

# County Administrator's Digest

October 18, 2013

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

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## **GAY MARRIAGE ISSUE UPDATE** (Daniel C. Krueger, County Clerk)

Wednesday was a rather hectic day in the Clerk's office with phone calls and responses regarding the hearing in Federal District Court concerning marriage of same sex couples. As you may know, the Michigan Constitution was amended in 2004 to prohibit same sex couples from marrying in the State of Michigan.

That amendment is being challenged in Federal District court. The hearing was supposed to take place on Wednesday the 16th of October so there was some concern regarding our direction in taking applications from same gendered couples if there was a decision to overturn the amendment. I had been in contact with council and with other clerks around the state determining what our responsibility was if the opinion did overturn the constitutional amendment prohibiting such unions. While there is a great deal of confusion, even after the hearing on Wednesday, my position and that of Kent County remains firm. We will not take any applications for same sex marriages until the final adjudication of the case has been determined.

The case itself was set for trial on February 25/26 of 2014. I believe there will be a short period after that trial before any decision is rendered by the court. When such decision is rendered, we still have an appeal process that can and probably will be utilized by whichever side does not prevail in the case. This appeal process could take a significant amount of time as well, so my office will continue to adhere to the present law and constitution until the appeal process has run its course. We will only issue marriage license to same sex couples when we are ordered to by council after the appeals process has been exhausted and if the amendment is overturned. The possibility exists that if a license were issued after a decision is made to overturn the amendment and before an appeal were submitted, those license and the marriage could be voided by a reversal of the original opinion and some other legal arguments.

We did receive a letter and a phone call from the State Attorney General's Office Wednesday ordering all County Clerks to refrain from issuing gay couples marriage license until the appeals process has been exhausted. As I have mentioned above, that was my position before I received the AG's letter and call and it will remain my position. There are some counties in the State that believe they



should be issuing license immediately after the Federal District Court issues an opinion, but I will wait for the order. I am available to discuss the issue further if there are any questions.

### **“QUADRANT MEETING” – OCT. 29, 2 PM, MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, FILLMORE COMPLEX**

The County will host the local units of government in Ottawa County at a meeting on October 29 at 2 PM in the Main Conference Room. Historically this has been called the "Quadrant Meeting", where the County provides updates on a variety of items and keeps lines of communication open with the elected officials and managers from our townships, cities and village. Over the past few years attendance and interest in these meetings has waned. Feedback from the local units indicates that other modes of communication such as the weekly Digest has replaced the historic purpose of the Quadrant Meetings.

The October 29 meeting is intended to fulfill a slightly different purpose and use a different format. The West Michigan region and especially governments in Ottawa County, have a long history of services and partnerships with other units of government. However, changes at the State and in the economy have created a new environment in which collaboration and service sharing are reaching new levels. The County is looking to publish and highlight a comprehensive list of all the services that we make available for the local units, and then keep that list updated as new opportunities arise. As we finalize the list and approach the meeting date, we will highlight a few of the opportunities at the meeting and may ask some local units of government to speak about partnerships that are currently in place.

We also want the meeting to include time for local units of government to highlight and possibly present examples of services you might have with other units and could make more broadly available. Please contact me if you have such a service you would like to put on the October 29 agenda. Look forward to seeing you on the 29th!

### **AGRICULTURAL INCUBATOR ARTICLES**

The regional business MiBiz featured the Agricultural Incubator Project in a couple of recent editions which follow below:

Sunday, 29 September 2013 22:00

Ottawa County plans virtual ag incubator

Written by Joe Boomgaard

Based on the strength of the agricultural sector, the innovative spirit of farmers and the stated need for entrepreneurial resources in the farming sector, Ottawa County proposes creating a virtual incubator to help farmers turn ideas into viable products.

The plans, which went before the Ag Incubator Steering Committee last Thursday and will go to the Ottawa

County Planning Commission today, call for the rollout of a virtual incubator aimed at supporting farmers in the commercialization of agritech-based products.

The virtual incubator, which lacks a physical building but has county staff dedicated to it, would cost about \$50,000 per year in staff time and other resources and would be able to support six to eight clients per year, said Mark Knudsen, planning and performance improvement director with the county.

The incubator would be supported with a performance-based compensation model. "It capitalizes on our key industry – agriculture," Knudsen said.

Farmers generally have their own facilities and tools and "really don't need a physical incubator," he said. But they do need services, such as assistance in determining whether an idea is viable and patentable and help to take an idea to market.

The group's four focus areas are agricultural production equipment, technology and software; agricultural production; food processing and food safety; and food refrigeration and distribution.

Last year, the county hired Greenwood Consulting Group Inc. to conduct a market needs study for an incubator.

The study found significant interest among residents. Of the 227 respondents, 95 percent said they believed the incubator was a good idea. Of those 166 people, 107 of them said they were interested in using the incubator's services.

But while the study's authors called for a mixed-use incubator and the creation of a 15,000-square-foot to 20,000-square-foot facility, the steering committee ultimately opted for a leaner, "sustainable" and more cost-effective approach, Knudsen said.

Given the level of interest from the farming community, the steering committee launched a pilot of a virtual incubator before the market study was completed. The small-scale virtual incubator focused narrowly on agricultural technology and worked with three people to develop their ideas. Knudsen described the program as a "lean incubation model, which has minimal startup investment and therefore low risk."

"So far, so good," Knudsen said of the pilot. "We've got three clients that are very happy, and we're expecting once we open the (virtual) doors, that we'll be inundated with requests for service."

Wednesday, 09 October 2013 21:00

Results will determine whether virtual ag incubator finds physical home

Written by Mark Sanchez

The proposal for a business incubator in Ottawa County focused on agricultural technology could one day have a physical home, but the county first wants to see results from a virtual operation before it makes that investment.

The incubator, if approved by Ottawa County commissioners, would start out as a virtual operation, with staff in the county planning department working with and connecting startup ideas with mentors who can help them through the product development and commercialization process.

A series of professional service providers would help out with business planning, market research, validating the science behind an innovation, accessing capital and legal issues. Cooley Law School, for example, will provide legal assistance on intellectual property and business structure for startups.

Key to whether the virtual incubator sprouts into something bigger with a physical home is measuring and achieving results, said Mark Knudsen, Ottawa County's planning and performance improvement director.

If the virtual operation isn't driving the formation of new companies and generating an appropriate level of tax base, wages, gross sales and economic activity across the supply chain within the local agricultural economy, a physical operation won't happen.

The county wants to ensure "there's value before we move to the next stage" and incur the associated costs, Knudsen said. Metrics within the proposal would require the value of the companies using to the incubator to exceed the operating costs to expand beyond a virtual operation.

"The model is really results driven, and if we are not producing value to this county, then we shouldn't be opening it," Knudsen said. If the virtual operation meets the metrics, a physical facility to house the incubator could open within three or four years, he said.

The Ottawa County Planning Commission, acting on the recommendation of a steering committee, this month endorsed the project after a feasibility study and one-year pilot effort showed a business incubator focusing on agricultural technology has potential. An accompanying survey of ag-related businesses also found strong support for the concept.

The county began looking at the concept a few years ago as a way to drive job growth and business development coming out of the recession.

By focusing on agricultural technology, the incubator would play into a traditional and key economic force in Ottawa County. The county's ag sector, valued at \$391 million, ranked as the second-largest ag producing county in Michigan in the most recent Ag Census conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Neighboring Allegan County is the state's top ag producer at \$398 million as of 2007.

A consultant that studied the incubator concept recommended developing a physical space to house and support startup companies. Since most innovations would come from existing ag operators with their own facilities, and rather than incur the \$812,000 to \$2.2 million cost to implement the concept, plus a \$165,000 to \$211,000 estimated operating costs in the first year, planners decided to start first with a virtual operation.

"As this point, we just don't feel a physical incubator is needed," Knudsen said. "It's better to go from (something) small to begin (with) and grow our way into one, than to start out big and be behind the eight ball."

The virtual incubator will focus on supporting startups involved in ag production, food processing, food safety, and food storage and distribution. It would cost about \$136,000 annually to operate, an amount Knudsen hopes to cover by securing a Michigan Department of Agriculture grant.

Ottawa County's proposal comes as the state and Gov. Rick Snyder elevate agriculture as a key economic driver and growth sector for Michigan.

Bob Boehm, manager of commodity and marketing for the Michigan Farm Bureau, believes an ag tech incubator has merit. It could complement Michigan State University's Product Center in East Lansing that works with entrepreneurs developing products in the ag, natural resources and bioeconomy sectors, Boehm said.

"Anything that will help provide some startup services and help to bring some new ag products to market, or some new marketing opportunities for agriculture and the food industry, we're certainly supportive of," Boehm said. "It certainly fits into our Michigan ag plan for marketing and bringing more market access for our members."

While Ottawa County planners see a demand for the services to support technology innovations in the ag sector, attorney Aaron Phelps at Grand Rapids-based Varnum LLP said scalability is an issue.

Quite often, a farmer or ag operator comes up with an idea that fixes a problem he faces, but it doesn't necessarily have the mass appeal beyond a niche product that you can build a business around, Phelps said.

"That's the challenge," said Phelps, whose law practice includes working with agri-businesses. "Can you scale it?" That's one issue a market analysis conducted through the ag tech business incubator could determine.

Another issue: Farm operators that have a solution to address a specific problem often share their innovations with peers and neighbors without a broader look at the innovation's market potential, Knudsen said.

With a growing population that puts increasing pressures on food supplies, agriculture is "ripe for technological advances" that can generate great yields and operating efficiencies, he said.

"We know there's going to have to be advances in ag technologies to feed the world," Knudsen said. "We have smart farmers here who are developing a lot of things.

"We're there to help these companies rapidly bring their products to market and give them a competitive advantage."

One such idea is an improved distillation process developed by a Marne company, GrassRoots Energy, for producing ethanol. The company's process extracts ethanol at a lower temperature, uses less energy, and produces a higher grade product at a lower cost in the initial distillation process.

GrassRoots Energy was one of three companies in a year-long pilot for the ag tech incubator. County staff connected the owner with Zeeland Farm Services, which operates ethanol plants in Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

Knudsen termed the pilot as "very successful," leading to the proposal to proceed with a larger, virtual opera-

tion run in-house by county staff. If it works out, the virtual incubator could grow into a physical operation with leased space and a separate staff, and eventually into a new facility that would cost a projected \$350,000 annually to operate

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MDCH DIRECTORS AWARD**

Congratulations to Health Officer Lisa Stefanovsky and the Health Department on receiving the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Director's Award to Local Public Health for the *Beach Health Education Campaign*!! The award letter is included. ([click here](#))

### **OTTAWA COUNTY'S EIGHTH ANNUAL WATER QUALITY FORUM**



register now



ottawa county  
water quality forum 2013  
november 25 • 8:30AM

This year's distinguished speakers will feature the initiatives and research that is being conducted to preserve one of our most valuable resources – **Water.**

View the agenda, register or print a registration form at [www.miOttawa.org](http://www.miOttawa.org). Registration fee is \$12 online or \$10 by mail and is limited to the first 150 participants. Registration must be received by November 20. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please contact Misty Cunningham at 616-738-4898 or [mcunningham@miottawa.org](mailto:mcunningham@miottawa.org) with questions.



### **QECB BOND RATES**

In July, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. for just over \$5.4

million to upgrade and provide maintenance oversight for the building systems upgrade project. It was also decided to find the program from the Qualified Energy Conservation Bond Program from remaining bond capacity allocated to the State of Michigan from the ARRA Program. Per this program the federal government refunds a portion of the interest cost annually which subsidizes the bond cost. The bond sale was recently completed and the effective interest rate that the County will pay ended up at .22% which means that the County will use the \$5.4 million for 15 years at an estimated total interest cost of approximately \$87,000!

### **VAN BEEK PARTICIPATES ON LEADERSHIP MICHIGAN PANEL**

Assistant County Administrator Keith Van Beek participated on a health care panel for the Leadership Michigan Program entitled *Leadership Michigan Perspectives on the Health Care Industry*. Joining Keith on the panel were State Representative Rob VerHeulen; Mike Freed, CFO of Spectrum Health and CEO of Priority Health; Dr. David Blair, St. Mary's/Mercy Health Systems. Keith spoke to the changes in the Ottawa County Health Plan including employee consumerism and health management and briefly on the importance of Medicaid Expansion to the Community Mental Health Department.

### **TWO WEST MICHIGAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEADERS HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

(Shannon Felgner)

West Michigan--The most successful response to disasters requires training, dedication, teamwork and preparedness. West Michigan is fortunate to have Emergency

Management Coordinators who recognize this; their efforts are being recognized among the best in the state by the Michigan Emergency Management Association (MEMA).

Beth Thomas, Ottawa County Emergency Management Director , and Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator for Kent County, received awards for their work.

Beth Thomas, Ottawa County Emergency Management Director, was honored as Best Local Emergency Management Coordinator in a jurisdiction with a population of over 60,000. According to the nomination, "The abilities of this candidate are not only evident in the efficient daily operations of her jurisdiction, but especially in her drive to create and maintain excellence in the field of Emergency Management. This persons' experience in emergency planning on a global scale led this Emergency Management Coordinator to go beyond expectations this past year." She successfully responded to the April 2013 flood and provided guidance and assistance to eight jurisdictions to applying for recent hazard mitigation grants, with 14 large projects submitted to the state so far.

Jack Stewart was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award. According to the submission, Jack "is an excellent example of an all-round Emergency Manager and the epitome of a public servant. This candidate has mastered the ability to lead many into collaboration in order to accomplish a unified goal." Stewart played a

critical role over the past year with response and planning, especially during severe flooding that impacted Kent County in April 2013. He was instrumental in incorporating two city Emergency Management programs and the Local Emergency Planning Committee program into the Kent County Emergency Management program last year. He, along with Beth Thomas, co-authored the two-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was only the second Hazard Mitigation Plan in the State of Michigan to be approved by FEMA.

The Michigan Emergency Management Association Annual Awards Program is designed to recognize individuals and communities who have embraced MEMA's mission. The purpose of each award is to recognize exemplary performance in the award category. Congratulations to both Jack and Beth for their recognition.

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### **NO MORE EXCUSES: YOU NEED A FLU VACCINE** (Kristina Wieghmink)

The informational CDC Publication is included ([click here](#)).

### **MAC OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER**

I wrote the following article for the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) October *Michigan Counties* newsletter:

#### **THE OTTAWA WAY: A COUNTY'S CUSTOMER SERVICE VISION**

By, Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County Administrator

Many euphemisms have been used to describe the county government process in Michigan due to its organizational complexity. One of the most common compares it to "herding cats." County government is like \_\_\_\_\_. You can and probably have filled in this blank many times.

Ottawa County consists of 33 departments, offices, courts and agencies. Part of the Board of Commissioners ambitious Four C's Initiative – the plan to take the Ottawa County organization to the next level – includes a customer service endeavor that aims to have all 33 practice a consistent customer service vision. I believe this qualifies as a BHAG – A Big Hairy Audacious Goal as coined by Jim Collins in the tome *Good to Great*. Initially, I thought that herding cats might be easier.

The Board of Commissioners contracted with Capodagli-Jackson Consulting to facilitate this work. Bill Capodagli and Lynn Jackson are co-authors of the New York Times Bestselling book *The Disney Way* and lead their international consulting business from the shores of Lake Michigan in Ottawa County. The first step was to create a representative team of 22 employees and officials to work with Mr. Capodagli as a steering committee for the overall effort.

The steering committee created the Ottawa County Customer Service Value Statement:

## Empowered to Solve Problems with Integrity and Empathy to Inspire Trust

A subgroup of the steering committee under the leadership of Greg Rappleye, County Corporation Counsel (and a national award winning poetry author), drafted a short and long version County story. We plan to put the longer version, which portrays the different activities that make up a day of 24-7 county service provision to film. The shorter version follows:

### The Ottawa Way Customer Service Story

Imagine a place with miles of pristine beaches...with breathtaking sunsets disappearing into a seemingly endless body of water...with expansive wetlands...with hundreds of miles of hiking and bike paths...a place where healthy living is valued and available...

Imagine a place where people come from thousands of miles away to enjoy the beauty and serenity...where diversity is not just talked about...but where diverse cultures are embraced...where businesses seek to locate... a place where world-class talent is welcomed and cultivated...

Imagine a government that spends within its means...where deficit spending never happens...with an innovative business plan that focuses on the creative use of technology, continuous improvement, and the effective delivery of services...

Imagine that within that government there are departments, offices and courts that not only uphold the law but are fair and just...that care about those they serve and strive to promote and protect the health, safety, independence and economic wellbeing of the county's citizens...

Imagine a group of public servants that are empowered to use their good judgment to solve customer problems and fulfill their dreams...an organization where the values of mutual respect and trust abound...where vision becomes reality...

Imagine a place where the creative talents and abilities of all are developed with great care...a place where workers are encouraged to take risks and learn from their mistakes...an organization where long-term goals and values guide all decision making...

Imagine a team with a variety of skills—collaborating, engaging one another, and having fun...that work to improve, protect, and serve their citizens and the environment. This is Ottawa County and you are the Ottawa Way!

The steering committee work was presented to a group of 90 County leaders representative of the 33 divisions of the County made up of department heads, elected officials, judges and others. The group engaged in a two and a half day training session with Bill Capodagli where they reaffirmed the work of the steering committee and developed Customer Service Codes of Conduct. The codes serve as an expectation of behavior for all County and Court employees and officials.

### Customer Service Codes of Conduct

We live the Golden Rule.

We create a friendly and professional atmosphere.

We take accountability for our actions and decisions.

We are a team based upon positive relationships.

We know our roles and the roles of others.

We work while others enjoy their stay.

We own the problem and know (or seek) the answers.

We keep our facilities clean and safe.

We create a culture of service in which every customer is valued!

In May, we began the process of training the balance of our 1,100 employees in the Ottawa Way Customer Service Training. The Road Commission accepted an invitation to participate and evaluating a program for local units of government.

The training consists of 90 participants engaging in two days of content. Participants learn the storyboarding technique invented by Walt Disney as an improved method over brainstorming to generate ideas and quickly form action plans. The storyboarding technique has now spread throughout the organization and many different employee groupings are using it as a problem solving tool.

Training, which has gone exceptionally well, is the easy part. Cultural change is more difficult. Each training session includes storyboarding the barriers to achieving great customer service. One of the challenges we face is empowering employees throughout the organization to take initiative, which like most local governments, is still more hierarchical in nature. I participate on "the hot seat" during each training with two different department heads/elected officials each time and answer whatever tough questions employees have. We are initiating different tools to ensure that the customer service effort achieves cultural changes and is not just a nice training program.

BHAG though it is, we have definitely taken Walt Disney's approach that "if we can dream it, we can do it." We have outstanding County residents who are impacted by our work. They deserve world class customer service.

**GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE** (John Weiss)

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



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES K. HAVEMAN  
DIRECTOR

October 14, 2013

Ms. Lisa Stefanovsky  
Health Officer  
Ottawa County Health Department  
12251 James Street, Suite 400  
Holland, MI 49424

Dear Ms. Stefanovsky:

I am pleased to announce the Ottawa County Health Department was chosen as the \$1,000 recipient of the 2013 Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Director's Award to Local Public Health. You were selected for your innovative collaboration and leadership efforts demonstrated through your *Beach Health Education Campaign*.

You will receive a permanent plaque and the MDCH Director's Award traveling trophy until next year's selection process. We will also engrave your local health department's name on a MDCH plaque. The plaque reflects all recipients since the award's inception in 1983, and is located at the MDCH Public Health Administration.

The award and recognition item will be presented to you or your representative at Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference luncheon and awards ceremony on October 17, 2013 in Bay City, Michigan, at the DoubleTree Hotel. Please consider inviting representative(s) of your local governing entity leadership to help celebrate agency achievement.

We acknowledge the significance of your agency's active engagement in the protection of our natural resources and prevention, through the reduction of determined health risks, on behalf of Michigan citizens and visitors. I look forward to recognizing your excellence at the conference. Thank you for participating in the MDCH Director's Award process!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie Brim".

Melanie Brim, MHA  
Senior Deputy Director  
Public Health Administration

# No More Excuses: You Need a Flu Vaccine

## Get the Facts

- The flu vaccine is safe, does not cause the flu, and can protect the ones you love.
- Spread the word and **GET VACCINATED!**



### **Even healthy people need a flu vaccine.**

Influenza (flu) is a contagious disease which affects the lungs and can lead to serious illness, including pneumonia. Even healthy people can get sick enough to miss work or school for a significant amount of time or even be hospitalized. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. Pregnant women, young children, older people, and people with certain chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes and heart disease are at increased risk of serious flu-related complications, so getting a yearly flu vaccine is especially important for them.

### **Is the flu vaccine safe?**

Yes. The flu vaccine is safe. They have been given to hundreds of millions of people for more than 50 years and have a very good safety track record. Each year, CDC works closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other partners to ensure the highest safety standards for flu vaccines.

### **The most common side effects of flu vaccines are mild.**

The flu vaccine cannot cause flu illness; however, it can cause mild side effects that may be mistaken for flu. For example, people vaccinated with the flu shot may feel achy and may have a sore arm where the shot was given. People vaccinated with the nasal spray flu vaccine may have a stuffy nose and sore throat. These side effects are NOT the flu. If experienced at all, these effects are usually mild and last only 1-2 days.

### **Even if I get sick, won't I recover quickly?**

Not necessarily. Influenza can be serious and anyone can become sick with flu and experience serious complications. But even if you bounce back quickly, others around you might not be so lucky. Older people, young children, pregnant women and people with medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease and lung disease are at especially high risk from the flu. Kids, teens and adults who are active and healthy also can get very sick from flu and spread it to others. Some people can be infected with the flu virus but have no symptoms. During this time, you can still spread the virus to others. Don't be the one spreading flu to those you care about.

## Can't I wait and get vaccinated when/if flu hits my community?

It is best to get vaccinated before flu begins to spread. It takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to provide full protection, so the sooner you get vaccinated, the more likely it is that you will be fully protected once flu begins to circulate in your community.

## Flu vaccines can't give you the flu.

Even if you got a flu vaccine, there are reasons why you might still get flu or a flu-like illness.

- You may have been exposed to a non-flu virus before or after you got vaccinated. The flu vaccine can only prevent illnesses caused by flu viruses. It cannot protect against non-flu viruses that may cause flu-like illness.
- Or you might have been exposed to flu after you got vaccinated but before the vaccine took effect. It takes about two weeks after you receive the vaccine for your body to build protection against the flu.
- Or you may have been exposed to an influenza virus that was very different from the viruses included in that year's vaccine. The flu vaccine protects against the influenza viruses that research indicates will cause the most disease during the upcoming season, but there can be other flu viruses circulating.
- Unfortunately, the flu vaccine doesn't provide the same protection for everyone. How well the flu vaccine works (or its ability to prevent flu) can range widely from season to season and also can vary depending on who is being vaccinated.

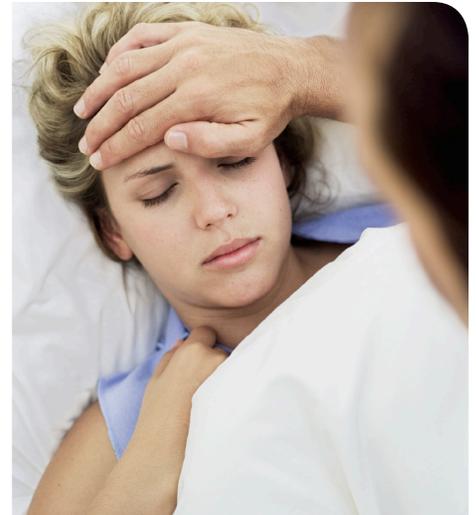
## Don't avoid getting a flu vaccine because you don't like shots.

The very minor pain of a flu shot is nothing compared to the suffering that can be caused by the flu. The flu can make you very sick for several days; send you to the hospital, or worse. For most healthy, non-pregnant people ages 2 through 49 years old, the nasal spray flu vaccine is a great choice for those who don't like shots. Also, there is an intradermal shot that uses a much smaller needle than the regular flu shot. Either way, getting the shot or nasal spray can help to protect you from catching the flu. So, whatever little discomfort you feel from the minor side effects of the flu vaccine is worthwhile to avoid the flu.

## You need to get a flu vaccine every year.

You need to get a flu vaccine every year to protect yourself against the viruses that research suggests are most likely to circulate each season. There are two reasons for getting a flu vaccine every year:

- a) The first reason is that because flu viruses are constantly changing, flu vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against the viruses research indicates may be most common during the upcoming flu season.
- b) The second reason that annual vaccination is recommended is that a person's immune protection from the vaccine declines over time. Annual vaccination is needed for optimal protection.



## Get a Flu Vaccine

- Flu vaccines are offered in many locations. Even if you don't have a regular doctor or nurse, you can get a flu vaccine somewhere else including: doctor's offices, clinics, health departments, retail stores, pharmacies, health centers, as well as by many employers and schools.
- Use the vaccine finder at <http://vaccine.healthmap.org/> to find a flu vaccination clinic near you.



For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).



October 18, 2013

### **Regional Prosperity Resolutions or Letters Needed By October 25th**

The GVMC Board of Directors has endorsed our application on behalf of our region to administer the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance Grant. We need your letter of support or resolution soon by October 25..

The Regional Prosperity Alliance is a new program to promote enhanced communication and collaboration between transportation, planning, economic development, higher education, adult education and workforce development on a regional basis. If you have any questions or need a sample letter or resolution, do not hesitate to contact us.

### **GVMC To File Collaborative Grant Application for Our LGROW Communities**

In early December, GVMC will be submitting a grant application on behalf of the communities involved in our Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) Stormwater Program.

Currently, 22 communities in our region are required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to have a permit for discharging stormwater into waters of the state.

Since 2003, these communities have been working together to meet the requirements of these discharge permits. A new permit

will be required in 2016 and the members have been working together to prepare for the permit applications.

At our request, the MDEQ has confirmed that GVMC is eligible to apply for one grant that would cover all communities within our program. This grant will assist the communities in working together to develop their Stormwater Management Plans before the 2016 deadline.

This grant application is once again an example of how collaboration is working to benefit our region.

### **Progress Continues on New Members Ada Township and the Village of Sand Lake**

Grand Valley Metro Council's by-laws and state law require that any new jurisdiction requesting to join the organization must be approved by the Board of Directors and the individual member units of governments.

The process requires us to secure approval of the change in our membership and that the governing body of each member approve the application for membership by the new members.

Currently, we are in the process of having each member approve a resolution of support for Ada and Sand Lake. We ask that your community do so as soon as possible.

### **GVMC Breakfast Meeting Honoring Mayor Jim Buck with Special Guest Senator Carl Levin**



**Monday November 4, 2013**

**L. William Seidman Center**

**\$20.00 Per Person**

**8:00-9:30 am**

**Seating will be open at 7:30 am**

**Sign Up online at:**

**GVMC.org or Gayle at [McCrathG@gvmc.org](mailto:McCrathG@gvmc.org)**



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