

# County Administrator's Digest

May 10, 2013

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## **GOVERNOR DECLARES STATE OF DISASTER** (Beth Thomas and Shannon Felgner)

On Tuesday, May 7, Governor Rick Snyder declared a state of disaster for Ottawa County along with 18 other counties and two cities.\* A "Governor's Declaration of a State of Disaster" permits the State of Michigan and local governments to deal with serious emergency situations and widespread public disasters directly and on an expedited basis. Such a declaration also allows the State to work with federal emergency management officials to address state and local concerns. It is not a guarantee that any federal or state financial aid will be forthcoming to address public or private losses.

On Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10, Emergency Management Director, Beth Thomas, along with representatives from FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Michigan State Police, traversed Ottawa County conducting preliminary damage assessments of private property in the most severely impacted areas. Next week, teams will assess public property damage. This process assists state officials in determining whether a federal declaration should be requested. Ottawa County has not been granted any financial assistance as yet, but it could be said that we are one step closer.

During this time, Ottawa County will continue to update and verify damages in our communities. Individuals can report damage at [miOttawa.org](http://miOttawa.org) under "Governor's Declaration of Disaster" which will be helpful IF we do become eligible for any type of assistance. The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management will be requesting the Board of Commissioners to extend our local declaration of a State of Emergency as we await further decisions at the state and federal level.

**\*The declaration included the cities of Grand Rapids and Ionia and the following counties: Baraga, Barry, Benzie, Genesee, Gogebic, Gratiot, Houghton, Ionia, Kent, Keweenaw, Marquette, Mecosta, Midland, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ontonagon, Osceola, Ottawa and Saginaw.**

## **OTTAWA COUNTY TO RECEIVE \$400,000 US EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT** (Mark Knudsen)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that Ottawa County has been awarded \$400,000 in grant funds from the Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) Program. The EPA ARC Program



provides communities with funding in order to assess, cleanup, and redevelop contaminated properties, promote economic development, create jobs, and protect public health.

The County will utilize the grant funds to perform Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments of properties that are believed to be contaminated and, if redeveloped, would have a measurable impact on the local economy (e.g. create jobs, increase local investment) and/or would remove a public health risk. The information collected as a result of the assessments is utilized to promote these properties to businesses that are interested in either expanding within the area or relocating to the area.

The grant funds are also available to businesses and local units of governments in Ottawa County which are planning to complete a redevelopment project. The grant funds can be utilized to perform Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments of the project sites. If contamination is found as a result of the environmental assessments, the grant funds can be utilized to complete Baseline Environmental Assessments and to formulate cleanup plans. A total of \$200,000 will be available to assess properties that are suspected of containing unsafe levels of hazardous substances. Additionally, \$200,000 will be available to assess properties that are suspected of containing unsafe levels of petroleum.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has identified 218 brownfield properties in Ottawa County (93 properties contaminated by hazardous substances and 125 properties contaminated by petroleum). There are other properties, in addition to the MDEQ sites, that are suspected of being contaminated. By performing environmental assessments and cleanup plans for these properties, more brownfield redevelopment will occur in Ottawa County. As a result, local communities will experience an increase in economic development, new job creation, and increased local investment. Additionally, the new redevelopment will improve the local environment by reducing contamination, protecting natural resources, preserving green-space in rural areas, and improving the health and well-being of residents within the County.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department either by phone at 616-738-4852 or by email at [plan@miottawa.org](mailto:plan@miottawa.org)

#### **APRIL 2013 CENTRAL DISPATCH MEASURES** (Tim Smith, OCCDA Executive Director)

The call volume and incident numbers handled through Central Dispatch for April 2013 were:

Total Incidents – 9,187 up 1% over April 2012 and down 1% YTD over 2012

Fire Incidents – 1,150 up 4.3% over April 2012 and up 3.5% YTD over 2012

Law Incidents – 8,037 down 1.1% over April 2012 and down 1.5% YTD over 2012

911 Calls – 8,070 up 1% over April 2012 and down 2.1% YTD over 2012

911 Hang Up calls – 807 down 11.9% over April 2012 and down 14.7% YTD over 2012

Wireless 911 calls – 87.5% of 911 calls for April 2013 and 85.8% of 911 calls YTD 2013

911 calls answered in 10 seconds or less – 93.2% for April 2013 and 94.2% YTD 2013

(NENA recommended standard is 90% within 10 seconds)

**GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE** (John Weiss)

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



### Washington Trip

A small group of business, government and Chamber of Commerce representatives recently travelled to Washington DC to advocate for West Michigan. The focus of the session was to meet with members of congress, senior staff and agency representatives on several key issues.

House Majority  
Leader  
Eric Cantor



One of the primary issues discussed was transportation and the need for approval of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill. This federal legislation is critical to the continued improvement of transportation infrastructure in our region. It is key to the continued growth and re-development of Michigan's economy as well as the economy of West Michigan. The group presented a public/private collaborative view for continued support of this vital legislation.

During the three day session, delegates met with several Members of Congress, as well as, Senators Levin and Stabenow. Also, senior committee staff from Transportation, Agriculture, Defense, Education and several other House committees were represented.



Members of Congress,  
Amash, Miller and Huizenga

The advocacy trip also included appointments with major embassies that have strong economic ties our region including Canada, Japan, Korea and the Netherlands.

Finally, key meetings took place with leaders in a few of the major agencies of federal government including the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Defense and Army Corps of Engineers.

This trip demonstrated to federal authorities the cooperative efforts and unified public/private partnerships working to continue to promote our region. By working together business, government and economic development agencies spoke with one voice to our elected and appointed federal officials.

### REGIS

For the past 13 years, REGIS has been a single centralized GIS service provider for over 19 local government entities. Operating on a Cloud Computing concept, REGIS members can assess REGIS applications, data and infrastructure from anywhere. The shared and collaborative REGIS service model is another example of governmental cooperation in our area.

If you would like more information about REGIS or are a business in need of regional GIS information, please feel free to contact me or Dharmesh Jain at [jaind@gvmc.org](mailto:jaind@gvmc.org) We would be happy to meet with you to personally discuss the benefits of participating in REGIS.

### CDBG Study Committee

Along with GVMC members Alex Arends, Alpine Township Supervisor, and Lowell City Manager Mark Howe, I am participating in a study committee evaluating the Community Development Block Grant Programs in Kent County.

This effort to study the potential for increased collaboration involves the programs currently administered by the cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming and the County of Kent.

The programs will be reviewed as the three government's seek opportunities to find greater efficiencies and evaluate the potential for enhanced cooperation and collaboration.

The study committee includes representatives of Wyoming, Grand Rapids and Kent County along with Alex, Mark and myself. It is being chaired by Assistant County Administrator Wayman Britt. If asked by our consultant, I encourage our members to participate in one of the scheduled focus groups.

I look forward to working closely with these three governmental units and our GVMC members as we study the CDBG program.

### Inside Grand Rapids

This morning I presented GVMC to the current class of Inside Grand Rapids. This program sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce is an intensive 2 1/2 day educational seminar designed to provide a fast overview of our region and the people and organizations leading our communities.