

County Administrator's Digest

December 20, 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

SHOP WITH THE SHERIFF (Sheriff Rosema)

The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office held the fifth annual Shop with the Sheriff event on Dec 4, 2013 at the Grand Haven Wal-Mart. This year 20 Deputies volunteered shopping with 50 children chosen by the homeless youth liaison from Grand Haven Public Schools. The children were given a \$75 dollar gift card to shop for their families and themselves for Christmas.

Wal-Mart of Grand Haven hosted the event again this year along with donating money for the children to shop.

The Command Officers Association and Grand Haven Area Public Schools also contributed to make this event possible.

[Shop with the Sheriff Grand Haven Tribune Article and Photos](#)

[Shop with the Sheriff Holland Sentinel Article](#)

ANNUAL FILLMORE HOLIDAY PARTY (Shannon Felgner)

The Ottawa County Fillmore Staff held its Holiday Party on December 13. As part of the celebration, the County held a Cupcake Wars battle and a food drive. Departments were invited to create cupcake displays. Employees then "voted" for displays with cash and checks. Those feeling feisty could cast "negative votes" with five's, ten's and so on. Fiscal Services won the competition with 1,497 votes. District Court was second place with 1,009 votes. The big winners, however, were Love, Inc and Community Action House! A total of \$2,770 and several hundred pounds of food were donated to these charities. Thank you to everyone who came to the Holiday Party and to those who participated in Cupcake Wars. The creativity and the generosity shown by the employees and commissioners was more than we could have imagined. Blessings to all this holiday season. See the displays online: [Cupcake Wars Displays](#)



GO GREEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS: REDUCE WASTE & SAVE ENERGY (Kristina Wieghmink)**Go green for the holidays: Reduce waste & save energy**

Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills every year. Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping.

About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.

Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.

When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.

Check out Ottawa County Department of Public Health's**NEW Environmental Health Disposal Program booklet of services available to residents at**

<http://ow.ly/rwxPb> www.miOttawa.org/eco

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Winter Tips to help prepare for snow and ice storms.

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-winter.htm>

Shop for EnergyStar qualified gifts.

<http://www.energystar.gov/products>

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

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



December 19, 2013

**Regional Prosperity
Board Named**

Even though the final award of the Regional Prosperity Grant has not yet been announced by the Governor's Office, in typical West Michigan fashion we are moving forward in preparation. The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance will be ready to begin work after the holidays if we are successful in our grant application.

Below you will find the people who will be servicing on the Steering Committee from throughout our 13 county region.

The Steering Committee represents regional planning and transportation agencies, workforce boards, higher and adult education, economic development, and business in our region.

The group will work to develop a Regional Prosperity Plan as well as conduct three large community conversations with stakeholders from the region. Efforts will also focus on developing a list of projects of regional economic significance which will have great impact on our area.

West Michigan Prosperity Alliance Steering Committee

John Weiss- Grand Valley Metro Council	Kathleen Sullivan- Consultant
Dave Bee- West Michigan Regional Planning Commission	Doug Wood- Orchard View Public Schools
Sean Dey- West Michigan Shoreline Regional Planning Commission	Jacob Maas- Kent-Allegan Michigan Works
Steve Bulthuis- Macatawa Area Coordinating Council	Debbie Groeneveld- Muskegon-Oceana Michigan Works
Rick Chapla- The Right Place	Paul Griffith- Michigan Works West Central
Kevin Stotts- Talent 2025	Andy Johnston- West Michigan Chamber Alliance
Valerie Byrnes- Barry County Economic Development Alliance	Jim Sandy- Mecosta County Economic Alliance
Ed Garner- Muskegon First	Roger Safford- Michigan Department of Transportation
Randy Thelen- Lakeshore Advantage	Bill Raymond- Ottawa County Michigan Works
Dan Rinsema-Sybenga- Muskegon Community College	Jim Fisher- Padnos Inc.
Fiona Hert- Grand Rapids Community College	Simone Jonaitis- Grand Valley State University
Julie Van Dyke- West Shore Community College	Linda Brand- Model Communities Initiative
Michael O'Conner- Holland/Zeeland Adult Education	

Carol Sheets Passes

Long-time Wyoming City Councilwoman and former Mayor Carol Sheets passed away this week in Florida. Carol was an active member of GVMC serving on our Board of Directors and Transportation Policy Committee. Retired Grandville Mayor and former GVMC Chair Jim Buck stated, "Carol was a strong advocate for Wyoming and truly sought opportunities for collaboration as a leader of GVMC. We will miss her."

Reminder

The Board of Directors Meeting previously scheduled for January 2, 2014 has been Cancelled!

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of GVMC I want to wish you the very best during this holiday season.

John





December 13, 2013

GVMC Hosts Update On Grand River Restoration Project

As part of our continuing efforts to inform our members about emerging community issues, GVMC recently hosted a meeting with 35 local officials. The purpose of the session was to provide an update on progress that has been made on the river restoration project. GVMC Board Members, along with representatives of the business community, the Urban Metro Mayors and Managers Association and the Kent County Supervisor's Association all attended.

The meeting was held at the ROC, the meeting space at the new Rockford Construction Corporate Office.

In recent months the project has gained a great deal of support and enthusiasm at both the state and national levels. The Grand River Project has been named one of only eleven newly selected locations for the nation's Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This new high priority designation will mean

the federal government's efforts will be coordinated by the White House Domestic Policy Council and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Also involved will be the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and America's Great Outdoors Initiative. As you may recall, the project was also recognized earlier this year in Governor Rick Snyder's State of the State Address.

On October 30th, eight federal agencies gathered in Grand Rapids to review the project and offer their technical assistance. The project has been endorsed by the federal and state governments along with the City of Grand Rapids. It is now time to begin the public involvement process.

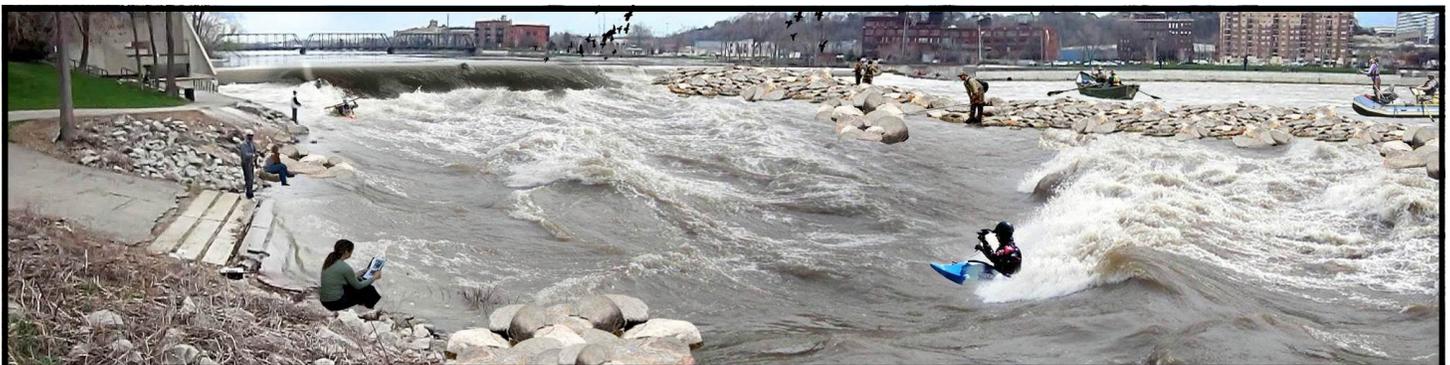
Beginning in January, the process will move to the public and we thought this was a good opportunity for the leaders of our region to hear the details first. Also, it was great opportunity for our area leaders to get

together and discuss a topic of regional significance.

Jay Steffen, Asst. Planning Director for Grand Rapids stated, "the regional implications are huge. The four mile section of the river is uniquely suited, due to the eighteen foot drop, to provide and exciting urban recreation amenity unparalleled in the lower peninsula."

Jay added, "Grand Rapids White-water, Grand Valley Metro Council, the City of Grand Rapids and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. will be working in collaboration with our surrounding communities to set the table for more community conversation."

We will keep you informed of any updates on this exciting new project for our region.



Artist Rendering of a Section of the Completed Restoration Project.



**New Members Join GVMC
Board of Directors**

At our Board of Directors Meeting yesterday several new members and two new communities joined our GVMC Board. Newly elected Mayors Steve Maas from the City of Grandville, Steve Kepley from the City of Kentwood and Mark Huizenga from the City of Walker joined the Board of Directors. They were elected in the November elections and selected by their cities to serve on the GVMC Board.

Also taking the oath of office were Supervisor George Haga of Ada Township and Trustee Roger Towsley of the Village of Sand Lake. Both Ada Township and Sand Lake are new municipalities that recently completed the process to join GVMC. They are the first new members of GVMC since 2007.



East Grand Rapids City Clerk Karen Brower administers the oath of office to Supervisor George Haga, Mayor Steve Maas, Mayor Mark Huizenga and Mayor Steve Kepley



Roger Towsley, Sand Lake Village Trustee also joined the Metro Council Board

**GVMC Board Updated on
Ambulance Consortium**

One of our GVMC Strategic Initiatives is to inform members of emerging issues. At our Board Meeting, representatives of the new Ambulance Consortium gave a presentation regarding their initiative.

GVMC has no direct role in this issue but we have stayed involved and hosted several meetings in order to keep our members informed of the process. Since 2010, there have also been presentations by Kent County Emergency Management Services to our Board of Directors and groups of members including the Township Supervisors Association.

The cities of Grand Rapids, Grandville, East Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Wyoming and Rockford have already voted to form the consortium. Plainfield Township is considering membership.

For over a year the Urban Metro Mayors and Managers Association has been working with KCEMS in evaluating EMS services, potential opportunities for collaboration, cooperation and service enhancement.

The Ambulance Consortium is open to all governmental units in Kent County and this presentation was intended to inform our Board of this emerging issue.

**Officers and Executive
Committee Elected By Board**

The GVMC Board of Directors recently elected the Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2014. Alberg, Ottawa Administrator will serve as our new Chairman.



Committee Members for Vanderwa County-trator will

Supervisor Michael DeVries of Grand Rapids Township is our new Vice Chairman. Also elected officers were Jim Buck our Secretary and Cy Moore as Treasurer.

Other members elected to the executive committee were Supervisor Don Hilton of Gaines Township, City Managers Brian Donovan of East Grand Rapids, and Michael Young of Rockford, Kent County Administrator Daryl Delabio, and Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell. Cindy Janes was also elected but will be leaving her position on the Cascade Board.

**Lowell Township Applies
to Join GVMC**

On November 18th, Lowell Township adopted a motion asking to join GVMC. Supervisor Jerry Hale, expressed his communities interest in becoming a member.

The GVMC Board of Directors passed a motion to accept Lowell Township. We will now begin the process to bring them to full membership.