

County Administrator's Digest

August 16, 2013

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

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MOBILE BILLBOARD FEATURES OTTAWA SHERIFF CRUISER

A mobile billboard featuring a custom police cruiser is helping launch an end of summer statewide drunk driving crackdown that starts Friday and runs through Labor Day weekend. The cruiser features a custom taxi cab wrap on half the patrol car that con-



veys a special message to drunk drivers: choose your ride. Ottawa County law enforcement cruisers were one of four selected to be featured on the statewide billboards. The campaign is supported by federally funded drunk driving patrols and seat belt enforcement efforts of officers from 155 local, county and state jurisdictions.

OTTAWA COUNTY GIFTED THE GABAGOUACHE (Shannon Felgner)

Ottawa County Parks received a unique donation from the City of Grand Haven and Grand Haven Rotary last week: The Gabagouache canoe. (Pronounced gǎ-bâ-gô-wäch) The Gabagouache, which takes its name from "Grand River" in the Native American tongue, is a fiberglass replica of a 26-foot, 12 passenger, birch bark, voyageur canoe. The City and



Rotary Club commissioned the Gabagouache canoe in 1983 for the Grand Haven Sesquicentennial. According to historian Dave Seibold, the canoe was built in Chicago by Ralph Friese, preeminent voyageur canoe builder and owner of The Chicago Canoe Base. In 1984 the vessel was used for "The Odyssey," a 45-day trip



from Grass Lake to Lake Michigan. More than 140 people participated as members of 12-person crews who paddled from city to city, publicizing the Sesquicentennial and promoting the history of people along the river. Parks will breathe new life into the canoe through its education and recreation programs. Parks Director John Scholtz stated, "Taking ownership of the canoe makes sense for Ottawa County Parks with our focus on educational programs and our efforts to establish the Grand River Greenway and Grand River Heritage Water Trail." Tri-Cities Historical Museum will also utilize the canoe for local parades and other functions. An article appeared in the Grand Haven Tribune over the weekend: <http://www.grandhaventribune.com/article/590966>

OAISD 50TH ANNIVERSARY DRAWS TO A CLOSE (Karen McPhee)

The 50th Anniversary year of the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and the Michigan Intermediate School District system is nearly completed. OAISD Superintendent Karen McPhee has periodically sent articles highlighting various aspects the work and services provided by the district and I have passed them along through the Digest. Today's article covers Summer Programs at the OAISD ([click here](#)).

ISSUES AND IMPACT CABLE TELEVISION SHOW

We are excited to present the inaugural episode of "Issues & Impact", hosted by Al Vanderberg. During the show, Al and his guests discuss important events and topics that affect our government and citizens in and around Michigan. In this episode, we speak with Congressman Bill Huizenga about what work and day-to-day life is like in Congress, plus some tough questions on issues. *Issues and Impact* is filmed in the Muskegon Community College studio and can be viewed by 90,000 households ranging from Fremont to Allegan. We will provide links to each show in the Digest.

<http://youtu.be/EEpBLJWM6k>

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING OPTIONS (MDOT)

Mr. Roger Safford, MDOT Grand Region manager and his team presented an MDOT update at the Grand Valley Metro Council meeting last week. He gave the following paper to Board members to better understand the options available for transportation funding reform.

Transportation Funding Options

Goal: Using existing funds wisely plus raising enough new funds to meet pavement quality goals and avoid higher costs from delays in acting.

How much? Governor Snyder proposed raising \$1.2 billion in new revenue to avoid needing to spend \$25 billion ten years from now. This is a preservation budget to maintain the current system. It does not include

safety improvements, projects helping economic development, relieving congestion or correcting outdated designs. The proposal also included approximately \$300 million in county optional registration taxes.

Starting the discussion: Raising fuel taxes and registration taxes. Governor Snyder's 2013 State of the State Address contained a proposal for increasing fuel taxes from 15 cents per gallon for diesel fuel and 19 cents per gallon for gasoline to 33 cents per gallon, and most passenger registration taxes by 60%.

Senator Kahn introduced SB 87 and SB 148 to provide specific legislation to discuss increased fuel taxes and registration fees. His proposal would increase fuel taxes to approximately 37 cents per gallon and registration taxes by approximately 80 percent, but would have raised \$1.6 billion. That legislation remains in the Michigan Senate.

Representative Schmidt and others have introduced House Bills 4358, 4359, 4360 and 4362 to reorganize the fuel and registration taxes, but not to raise as much money as the Governor or Senator Kahn propose. These bills are in the House.

Taxpayer impact: \$933.9 million fuel tax increase + \$646.3 million registration tax = \$1.58 billion. (Based on SB 87 and SB 148.)

Raise sales tax/end state fuel taxes: Senator Richardville and Senator Kahn have also proposed Senate Joint Resolution "J" to increase the sales tax from 6 to 8%, but also to eliminate the state fuel taxes. Federal fuel taxes would remain in place. Approval by 2/3rds of the legislature plus voter approval is needed to increase the sales tax because the rate is in the Constitution. Senator Walker has also introduced legislation to raise the sales tax from 6 to 7% and to eliminate state fuel taxes. This would raise about \$370 million in new revenue.

Taxpayer impact: 2% or \$2.6 billion sales tax increase - \$924 million fuel tax revenue = \$1.69 billion new revenue.

Increase sales tax: The sales tax could simply be increased 1%, and dedicated to transportation with no corresponding decrease in fuel taxes. This option has not been discussed in depth.

Taxpayer impact: \$1.3 billion sales tax increase.

Increase sale tax, but end it on fuel sales: Unlike most states, Michigan imposes its sales tax on fuel. The sales tax revenue goes to schools and local government pursuant to the Constitution. Transportation gets some funding if local units choose to use revenue sharing for transportation, but is only guaranteed a small portion of the sales tax on auto-related products for transit and rail services. Another proposal would end the sales tax on fuel, but raise the sales tax from 6 to 7%, and also raise the fuel taxes. By one estimate, the gasoline tax could rise as high as 40 cents per gallon, but the total bill at the pump would be about the same. Simply ending the sales tax on fuels would cut funding for schools. Raising the sales tax would offset the reduction in revenue from ending the sales tax on fuel.

Taxpayer impact: \$1.08 billion fuel tax increase + (\$1.3 billion new sales tax - \$1.08 billion loss of sales tax on fuel) = \$1.3 billion revenue. NOTE: One estimate shows a loss to the state general fund from this proposal.

Extend the state use tax to services: Michigan could extend its current use tax of 6% to numerous services ranging from vehicle repair to legal services to lawn care to professional sports tickets. A Constitutional amendment is not needed to extend the coverage of the sales or use tax, and the legislature could enact such a change with a simple majority rather than a 2/3rds vote. A tax on services was passed in 2007, but immediately blocked from taking effect because of complaints about equity and how it would have been implemented.

Taxpayer impact: Varies depending on which services would be taxed, and whether there would be measures linked to this such as removing the sales tax on fuel.

Toll roads?: Federal law does allow for tolling on new capacity, but new tolls on existing portions of the interstate system are not allowed. The current federal law, MAP 21 is flexible for tolling on non-interstate routes. Tolls charged on non-interstate routes would generate revenue for those routes, freeing up state revenue to be used elsewhere in the state. How much would be freed up for use elsewhere depends on the routes tolled.

Other considerations and modes of transportation

Transit? Any of the current proposals would dedicate the vast majority of funds to roads and bridges. The Constitution says that not less than 90% of fuel taxes must go to roads and bridges. That being said, transit was excluded from the last general revenue increase in 1997. There have been successful local millages for individual systems, but no general increase for transit since 1987. With the aging population and other demands on these systems in all 83 counties, there is pressure on the legislature to include a small portion of funding for transit in any increase.

Aviation? The state fuel tax for aviation pre-dates World War II. There is a serious proposal in HB 4571 and HB 4572 to remove the sales tax on aviation fuel and create a new excise tax that would fund aeronautics programs. This is important for the road funding discussion because—on a smaller scale--it raises the issue of the sales tax and impact on schools and local government. HB 4571 and HB 4572 are on the House floor.

FOOD STATISTICS (Dr. Paul Heidel)

Dr. Heidel mentioned some interesting food statistics during his Health & Human Services Committee update earlier this week:

According to recent published data - - -

- (1) 60-70% of all fruits and vegetables consumed in the US are imported
- (2) 80% of all fish and fish products consumed in the US are imported
- (3) only 1.3% of the above commodities are inspected by certified food inspectors
- (4) the average American consumes 260 lbs. of imported fruits, vegetables and fish each year

PURE MICHIGAN SHOOTS HOLLAND AREA COMMERCIAL AT OTTAWA COUNTY'S TUNNEL PARK

The Ottawa County Parks Department welcomed Travel Michigan, Holland Convention and Visitors Bureau, and a 50-plus production crew to Tunnel Park on Tuesday. They were there filming a Pure Michigan commercial for the Holland area. Guests of the park were not inconvenienced, but captivated by the activity. The spot will air in other regions of Michigan and throughout the Midwest. (We already know that Ottawa County is a spectacular place to live, work and play!) We will share the link to the spot when it becomes available.



BOARD TAKES ACTION ON ROAD COMMISSION STUDY

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the report of the Road Commission Task Force including Option #3 with an accompanying Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Road Commission operation will remain under the control and authority of the Ottawa County Board of Road Commissioners and the County and Road Commission agree to work on some organizational improvements together. A very brief summary would be that the Road Commission does a great job of maintaining and improving roads but has fallen behind on legacy cost which is rapidly increasing due to retiree health benefits and defined benefit pension cost. We are not suggesting that any current Road Commission employee should have anything taken away and indeed when the County moved from a defined benefit pension to a defined contribution pension the change took effect after a certain date and applied only to new hires. The MOU lists several model programs and/or best practices that could result in cost savings and improved customer service, these programs and practices could include but are not limited to the following:

- County Reverse Auction System
- County Health Cost Containment Plan

- Legacy Cost (pension & OPEB) Reform Plan implemented by County or other agencies
- Employee Classification Study
- Service Sharing or Cost Sharing (expanded vehicle maintenance program, strategic planning, public relations, sand drop-off, sign painting)
- County's Four C's and Disney Customer Service Training Initiatives
- Lobbying (especially as it relates to road funding)
- Citizen Surveys
- Performance Evaluations (programs and services)
- Performance Dashboards

The Board of Road Commissioners has approved participation in the Ottawa County Disney Way Customer Service Training, 10-12 Road Commission employees are joining in the training each session with County employees until all Road Commission employees have received the training.

The Board of Road Commissioners will consider taking action on the Road Commission Task Force Report at its regular meeting on Thursday, August 22 at 9 AM.

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH (Kristina Wieghmink)

Why Immunize?

Vaccines are among the safest and most cost-effective ways to prevent disease.

Protecting children from preventable diseases will help keep them healthy and in school.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and physicians are coming together to urge parents across the State to get their children immunized. Childhood immunizations protect our kids from dangerous infectious diseases like measles, mumps, rubella and more. Because of their developing immune systems and exposure in settings like school and daycare, children and infants are especially vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. That's why Michigan law requires that students get immunized before attending school.

As our kids prepare to head back to school this fall, it is important that parents make sure each child is up-to-date on his or her immunizations. In 2011, the last year for which statistics are available, less than 72% of Michigan 2 year old children, were to date on their recommended vaccines, and only 63% of adolescents were up to date on their recommended vaccines, leading to dangerous outbreaks of preventable diseases. At 5.3% of the population, Michigan has the fourth-highest rate in the nation of parents refusing to immunize their children, according to numbers compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Ottawa County, we have a 3% opt out or waiver rate (students whose parents chose to opt out of vaccinations and/or the child could not be vaccinated due to a medical condition). The State requires certain vaccines for school aged children entering Kindergarten, 6th grade or students new to the district. In 2012, 12,285 Ottawa County students were required to be vaccinated (K, 6th, or new students). Of the 12,285 students, 11,891 students completed their requirement(s) and 394 students did not complete their requirement(s). Only 45 of the 394 students (or 0.1%) were not immunized due to medical contraindications.

Each year, thousands of children in Michigan become ill from diseases that could have been prevented and with immunization rates dropping in Michigan, the number of dangerous infections is likely to increase. There were nearly 850 cases of whooping cough in Michigan last year alone, and a 3 month old Michigan girl lost her life. One county in Michigan has already seen over 100 cases of whooping cough this year. Whooping cough can be especially severe in young infants less than 6 months of age, who are at highest risk of severe illness complications, and even death. Infants are especially vulnerable to diseases that may be passed from school-aged brothers and sisters. Infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated are not protected from these preventable diseases making it critical to protect the entire family through immunizations.

Flu season is approaching and all children 6 months of age and older should receive their annual flu shot. Immunizations are safe and effective. If parents have any questions about their children's immunizations they should speak with their local pediatrician.

Kristina Wieghmink

<http://www.miOttawa.org/miHealth>



Our Vision – Healthy People

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

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



OTTAWA AREA INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BUILDING**

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July 12, 2013

Mr. Alan Vanderberg
Ottawa County
1220 Fillmore Street Room 210
West Olive, MI 49460

Dear Mr. Vanderberg,

The 50th anniversary celebration of Michigan's Intermediate School Districts is coming to a close. Over the course of the year, I hope you've enjoyed learning more about just a few of the programs and services we provide to area residents. For an overview of our hundreds of other services, please visit us at www.oaisd.org or call to arrange a tour of any of our facilities.

But we couldn't let our anniversary end without one final letter and program highlight. Summer is a very busy time at the ISD. Hundreds of students take part in our career exploration programs at the Careerline Tech Center and at area businesses. In addition, school continues for many students with special needs at the Ottawa Area Center. We will also offer professional development opportunities for hundreds of teachers and other school employees. Just because summer starts doesn't mean learning ends in the OAISD! Take a look on the next page!

Thank you for your support throughout the year(s)! I appreciate all the kind comments about our "snail mail" campaign celebrating our 50 years of service. We could not do it without you, and we look forward to starting year #51!

Have a great summer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen McPhee".

Karen McPhee
Superintendent



Mission Statement:
We provide and enrich
educational opportunities
for students, schools,
and communities.



Summer Programs at the OAISD

Careerline Tech Center–Career Camp

Over 300 middle school students got a hands-on, up-close look at dozens of careers this summer at the Careerline Tech Center's Summer Career Camp. The week-long program is a great way for students to "try on" possible careers and learn more about the world of work. Students tell us they love the classes and teachers and parents are enthusiastic when they hear their kids talk about how much they like "school."



futurePREP–IChallengeU

When area businesses get stumped by thorny problems where do they turn? How about area high school students who bring fresh eyes and fresh ideas to the real world problems our employers face? IChallengeU is an intense two-week long summer program where high school juniors and seniors research, design, and present business solutions in a competitive and cooperative environment. All students earn Grand Rapids Community College credit and top teams take home scholarships provided through the generosity of Haworth, the program's corporate sponsor.



On IChallengeU:

"Haworth chose to be a lead sponsor in this innovative program for two distinct reasons – Readyng students by exposing them to real business challenges but also highlighting to our members (employees) the caliber of emerging talent that will be available in the next five years. It's highly interactive, impactful and results based. This program challenges all of us to think differently about how we look at business problems and the fact that we can partner with area schools is a great way to reinforce our commitment to our community."

Sharon Netto-Lipsky, Manager Recruitment and Member Effectiveness for Haworth, Inc.

On Career Camp:

"My husband and I were very impressed with the quality and the level of complexity that the camp presented. Your staff excited a kid who isn't usually excited about 'school'!"

Parent of Career Camp student

"My daughter absolutely loved her time at the Tech Center. Everyday she would tell me all about the new things she learned."

Parent of Career Camp student

OAISD Summer Programs (continued)



futurePREP–Unite4Insight

Students aren't the only ones who head back to school in the summer. Teachers also sign up to improve their skills, make work-school connections, and prepare for the new school year. In Unite4Insight, teachers in the Grand Haven and Spring Lake area schools spend time in local businesses learning how to make their classroom curriculum relevant to the real world of work. By documenting their experience and publishing their new lesson plans, their work is shared with colleagues throughout the area.



Professional Development

Throughout the summer, teachers gather at the ISD and other locations around the state for ongoing professional development in a variety of areas: brain research, technology, content delivery, and using data and assessments to improve student learning. Professional development delivered in the summer reduces the number of days teachers are absent from the classroom during the school year.

futurePREP–Summer Immersion

Students who want an in-depth summer exploration can choose from an array of topics in the three-week Summer Immersion program. Students work with teachers and industry leaders to learn more about things that interest them like the growing field of agri-business, dune ecology, creative writing, or urban living. Students document and present their work at the end of the field study.



Ottawa Area Center

When working with students with special needs, even small breaks away from the classroom can result in significant declines in knowledge and skill. Many students at the Ottawa Area Center attend classes year round, insuring that they continue to progress toward their individual goals.



August 2, 2013

Budget for 2013-2014 **Presented to the** **Board of Directors**

At yesterday's Board of Directors Meeting we presented the budget for the next fiscal year. The budget is very similar to the current year with some adjustments due to new project grants and reclassification of expenses with our new accounting system. While GVMC member dues will remain frozen, we are budgeting a approximately 5% increase in revenues and an overall 1.6% increase in expenses. Administration/Indirect Expenses are reduced by 10%. Transportation dues have increased very slightly

Updates to Fireworks **Ordinances Available Online**

Earlier this summer legislation was signed allowing communities to amend their fireworks ordinances to restrict hours of use. This legislation was a much needed change to last year's new fireworks laws which limited the authority of municipalities to restrict the usage of fireworks.

We have posted on our website (www.gvmc.org) as a guide for our members several examples of both the original fireworks ordinances and the recent amendments. Please feel free to use these examples as guides if your community is considering changing your own fireworks regulations.

to meet the needs of the local match on our upcoming projects.

A few new special grants include the next phase of a 131 Corridor Study from 100th street to M-57 and a traffic study to be conducted in the Michigan Street area of downtown Grand Rapids.

REGIS revenues will remain the same though there will be a 4.8% increase in dues as agreed to by the members in 2011 as part of their 5 year plan. REGIS expenses will increase 8.8% due to adding 1 full time employee, electrical expenses and equipment enhancements and upgrades.

Our new process is to present the budget to the members in

August with final approval at our September meeting. Our new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2013. We first used this process last year and it was well received by members as being more transparent and allowing longer time for questions and feedback.

The 2013-2014 Budget is very transparent in that it has already been approved and recommended to the GVMC Board by the Transportation Policy Committee, the REGIS Board and Executive Committee, and the GVMC Executive Committee. Furthermore, the majority of the Budget was approved by the GVMC Board of Directors on June 6th with the approval of the Unified Work Program.

Grant Opportunity /Free GVMC Seminar

SAFE ROUTES 2 SCHOOL

Wednesday August 28, 2013

9:00 am –12:00 Noon

Grand Rapids Township Hall

1836 E. Beltline NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Register at either:

surveymonkey.com/s/5BWW95D

saferoutesmichigan/train.org

