

County Administrator's Digest

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1ST ANNUAL OTTAWA COUNTY TECHNOLOGY FORUM

Registration is now available for the 1st Annual Ottawa County Technology Forum on miOttawa.org!

[Click here to register!](#)

Technology. Embrace it? Adopt it? Leverage it? Invest in it? As government entities and stewards of tax dollars, the answers to these questions are complicated in an increasingly complex digital world. To narrow the knowledge gap, Ottawa County invites you to join us for the first annual **Technology Forum on Thursday, March 27th** from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Watch for registration information at miOttawa.org. The forum will offer a blend of cutting edge technology and collaborations. Like technology itself, the forum will be fast paced and varied. A respected line-up of speakers includes:

- Dave Behen, Chief Information Officer, State of Michigan
- Jim Carpp, Chief Information Officer, Rehmann Consulting
- Elwood Downing, Vice President of Member Relations, Merit Network Inc

The forum will also highlight mobile applications, video conferencing, unmanned aerial vehicles, criminal justice technology, and more.

PARKS PROJECTS SET FOR CONSTRUCTION (John Scholtz)

The Parks Commission has approved and forwarded two construction projects to the Board of Commissioners for approval with plans to get the projects underway in the early spring. The two projects are described as follows:

Ottawa Beach Waterfront Walkway: Permits are now all finally in-hand and bids have been received for the waterfront walkway along Lake Macatawa at the His-



toric Ottawa Beach Parks. When completed, a combination of wooden boardwalks and concrete walkways will connect the Black Lake Boardwalk West (also known as Holland Harbor Fishing Access), completed in 2011, to Black Lake Boardwalk East located adjacent to the Coast Guard station. Altogether, the project will more than double the length of pedestrian trail along the lakefront to over 2400 lineal feet while connecting to Holland State Park's Lake Michigan Beach. Amenities in the project will include benches, overlooks, a special wildlife and lake activity observation deck with permanent spotting scope and an interpretive kiosk. The kiosk will highlight the rich history of the site including the story of the Ottawa Beach Hotel, a huge wooden structure that flourished as a major tourist destination in the early 20th century before burning down in 1923.

County Commissioners will be asked to approve a contract for \$407,000 for the walkway construction. Bids came in well below the project estimate. Funding for the project is split evenly between park millage funds and a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant.

Grand River Ravines Improvements: A first step toward improving public access to Grand River Ravines will involve construction of a gravel parking lot on Fillmore Street. Known as Grand River Ravines South, the parking lot is one of two entrances to the park called for in the park master plan. Although the site currently offers only a historic barn and hiking trails, the small parking lot is often overflowing creating traffic hazards. The approximate 65 car parking lot is designed to support future facilities in that location as well including a dog park, picnic shelter and paved pathway. The future 1.3 mile paved trail connecting to Grand River Ravines North will be accessible at this parking lot and park planners anticipate it will be popular with walkers in the community. The Parks Commission is hopeful of constructing the additional facilities in 2015.

The parking lot contract going to the Board of Commissioners is for \$131,409.48 with funding from the parks millage.

UNDERSTANDING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING - EDUCATIONAL SERIES (Paul Sachs)

The first two sessions of the County Planning Commission's three-part *Understanding Hydraulic Fracturing* Educational Series were well attended and well-received by participants.

The first session, held on Tuesday, February 18, was a Panel Discussion that was attended by nearly seventy individuals. The distinguished panel, comprised of Jason Poll from Lakeshore Environmental, Amy VanDyke of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones, and Adam Wygant of the MDEQ, provided attendees with a scientific, informative, and factual presentation on hydraulic fracturing. The topics covered included a discussion on the hydraulic fracturing process, the geology of hydraulic fracturing, and current fracking practices. Of the survey respondents¹, 85.7% (45) rated the panel session as excellent or good, 12.2% (7) rated it fair, and 2% (1) rated it poor.

The second session, titled "Land Owners – Ensure You're Protected When Negotiating an Oil & Gas Lease," was held on Thursday, February 27. Over twenty attendees braved frigid temperatures to learn from Curtis Talley Jr. of MSUE about State regulations that apply to oil & gas leases, tips for negotiating an oil & gas lease and

adding environmental protections to leases, and the potential income that can be realized from an oil & gas lease. Of the survey respondents², 100% (21) rated the session as excellent or good, and 95.7% (20) said the session provided them with practical and useful information.

PowerPoint presentations from these sessions are available for view and download at: www.miottawa.org/Departments/Planning/fracking.htm

The final session in the series, titled "Land-Use Regulations and Hydraulic Fracturing," is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Fillmore Street Complex. This objective of this session is to provide local officials as well as land-use planners and zoning administrators with an overview of the current regulatory landscape, particularly at the local level.

Registration is open and available online at www.miottawa.org/Departments/Planning/fracking.htm or by contacting the Planning and Performance Improvement Department at 616-738-4852 or plan@miottawa.org.

1. 79% survey response rate (67 attendees on sign-in sheets and 53 survey respondents)

2. 91% survey response rate (23 attendees on sign-in sheets and 21 survey respondents)

SMART 911 (Tim Smith)



<http://smart911.com/>

Sign up for Smart911 and create your own Safety Profile to give 9-1-1 valuable information about yourself, family members, your home, pets and even vehicles that will automatically display on the 9-1-1 call taker's screen when you make an emergency call. It's private and secure and you control what information is in your profile. These details can save valuable seconds or even minutes during an emergency.



To sign up for Smart 911 click on the following link: [Smart 911 Registration](#)

For additional information regarding Smart 911 download the tri-fold brochure below: [Smart 911 Tri-fold brochure](#) or [click here for the press release](#)

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM GOING STRONG (John Scholtz)

Led by Melanie Manion, Natural Resources Management Supervisor for Ottawa County Parks, the agency's volunteer program is going strong with over 6,600 volunteer hours logged in 2013. Below are a few of the many accomplishments from 2013.

- ◆ By the end of 2013, there are 2 volunteers who have contributed over 500 hours and 2 volunteers that reached 250 hours since recording began in 2012.
- ◆ With the assistance of United Way of Greater Ottawa County, fifteen parks have been adopted by businesses, schools or non-profits (see list below). A diversity of work has been done by these groups from planting native species to inspecting the Age of Discovery playground. The consistency of these volunteers is a real asset to the Volunteer Program.
- ◆ Over 700 Grand Haven students participated in a service learning project at an OCPRC property.
- ◆ Volunteers from the Michigan Edge Mountain Bike Association volunteered 744 hours while constructing 2.6 miles of bike trail at Upper Macatawa Natural Area.
- ◆ Friends of Ottawa County Parks held numerous successful outreach events throughout the year including, but not limited to, a Community Picnic at Grose Park and an increasingly popular event at the Weaver House with Santa.
- ◆ Four quality volunteers transitioned into paid seasonal positions for the Parks Department in 2013.

Organizations that adopted county parks are listed below. As noted, the assistance they provide varies from park maintenance to stewardship activities including invasive species control.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>Assistance</u>
Home Depot	Hager	Maintenance
Tri Cities Garden Club	Pine Bend	Weaver House Garden
West Mi. Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local #174	Eastmanville Bayou	Stewardship
Harbor Industries	Olive Shores	Stewardship
JCI	Riley Trails	Stewardship
Padnos	Tunnel Park	Stewardship
Alpha Theta Chi-Hope College	Historic Ottawa Beach Parks	Stewardship
WGHN Radio	North Beach	Maintenance
Hillshire Brands	Pigeon Creek	Stewardship
Greater Ottawa County United Way	Kirk Park	Stewardship
Black River Public School	Adam Street Landing	Stewardship
Automatic Spring	Rosy Mound Natural Area	Stewardship
GHSP	Hemlock Crossing	Stewardship
Jenison Public Schools	Hager Park	Stewardship
Allendale Christian School	Grand River Ravines	Stewardship

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

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



Ottawa County Central Dispatch Authority

Timothy F. Smith
Executive Director

Tom Valdez
Deputy Director



Smart911™

Ottawa County Enhances Public Safety With Smart911

Public Safety Officials Encourage Residents to Sign Up For the Free Service That Provides Emergency Responders With More Information to Save Time and Save Lives

Ottawa County, Mich., March 3, 2014 – Ottawa County Central Dispatch Executive Director Tim Smith announced today at a press conference at Ottawa County Central Dispatch that Smart911, the national public safety service, is now available in Ottawa County and the entire City of Holland to enhance the 9-1-1 emergency services. Smart911 allows citizens to create a Safety Profile online that includes any information about themselves or their household that they want 9-1-1 to have in an emergency. When that citizens makes a 9-1-1 call, their profile is immediately displayed to the 9-1-1 call-taker, resulting in far greater emergency response and saved lives.

“Smart911 will allow both 9-1-1 call takers and emergency responders to have more detailed information about a citizen in need, leading to faster response times and ultimately more lives saved,” said Director Smith. “We are excited that we are able to offer this life saving technology here in Ottawa County through Ottawa County Central Dispatch. This new technology will enable us to provide better services in our community.”

Smart911 allows citizens to [create a Safety Profile](http://www.smart911.com) at www.smart911.com for their household that includes any information they want 9-1-1 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. When a citizen makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call taker, allowing them to send the right response teams to the right location with the right information. Responders can be aware of many details they would not have known previously, and now fire crews can arrive at a house fire knowing how many people live in the home and the location of bedrooms, EMS can be advised of allergies or specific medical conditions and police can have the photo of a missing child in seconds rather than minutes or hours.

“When you call 9-1-1, you’re not having your best day and even the simplest of details can be difficult to communicate in a time of panic,” said Ottawa County Undersheriff Greg Steigenga. “By creating a Safety Profile before an emergency happens they are ensuring that we will have the information we need even if they can’t communicate it.”



Ottawa County Central Dispatch Authority

Timothy F. Smith
Executive Director

Tom Valdez
Deputy Director

With Smart911, citizens can link both home and work addresses to mobile phones, which can be passed on to responders in the field for more a detailed, rapid response. Additional information including pets in the home, vehicle details in the event of an accident, and even emergency contacts can all be included in a Safety Profile. All information is optional and the citizen has the ability to choose what details they would like to include.

“The more information made available to 9-1-1 call takers the better,” said Holland Public Safety Chief Matt Messer. “Knowing how many people live in the home, where the bedrooms are located and even pets in the home can ensure we know who we need to help and where they might be”

Smart911 is currently available in 32 states and more than 450 municipalities across the country, and has been credited with positively impacting emergency outcomes including a missing child in which the girls photo and physical description were immediately available to 9-1-1 and responders, as well as a heart attack victim where an address and medical notes allowed responders to be dispatched to his location quickly. In Michigan Smart911 is also available in Grand Traverse, Van Buren, Eaton and Ionia Counties.

“When citizens put more information in the hands of emergency responders prior to an emergency, they are enabling faster and more knowledgeable response,” said Jeff Hawke, Chief of Grand Haven Public Safety. “We are excited about this new addition to our service and encourage all citizens to take advantage and sign up at www.smart911.com to ensure added protection for themselves and their families.”

Citizens are encouraged to create their Safety Profile with Smart911 today to have their information immediately available to 9-1-1. Smart911 is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses, and only made available to the 9-1-1 system in the event of an emergency call.



February 28, 2014

Metro Health Makes Major Announcement at GVMC

Our Quarterly Luncheon was held last week at Metro Health Hospital. Michael Faas, CEO of Metro Health was our guest speaker. Over 100 GVMC members and guests attended the session.



Mr. Faas announced at the meeting that Metro Health is in the final stages of negotiations to merge with Community Health Systems, Inc. CHS is the largest operator of hospitals in the U.S. with 206 hospitals in 29 states. This partnership will provide CHS with 70% ownership of Metro Health.

This partnership will make Metro Health Hospital a for-profit hospital. As a result it is estimated that Metro Health will begin paying \$15 to \$25 million per year in taxes. In addition, Metro Health be able to take full advantage of the clinical relationships of CHS including an ongoing partnership with Cleveland Clinic.

We are proud to have been chosen by Metro Health to make this significant announcement about healthcare in our region.

Grandville's Resolution Calling for Michigan to Reinvest in Local Government

The Grandville City Council recently adopted a resolution encouraging the State of Michigan to use part of the State Budget surplus to reinvest in local government. This resolution was sent to their state legislators and Governor Snyder.

Mayor Steven Mass wrote, "For more than a decade local governments in the State of Michigan have taken tremendous hits from legislative cuts to what was formally known as statutory revenue sharing. In Grandville's case, those funds were cut from over \$500,000 in 2001 to just \$34,000 today."

Calling attention to the dramatic reductions in state shared revenue for local governments and the need for increased investment in both our local governments and our transportation system have been critical issues for GVMC as well as MTA, MML and MAC. Mayor Maas asked that we share Grandville's resolution with all GVMC members.

A copy of the letter and Grandville's resolution can be found at our website www.gvmc.org Please feel free to use this information as a guide for your own resolution.

Next Board Meeting is March 6th at 8:30 am Kent County Building

Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be back at least for March on our normal first Thursday of the month schedule.

Because of special meetings like our Quarterly Luncheon and upcoming Strategic Visioning Session and the traditional spring vacation week, we have had to make adjustments to our meeting schedule.

Please plan to join us on March 6th at 8:30 am at the Kent County Building.

Mark Your Calendars

On **April 24, 2014** the GVMC Board of Directors will hold a special Strategic Visioning Session from 8:00 until noon. A continental breakfast will be provided.

The session will be facilitated by Mr. Lou Bender who has worked with GVMC in the past.

The meeting will be held at the Byron Township Community Center 2120-76th Street in Byron Center. The facility is located in their Whistlestop Park.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important session for the future of GVMC. More detailed information will be announced in the future.