

County Administrator's Digest

August 23, 2013

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COUNTY HIRES NEW FISCAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Karen Karasinski has accepted our offer to become the next Fiscal Services Director for Ottawa County. Karen is currently employed by Gwinnet County, GA as Deputy Finance Director. She has prior experience as Finance Director for Orange County, VA, and Deputy Finance Director for the City of Dearborn, MI. She has prior experience as an auditor and is a Certified Public Accountant. Karen received a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Michigan. She is originally from Dearborn and her husband is from the Cedar Springs area so they are very pleased with the opportunity to return to Michigan. We are still working on a start date however she will begin in early September.

GUN PERMIT BOARD PROCESS STREAMLINED

Commissioners have received a couple of complaints from residents regarding the long backlog of applicants seeking CPL (Concealed Pistol License) approvals. The primary reason for the backup is an unprecedented number of applicants and a secondary reason is the thorough background performed on each applicant. The Sheriff, Prosecutor and Clerk's office each have a role in the process and have agreed to have two meetings of the gun board in both August and September and then assess the backlog to see if additional resources are necessary. The gun board typically meets on the 1st Thursday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 3-4:00 p.m. The two additional meetings will be scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month.

The Sheriff provided the following statistics:

1,647 background checks were processed in **2012** with **1,491** permits issued.

2,000+ background checks have been conducted thus far in **2013**.

398 permits were processed in July, 2013.

238 permits have been processed thus far in August.



The Sheriff and Prosecutor continue to believe that the process is sound with the appropriate amount of time spent on doing proper background checks of new applicants and checking the status of those seeking renewal. This is the fifth year since the legislative change from “may issue” to “shall issue” so renewals on all original permits are adding to the volume this year.

3rd GRADE BMI STUDY (Kristina Wieghmink)

Ottawa County Department of Public Health



3rd Grade BMI Measurement Study

The new school year is approaching fast! Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) will be conducting a Body Mass Index (BMI) measurement study for third graders in Ottawa County, during the 2013-2014 school year. Schools have been randomly selected to participate in the program, which will take place in conjunction with vision screenings. The names of participating schools will not be identified in any reports released. OCDPH will be collecting BMI data and the confidential results will only be known to the health department. We encourage parents to also consult their family physician to calculate their child's BMI, to determine if he or she is at risk for health problems.

According to the 2010-2011 Ottawa County BMI screening results, 24.7% of third graders were overweight or obese. A child's excess body weight can have adverse health implications ranging from chronic disease to having a significant impact on their learning and social skills. In addition, children who are overweight are more likely to become overweight adults. The information that is collected from the BMI measurement program will be used to monitor obesity trends as well as plan future programs to address this important issue in Ottawa County.



BMI is based on a child's age and gender and is calculated using height and weight measurements. BMI is used to determine whether a child is within a normal growth pattern. Throughout the course of the BMI measurement study, no individual information will be shared with schools, parents, teachers, or students. Instead, all participating students will receive educational information to take home regarding healthy food choices and physical activity. The results will not be discussed with the child and are strictly confidential. Please be assured that all measures will be taken to safeguard each child's privacy while promoting a positive body image. If parents or community members have any questions regarding this study, please contact Sandy Boven, Community Health

Manager at (616)393-5765. To review past BMI studies, visit our website at www.miottawa.org/mihealth and go to the Data and Statistics page. The OCDPH is committed to the partnership that has been developed with schools, and we look forward to working together to meet the needs of our children and families.

OTTAWA COUNTY'S EIGHTH ANNUAL WATER QUALITY FORUM



save the date
november 25
ottawa county
water quality forum



www.miOttawa.org



VAN ALLSBURG APPOINTED TO NEW BUSINESS COURT

GRAND HAVEN, MI, April 5, 2013 – The Michigan Supreme Court has appointed Ottawa County's 20th Circuit Court Judge Jon Van Allsburg to the newly-created Business Court for a six-year term. The Business Court is a specialized docket of the circuit court, created by the legislature in 2012 to promote timely, effective, and predictable resolution of complex business cases. The court will use electronic filing, phone and video conferencing, and early intervention to promote rapid resolution of these cases. Court opinions will be posted to an indexed website for public access.

“We anticipate that the business court will promote the use of technology and early intervention among those litigants who are most able to make use of it,” said Judge Van Allsburg. “We will be evaluating the effectiveness of these tools and procedures in the hope that we can apply them to all cases, and ultimately reduce the time and expense involved in resolving court cases.”

Van Allsburg is an honors graduate of the Michigan State University College of Law, and joined the Circuit Court in 2005 after a 25-year career in the practice of law, during which he served as chairman of the board of the Michigan West Coast (formerly Holland Area) Chamber of Commerce. He will continue to be assigned to the Family Division of the Circuit Court, and he is also assigned to hear appeals from lower courts, municipalities, and state agencies.

MAC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Chair Holtrop, Commissioner Disselkoen, Commissioner, Dannenberg, Commissioner Bergman, Keith Van Beek and I attended the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) regional conference in Kalamazoo on Wednesday. MAC hasn't held the regional mini-conferences in many years. This five-hour event started with a welcome from MAC 2nd Vice-President Jon Campbell, Allegan County Commissioner and proceeded with a presentation by Dr. Jessica Parks from the Supreme Court on Problem-Solving Courts in Michigan, i.e. Mental Health Courts, Drug Courts and Veteran's Courts. MAC Counsel Peter Cohl gave updates on the status of the labor law changes made during the Governor Snyder administration including PA 54 – labor bargaining process changes, Act 312 amendments, and PA 152 regarding what employers can pay toward employee health care benefits. MAC staff gave a legislative update during lunch. The afternoon sessions included “Marketing Your County” presented by Dave Lorenz with the Pure Michigan campaign and an Agri-Business Report from Jim Byrum, President of the Michigan Agri-Business Association who has become a familiar face in Ottawa County and has presented to the Board of Commissioners.

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

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



Members Collaborate On Non-Motorized Projects

Recently GVMC was awarded \$668,000 in grant funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program to fund non-motorized projects in our region.

Last week several meetings were held to prioritize, review and recommend the grant funding for non-motorized projects for 2014. On Tuesday, our Non-Motorized Committee reviewed proposals from 15 municipalities for 85 projects with a total cost of \$38 million and a total grant request of \$3.8 million.

Through their discussion and collaboration, this list of projects was

reduced to 7 projects with a total estimated grant need of \$924,128 and total construction cost of \$1,597,866. This was difficult work, but the list still exceeded the total available funds.

On Wednesday, the Transportation Programming Study Group met to review the recommendations of the Non-Motorized Committee and determine final recommendations within the available budget.

By working collaboratively, the study group is recommending 6 projects be awarded the TAP grants. Those projects will include \$668,000 in the GVMC available grant funds and have a total construction cost of \$1,161,871.

Projects were awarded to GVMC

members Cannon and Jamestown Townships and the cities of Rockford, Wyoming, Grand Rapids and the Kent County Parks Department.

Ken Bergwerff, Supervisor of Jamestown Township stated, *"Participating in GVMC enables us to see the larger issues that face the larger community and help us to understand how we can work collaboratively. Instead of having one municipality pitted against another, each gets a share of the benefits. Sometimes that benefit is large and immediate, other times it is delayed gratification. In the end, all of the citizens are receiving the greatest benefit with this collaboration"*.

Bonnie Blackledge, Cannon Township Clerk wrote, *"It was genuinely encouraging to witness the give and take among the Grand Valley Metro Council members as we sat around the table discussing which projects should be given greater priority. Many members were willing to postpone their projects and give support to others so that those deemed the most crucial could be funded. Instead of a competition for funds, it was a collaboration of communities."*

Once again, this process was an excellent example of the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that exists in our GVMC family.

**Space Is Limited Please Register for
Breakfast ASAP!**

GVMC Breakfast Meeting Honoring Mayor Jim Buck



**with Special Guest
Senator Carl Levin**



Monday November 4, 2013

L. William Seidman Center at GVSU Downtown

\$20.00 Per Person

8:00-9:30 Seating will be open at 7:30 am

Sign Up online at:

GVMC.org or Gayle at McCrathG@gvmc.org



*we're your energy
superhighway*

