Rapids Community Center. After the morning sessions, participants will be invited for a tour of Founders Brewing Company and a discussion on why clean water is important to "Beer City".

The event is **free** and open to anyone. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to Katherine.Collen@gvmc.org or 616-776-7601.