

# County Administrator's Digest

April 4, 2014

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator



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I looked back this morning and realized that it has been almost a month since the last Digest went out. The month flew by and we were extremely busy.

## **THE "OTTAWA COUNTY WAY" ESSAY CHALLENGE** (Shannon Felgner)

It turns out that your submission to the "Ottawa County Way" Essay Challenge can pay off!

First place will receive **\$150**. Second wins **\$100**. And third place takes home **\$50**.

Please help us spread the message about the Ottawa County Way Essay Challenge. Details are below and on the linked flyer. Share this message with your contacts, customers, staff and students; post information on your social media sites; post and distribute the flyer (<http://bit.ly/MtDVqP>) ...any way you can help is appreciated. And, please consider participating. Thanks!

### "Ottawa County Way" Essay Challenge

What is unique about living in Ottawa County, Michigan? Are things done just a bit differently along the Lakeshore? What is the history behind the singular nature of life in Ottawa County? How true--or untrue--is that history? Writers of all ages are invited to share their views about living, working and playing in West Michigan through the "Ottawa County Way" Essay Challenge. Our goal is to celebrate those stories--great and small--about living in Ottawa County, Michigan. Entries are due by April 30th.

### How to enter:

Interpret this subject as broadly as you wish. We would especially like to see work that is concerned with the interaction of local culture and local government, including but not limited to Ottawa County government. The "Ottawa County Way" Essay Challenge is open to all current and former residents of Ottawa County, and to full and part-time employees of Ottawa County, including former employees. Essays must be 1500 words or less, typed and double-spaced, with the author's name, street address, telephone number and email address in the upper right-hand corner of the first page. Entries must be postmarked by or re-



ceived via email by April 30, 2014. Attach and email essays to [mcunningham@miottawa.org](mailto:mcunningham@miottawa.org) or send by mail to the Ottawa County-Essay Challenge, 12220 Fillmore, West Olive, Michigan, 49460.

Essay Challenge entries will be pre-screened by Ottawa County Administration. The finalists will be forwarded to and judged by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. Results will be announced on May 27, 2014 at a regular meeting of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners and framed certificates will be awarded to the authors of those essays judged most deserving by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. All essays will be considered for possible publication.

The "Ottawa County Way" Essay Challenge is a part of the Four C's Cultural Intelligence Initiative. The Essay Challenge is being supported entirely by private funds. Along with cultural intelligence, customer service, creativity and communication make up the remaining C's in the initiative.

### **1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY FORUM A BIG HIT**

The first annual Ottawa County Technology Forum was a success. We had 106 attendees in the main conference room 80 stayed through 3:00 p.m. and 75 for the entire day. There were many great speakers throughout the day, highlighted below are just a few.

Dave Behen, State Director Department of Technology, Management and Budget/CIO provided the keynote address and he detailed new technologies and how they will change our work and also talked about how we can collaborate better in the future. It was a great speech. Jim Carpp of Rehman Robson gave an outstanding presentation on the future of technology which included some pretty amazing uses of technology. We had some great presentations on use of current technology including Justin Roebuck and the Clerk/Registers office presentation on their use of OOVOO for meetings via computer with participants located at different sites. Tim Smith presented on Smart 911 and Jennifer Orme presented on the Online Applicant System that HR uses. GH City Manager Pat McGinnis spoke on the Ottawa County Telephony Collaborative being studied by 18 governmental agencies from various areas of the County.



Dave Behen, State Director Department of Technology, Management and Budget/CIO

Criminal Justice technology advances were highlighted in a fun way as participants followed the trials and tribulations of "Mark Knutson", (actually Rick VandeKerkhoff playing the role of Mark Knutsen) as he was "arrested" for a "suspended license" after being pulled over for a "seatbelt violation" and worked his way through the legal system from his E-ticketing at the traffic stop to his video arraignment at the jail by Chief District Judge Brad Knoll who was located at the Ottawa County District Court in Holland. It was a fun and light-

hearted way to showcase some of the great advances we have made in justice technology and I thank the 20 individuals whose efforts pulled this off. We will show the segments at an upcoming work session of the Board of Commissioners.

I'd like to thank Dave Hulst and Shannon McGoran who organized the effort and the committee that planned and put on the event. Joining Dave, Shannon and I were: Tina McConnell, IT; Laura Mousseau, HR; Rich Van-deKerkhoff, Facilities; Aaron Boos, IT; Kevin Bowling, Circuit/Probate Courts; Lori Catalino, District Court; Scott Brovont, Sheriff's Office; and Mark Knudsen, Planning. Rachel Harper and Steve Namenye of IT also helped a lot with planning for food and technical service during the event and helping pull things off the day of the event.

### **FUNDING AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS OF CONTAMINATED PROPERTIES IN OTTAWA COUNTY** (Mark Knudsen)

Ottawa County was recently awarded \$400,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to perform environmental assessments of contaminated properties, also known as brownfields. Common examples of brownfields include former gas stations, metal plating facilities, and dry cleaners.

Applications for grant funds are being accepted starting March 31, 2014 from developers, business owners, residents, municipalities, and non-profit organizations. To be eligible for funding, a property must be located in Ottawa County and the current property owner cannot be responsible for the contamination. A Project Nomination Form can be found on the Ottawa County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority website at [www.miottawa.org/ocbra](http://www.miottawa.org/ocbra).

Each nominated site will be evaluated based on several considerations including, but not limited to, known or suspected chemical use on the site; the extent to which a known public health issue will be positively impacted; the extent to which redevelopment will remove blight, encourage additional redevelopment, increase tax base, and create permanent jobs; and support of the local unit of government to assess, clean-up, and redevelop the site. Projects that are approved will be funded on a first-come, first-serve basis until the grant funds are exhausted.

The County is hosting a series of public meetings over the next few months to provide more information regarding the Brownfield Assessment Program, including site eligibility requirements and eligible assessment activities. The meetings will be 1 hour in length and are open to everyone. Refreshments will be provided. The schedule for these meetings is as follows:

April 17, 2014 (6:30pm) in Grand Haven at the County Courthouse Jury Assembly Room

April 29, 2014 (6:30pm) in Holland at City Hall, Council Chambers

May 1, 2014 (1:00pm) in Zeeland at the Howard Miller Library, Main Conference Room

May 8, 2014 (6:30pm) in Hudsonville at City Hall

May 13, 2014 (6:30pm) in Allendale at the Township Hall

May 21, 2014 (6:30pm) in Coopersville at City Hall

May 29, 2014 (1:00pm) in Spring Lake at Barber School

For more information, contact the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department by phone at (616) 738-4852 or by email at [plan@miottawa.org](mailto:plan@miottawa.org).

### **LAW DAY AND DEDICATION OF LADY JUSTICE STATUE** (Kevin Bowling)

On behalf of the Ottawa County Courts and the Ottawa County Bar Association, we would like to invite you to join us for a celebration of Law Day on May 1, 2014 at 3:30pm at the Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven (414 Washington, Grand Haven, MI 49417). During this Law Day celebration we will dedicate the Lady Justice statue ([please see attached brochure](#)), and posthumously honor former 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge Wendell A. Miles for his many years of service to the judiciary. In addition, we invite you to join us for a reception, immediately following the ceremony, in the lower level Jury Assembly Room. During this time refreshments will be provided and the Law Day Art Competition winner will be announced. Courthouse tours will be conducted at 5:00pm

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, May 1, 2014!

### **CELEBRATE THE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY WITH OTTAWA COUNTY** (Shannon Felgner)

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. This Law Day, May 1, 2014, occurs on the eve of the 50th anniversaries of two landmark pieces of legislation – the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Law Day theme this year highlights these two important anniversaries-**Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters**. The courts in Ottawa County are recognizing Law Day and are offering citizens a variety of opportunities to celebrate the rule of law and learn more about the courts.

**The Katty Shack 5K:** The race is scheduled on Saturday, April 26 at 9AM in Grand Haven in memory of Katherine Brown and Sharmaine, Jeremy and Tyler Zimmer. All four of these individuals were brutally murdered in 2008. Race director, Natalie Kik-Brown, is the mother of the 18 year old victim Katherine Brown (nicknamed “Katty Shack” by her running teammates in high school). Register online at <http://kattysackrace.webs.com/>. If you prefer not to walk or run the race, you can support the event as volunteer or a purchaser of a



course sponsorship sign. Deadline to purchase a \$20 sign is April 18. If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring a sign, please contact Heather at 616-786-4139.

**“Why Every Vote Matters” Art Competition:** By April 14, submit your Lay Day themed artwork for display at Court locations in Ottawa County from April 28 – May 2. Winning artwork will be juried by a panel of current Ottawa County Judges including Judge Edward R. Post, Judge Craig E. Bunce and Judge Susan A. Jonas and Fire Barn Gallery Director/Curator, Chris Protas. The winning submission will be prominently displayed for one year in a selected court building in Ottawa County. Specific details regarding the competition can be found at [www.miOttawa.org](http://www.miOttawa.org).



**Lady Justice Unveiled:** See details in Kevin Bowling's article above.

**Student Mock Trial:** Students from Corpus Christie Middle School in Holland will take part in a mock trial on May 1 in the Grand Haven Courthouse from 9AM until noon. The mock trial will be presided over by Judge Jon H. Hulsing and will give students an opportunity to serve as prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses in a fictionalized DUI case resulting in murder. The students are given a case scenario to review and study in preparation for their trial on May 1. Court staff and the public are welcome to view this event although seating is limited given the number of students participating.

**Free Legal Clinics:** Michigan State University operates a number of free legal clinics for the public in association with their law school. Law students are supervised by attorneys and law professors and work together to provide advice on legal issues. Clinics address many legal areas including civil rights, criminal law, housing law, family law, tax law, immigration law, intellectual property law and securities law. MSU clinic representatives will be at the Grand Haven Courthouse on May 1 from 9AM to 6PM to offer free legal services to the public. Similarly, the County offers the Legal Self Help Center throughout the year, providing the public with information regarding court processes, forms and local practices for the 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 58<sup>th</sup> District and Ottawa County Probate Courts. Hours and locations of the centers are available at [www.miottawa.org/Courts/Legal/](http://www.miottawa.org/Courts/Legal/)

Access more county services and learn more at [miOttawa.org](http://miOttawa.org), [facebook.com/miottawa](https://facebook.com/miottawa) or [@miOttawa](https://twitter.com/miOttawa) on twitter.

## **OTTAWA COUNTY #1 IN POPULATION GROWTH** (Shannon Felgner)

[Census 2010: Ottawa County No. 1 in population growth in Michigan](#)



miOttawa Department of  
**Public Health**

## **OTTAWA COUNTY RANKS HIGHEST ON HEALTH REPORT** (Kristina Wieghmink)



According to the 5th Annual County Health Rankings

Ottawa County ranks 1st out of 82 counties as the healthiest county in Michigan, according to the fifth annual [County Health Rankings](#). The report was released today by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI). Rankings are available at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org) or Ottawa County's report at <http://ow.ly/uZimj>.

Annual rankings show where state counties do well and opportunities for improvement. Ottawa County Department of Public Health and several community health partners use the report to help understand what factors have influenced good health, including smoking, high school graduation rates, employment, physical inactivity and access to health care. The report also motivates community leaders and citizens to work together in new and creative ways to build a culture of health. While Ottawa County can be proud of their first place rank, sub rankings show room for growth, particularly in clinical care and physical environment, ranked 7th and 40th, respectively. Attracting and keeping healthcare providers in Ottawa County is a message heard from the report.

"It is true and important that we not only rank well in terms of living longer and with a higher quality of life, but we also rank high in those factors that are associated with remaining healthy into the future."

Marcia Knol, Ottawa County Department of Public Health Epidemiologist

The [County Health Rankings](#) report is a good indication that Ottawa County lives up to its vision to be the location of choice for living, working and recreation. This is significant to individuals, families and business owners when choosing where to raise a family or where to establish a business.

Ottawa County health reports at [www.miOttawa.org/healthdata](http://www.miOttawa.org/healthdata)

Ottawa County Department of Public Health Annual Report at [www.miOttawa.org/health2013](http://www.miOttawa.org/health2013)

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps News Release at <http://ow.ly/uZL61>

Contacts: Kristina Wieghmink, Communications Specialist (616)494-5597 [kwieghmink@miottawa.org](mailto:kwieghmink@miottawa.org) or

Marcia Knol, Epidemiologist (616)494-5598 [mknol@miottawa.org](mailto:mknol@miottawa.org)

## **NOW FOOD DRIVE RESULTS** (Amy Oosterink)

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**NOW** is a community partnership to help low income Ottawa County residents better manage their chronic diseases and health risk factors.

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"The Nutritional Options for Wellness (NOW) food drive collected **12 boxes** of food from county employees. The NOW program kicks off this month, and because of donations from Ottawa County employees, all participants will have access to healthy food at the Community Action House pantry."

- Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

### **Program Goals**

- Increase access to healthy food
- Increase access to health information
- Increase access to community resources
- Decrease complications of chronic disease and increase quality of life

### **Benefits to Participants**

In the *NOW* program, high-risk clients will be referred by their physician's office to the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH). OCDPH will provide nutrition education, and a partnering food pantry will provide needed disease-specific foods to each program participant.

In 2011, the Ottawa County Food Policy Council (OCFPC) sent out opinion surveys to 105 food resource clients and food resource representatives.

**OCFPC Food Insecurity Needs Assessment findings:**

**62%** have a household member with diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease.

**32%** do not have enough food to last a month.

**77%** eat between 0-2 servings per day of fruits and vegetables.

The assessment shows that low income individuals are at high risk for disease, especially when they do not have enough food to supply their basic needs. The benefits of the NOW program include increased access to diet specific foods and nutrition education classes, providing high risk patients with an opportunity to manage their illnesses.

**Participant Eligibility**

Ottawa County residents, ages 18-65 who:

- have a family income at or below 130% of the federal poverty level, and
- have been diagnosed with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or have significant risk factors such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure or high blood sugar.

**Process**

Once the client has been referred to the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH), he/she will:

- complete the enrollment process with OCDPH and attend a biometric screening
- be connected with a local food pantry to receive 2 1/2 days of disease specific foods weekly
- attend 6 nutrition education classes per year
- obtain a 6-month re-referral from his/her physician

**For more information, please contact:**

Amy Oosterink, MA, CPS-R

Wellness Educator

Nutritional Options for Wellness Program

(616) 393-5799

**ALL PEOPLE DESERVE ACCESS TO FRESH PRODUCE** (Lisa Uganski)

*Program helps create greater access and more dollars back into local economy.*

Many people do not have the means to obtain healthy food due to cost, lack of availability in their community, transportation or awareness of where to go. Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) requested and received a grant for \$43,376, from the USDA's *Farmers Market Promotion Program*. These funds enabled OCDPH and the City of Holland to develop and implement an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program at the Holland Farmers Market. The EBT program allows the market to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (known in Michigan as Bridge Cards), which helps provide low-income residents an opportunity to shop for fresh produce.

The program is important, as the USDA defined a census tract just adjacent to the market as a "food desert", due to the area's poverty level and low access to food. As a result of the 2012-2013 grant period, individuals and families had increased access to fresh, affordable, healthy foods and local farm vendors saw an increase in their revenue. Grant funding for this project ended in September, 2013. However, the Holland Farmers Market will continue to accept Bridge Cards in 2014.



*"The EBT Program at the Holland Farmers Market has been successful in our community. It has increased many residents' access to fresh, healthy and local food, in addition to increasing local vendors' revenue. I am thrilled this wonderful program will continue in the 2014 market season."*

*- Lisa Uganski, RD, OCDPH Dietitian / Health Educator*

### Project Goals

- Increase low income residents' access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Increase farm vendor revenue from EBT sales.

### Project Results

2012 Holland Farmers Market Season

- **540** individuals shopped using SNAP benefits.
- **\$20,831** in EBT sales generated for local farm vendor revenue.

2013 Holland Farmers Market Grant Period (May through September)

- **563** individuals shopped using SNAP benefits.
- **\$22,310** in EBT sales generated for local farm vendor revenue.

2012-2013 (Entire Grant Period)

- **\$28,138** in additional sales generated by the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) program (purchases made using SNAP benefits were matched, up to \$20/day).
- **\$71,279** total farm vendor revenue from the EBT and the DUFB programs.

### **OCDPH RELEASES 2013 ANNUAL REPORT** (Kristina Wieghmink)

On March 24, Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) released their 2013 Annual Report [www.miOttawa.org/health2013](http://www.miOttawa.org/health2013). Administrative Health Officer, Lisa Stefanovsky, presented the report to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners at their regular session meeting. The report provides an overview of the health department, their financial statement and program statistics and highlights. At the commissioner's meeting, Stefanovsky shared how a focus on health equity demonstrates a county that celebrates diversity and recognizes the health needs of all individuals and families. She emphasized the commissioner's vision is for Ottawa County to be the location of choice for living, working and recreation. Healthy communities have a tremendous impact on prosperity. When people or businesses choose a new location, they consider a community where health is a value and a culture of health is embraced. As a result, public health plays a vital role and contributes to the long-term economic, social and environmental health of the county.

*"As health officer, my role is to continually be forward thinking, assuring our organization is flexible and prepared to meet the changing public health needs of Ottawa County."*

*-Lisa Stefanovsky, OCDPH Administrative Health Officer*

OCDPH and community partners make up the local public health system, by collectively working on important health issues to place Ottawa County as the healthiest county in Michigan, according to the fifth annual [County Health Rankings](#). The public health system keeps our communities healthy and safe as technologies advance, public attitudes toward health shift and more health and safety options become available. Public health and clinical health professionals can engage with individuals and communities by supporting National Public Health week [www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org), April 7-13, 2014. NPHW is an opportunity to help people recognize public health and create a movement towards a healthier nation.

**Contact:** Kristina Wieghmink, OCDPH Communications Specialist (616)494-5597 [kwieghmink@miottawa.org](mailto:kwieghmink@miottawa.org)

**OCDPH 2013 Annual Report** [www.miOttawa.org/health2013](http://www.miOttawa.org/health2013)

**Other Ottawa County health reports** [www.miOttawa.org/healthdata](http://www.miOttawa.org/healthdata)

**County Health Rankings & Roadmaps** <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

**National Public Health week** [www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org)



**Our Vision – Healthy People**

[www.miOttawa.org/miHealth](http://www.miOttawa.org/miHealth)



*mi*Ottawa Department of  
**Public Health**

### **MICHIGAN LEAN CONSORTIUM TRAINING**

Ottawa County hosted the Michigan Lean Consortium Lean 101 Training session last Friday in the Main Conference Room. We had 12 County participants and 23 three who were from local companies such as JCI and from other parts of the State from as far away as Flint and Traverse City.

The training provided an excellent overview of beginning LEAN principles. The County received a number of free seats for hosting the training. We will host LEAN 201 in July and LEAN 301 in September. Shannon McGoran, Management Analyst, is a member of the Michigan Lean Consortium and arranged for Ottawa to host these sessions.

### **GOVERNOR SNYDER APPOINTMENT TO MMSA**

I was honored to be offered and to accept Governor Rick Snyder's appointment to the Michigan Municipal Services Authority Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The Board appointment is at the will of the Governor and the Executive Committee appointment is for a three-year term. The MMSA is a fairly new organization and will serve as a clearinghouse for best practices in local government collaboration and will also develop services to be offered to local units of government statewide.

Two projects that the MMSA is currently working on include the Financial Management System/Enterprise Solutions Project (FHS/ES) and the Virtual Health and Wellness Marketplace Project (VHWM). The FHS/ES project is a best practices based financial and human resources software system that began with Grand Rapids and Detroit as partners and now has some involvement from Kent County as well.

[Click here](#) for the press release that announced the appointment.

### **OCCDA FEBRUARY AND MARCH STATISTICS** (Tim Smith)

The call volume and incident numbers handled through Central Dispatch for **February 2014** were:

- Total Incidents – 8,954 up 1.9% over February 2013 and up 5.5% YTD over 2013
- Fire Incidents – 1,206 up 7.7% over February 2013 and up 7.5% YTD over 2013
- Law Incidents – 7,748 up 1% over February 2013 and up 5.2% YTD over 2013
- 911 Calls – 8,103 up 2.9% over February 2013 and up 5.5% YTD over 2013
- 911 Hang Up calls – 734 down 4.3% over February 2013 and up 3% YTD over 2013

- Wireless 911 calls – 90.9% of 911 calls for February 2014 and 90.8% of 911 calls YTD for 2014
- 911 calls answered in 10 seconds or less – 96% for February 2014 and 94.6% YTD 2014

(NENA recommended standard is 90% within 10 seconds)

The call volume and incident numbers handled through Central Dispatch for **March 2014** were:

- Total Incidents – 8,571 up 2.1% over March 2013 and up 4.5% YTD over 2013
- Fire Incidents – 1,173 up 12.8% over March 2013 and up 9.2% YTD over 2013
- Law Incidents – 7,398 even with March 2013 and up 3.7% YTD over 2013
- 911 Calls – 7,446 even with March 2013 and up 3.8% YTD over 2013
- 911 Hang Up calls – 767 down 7% over March 2013 and even YTD over 2013
- Wireless 911 calls – 89.7% of 911 calls for March 2014 and 90.5% of 911 calls YTD for 2014
- 911 calls answered in 10 seconds or less– 95.3% for March 2014 and 94.9% YTD 2014

(NENA recommended standard is 90% within 10 seconds)

#### **GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE** (John Weiss)

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

*Jeff Bernstein Exhibition  
Design, Inc.*

*Master-planning and design for science centers, museums, observatories, nature centers, historic sites, arboretums, parks, aquariums, and libraries across the nation and around the globe.*

Jeff Bernstein Exhibition Design served as primary developers of the Michigan Supreme Court Public Learning Center, located at the Hall of Justice in Lansing, Michigan. Using similar designs, Mr. Bernstein has graciously agreed to assist the Courthouse Learning Center with a Lady Justice installation at the Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven, Michigan.

For further information:  
[www.bernsteinexhibitions.com](http://www.bernsteinexhibitions.com)  
[www.courts.mi.gov/education/learning-center/](http://www.courts.mi.gov/education/learning-center/)



**Ottawa County Bar Association**

**[www.miottawabar.org](http://www.miottawabar.org)**

**David A. Rhem, President**

The Ottawa County Bar Association (OCBA) has been in existence since 1975 and currently has a membership of over 140 practicing or retired attorneys. The OCBA represents the interests of the attorneys practicing law within Ottawa County, Michigan. The primary purposes and activities of the OCBA are to aid in promoting improvements in the administration of justice and advances in jurisprudence, to facilitate communication and coordination between attorneys and the courts in which we practice, to improve relations between the legal profession and the public, and to promote the interests of the local legal community. If you are an attorney working and/or living in Ottawa County, we encourage you to join us today!

***Lady Justice Project***

In conjunction with the:  
20th Circuit Court  
58th District Court  
and the  
Ottawa County Probate Court

# Ottawa County Bar Association



## Lady Justice Project

## *Courthouse Learning Center*

Please join with the Ottawa County Bar Association to support the efforts of the Courthouse Learning Center to bring Lady Justice, as a perennial symbol of justice, to the Ottawa County Courthouse.

The new Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven offers beauty in architectural design; increased efficiency through improved technology and facilities; and accessibility to all. Through the vision of the County and the courts, it will also be an educational destination for children and all members of the Ottawa County community to learn. The Justice Learning Center will focus on four major learning areas: 1) The history of the County/Court buildings; 2) The history of the Law; 3) The history of the Courts; and 4) How the Courts Affect You.



## *How You Can Help*

Currently, the Courthouse Learning Center offers displays dealing with various Ottawa County court facilities, portraits and biographies of all Ottawa County judges, notable cases affecting our community, and more. The “Lady Justice Project” will add a life-sized statue of Lady Justice to the Courthouse clock tower to be dedicated on Law Day, May 1, 2014. With the expert assistance of Jeff Bernstein Exhibition Design, Inc. of Kalamazoo, Michigan the Courthouse Learning Center, with Lady Justice, will be a visible reminder of our collective efforts to improve and preserve the administration of justice in Ottawa County.

### *Your support is needed!*

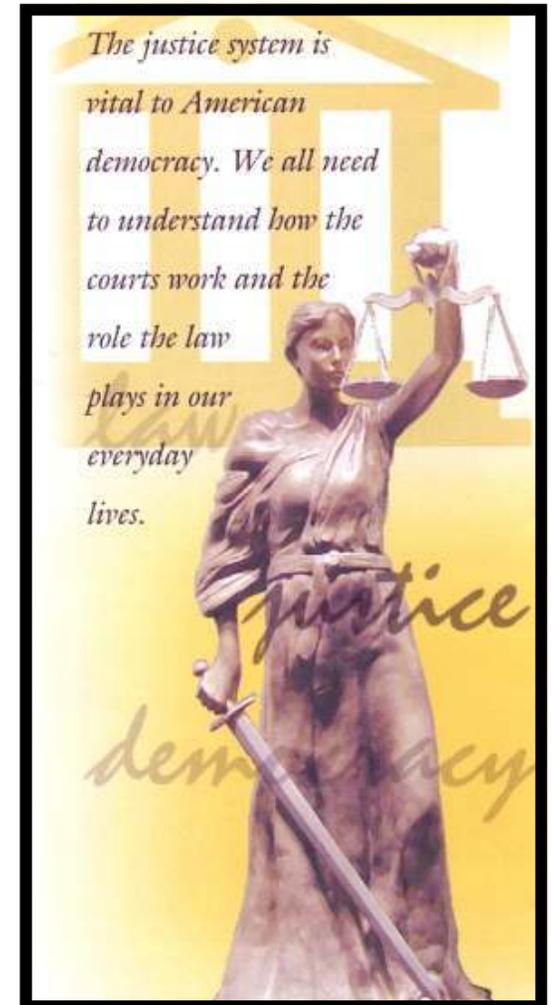
Please send your tax deductible donation for the Lady Justice Project payable to Ottawa County with a Memo notation, “Lady Justice Project” to the:

*Ottawa County Bar Association  
Attn: David L. TenCate,  
300 Washington Avenue, Suite 200,  
Grand Haven, MI 49417*

Contributors will be acknowledged unless otherwise requested

## *Thank You!*

With your support, Lady Justice will become an integral part of the Courthouse Learning Center displays at the Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven, Michigan. As a timeless symbol of justice, she will inspire many and cause us to reflect on the importance of truth, fairness, equality and justice to the success of our society.





# County of Ottawa

## *Press Release*



March 17, 2014

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

Alan Vanderberg, Ottawa County Administrator, 616-738-4898

Sara Wurfel, Press Secretary-State of Michigan, 517-335-6397

Dave Murray, Deputy Press Secretary-State of Michigan, 517-335-6397

Shannon Felgner, Ottawa County Communications Manager, 616-738-4672, [@sfelgner](#)

### State of Michigan Press Release

[Suggested Tweet: Gov Snyder appoints Ottawa leader to state authority. [More.](#)]

### **Governor Appoints County Leader to State Authority**

Ottawa County, MI – On Thursday, March 13, Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment of Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County Administrator, to the Michigan Municipal Services Authority (MMSA) and its executive committee.

The MMSA encourages best practices, teamwork and inter-local cooperation between municipalities and school districts. The 12-member authority oversees the development of shared services that any interested community or school district can choose to participate in. The inter-local agreement between the cities of Grand Rapids and Livonia allows communities to collaborate on the delivery of services, including information technology, finance and accounting, payroll processing, and health care services.

“Increasing collaboration between local units of government and getting the most out of citizens' tax dollars remains an important focus as we continue to reinvent government,” Snyder said. “I appreciate the willingness of both Al and Stacie to serve in these important roles in that effort.”

Vanderberg is the Ottawa County administrator, where he serves as the chief administrative officer for Michigan's eighth-largest county with 270,000 residents and 1,200 employees. He previously served as the deputy county administrator for Kent County, the city manager of South Haven, the assistant city manager of Greenville, and a budget-policy analyst for Lenawee County. Vanderberg also serves as adjunct faculty at Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Community College, as the chair of the board of directors of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, and former chair of the board of the West Michigan Strategic Alliance.

Vanderberg holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a master's of public administration in urban administration from Michigan State University. He replaces Don Leclair, who resigned. Vanderberg will serve on the Municipal Services Authority for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor and will serve on the executive committee for the remainder of a four-year term expiring Sept. 17, 2017.

Access county services and learn more at [miOttawa.org](http://miOttawa.org), [facebook.com/miottawa](https://facebook.com/miottawa) or [@miOttawa](https://twitter.com/miOttawa) on twitter.

# # #

Ottawa is the county of choice for living, working and playing. Over 1100 County of Ottawa employees work together and achieve this through their commitment to excellent, cost effective public services. For more information and services visit [miOttawa.org](http://miOttawa.org).



### Personal Property Tax Reforms Become Law

Representatives of GVMC were invited to attend Lt. Governor Brian Calley's signing ceremony for the Personal Property Tax Reform. For over a year a group of local government leaders representing GVMC and called the "West Michigan Work Group" partnered with the Lieutenant Governor in helping to develop the PPT reform legislation.

The ceremony was held at Van's Pattern Company. Attending the event were representatives of GVMC, Chambers of Commerce, business, police, fire and public safety, legislators, MML, MTA and MAC.



Representatives of GVMC with Lt. Governor Calley

The new law insures 100% reimbursement for local government and GVMC representatives worked hard to help craft legislation to protect the essential services provided by all our local governments.

This was truly a cooperative effort and a win/win for local government, business, and Michigan's economy.

### Special Winter Maintenance Funds

Yesterday, counties, cities and villages received a combined \$60.9 million to help restore road budgets that were dramatically depleted by the harsh Michigan winter. The funds were part of a \$100 million special appropriation for winter road maintenance provided by the Legislature and signed by Governor Snyder in March.

*"These funds were badly needed to compensate for the extraordinarily high costs of plowing, salting and filling potholes this past winter",* according to Michigan De-

partment of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle.

Steve Warren, Managing Director of the Kent County Road Commission stated, *"We certainly appreciate the additional funds during this very difficult winter. While this additional funding is very helpful, the KCRC expenses for this winter exceeded our budget by an estimated \$2.5 million."*

The total appropriation will be divided between the counties, cities, villages and MDOT according to the Act 51 formula.

### Road Spending Survey

Recently you should have received a survey from Katherine Collen requesting information regarding local government funding levels for roads. Cities and Road Commissions were asked about both Act 51 funds and local funding while Townships were only asked the amount of local dollars budgeted for road projects. For more information or if you lost the survey please feel free to contact [katherine.collen@gvmc.org](mailto:katherine.collen@gvmc.org)

### Strategic Planning Session

On **April 24, 2014** GVMC will hold a special Strategic Visioning Session from **8:00** am until noon. **A continental breakfast will be provided at 7:30.**

The session will be facilitated by Dr. Lew 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 Byron's Whistlestop Park.

Over the past two years a great deal has been accomplished toward the goals outlined in our last Strategic Planning Session. GVMC has expanded and transformed and its time to discuss again our vision for the future and opportunities available to us. Please join us for what could be our most important meeting this year!



March 22, 2014

### **180 Public and Private Sector Leaders Attend Regional Prosperity Community Conversation**

This week in conjunction with the 2014 Governor's Economic Summit, leaders from throughout our 13 county region gathered for our first "Community Conversation on Regional Prosperity".

The group met in DeVos Place to discuss potential projects of significant regional importance and the criteria for selecting those projects. Gathering together were a wide variety of representatives from throughout our area. Education, Workforce Development, large and small business, community planning, governmental leaders, economic development specialists, business groups, non-profit organizations, and many others were represented at the meeting.

Also attending the meeting were Kirk Steudle, Michigan Department of Transportation Director,

Mike Finney, President of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Doug Smith of the MEDC, Bill Rustem, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Snyder and Sara Wycoff also of the Governor's Office.

The meeting was a very positive event and brought many leaders together to discuss regional issues and how we can improve regional collaboration.



Grand Valley State University President Tom Haas stated, "*The attendance of the many individuals at the Session is an illustration of how the leadership and diverse sectors of our community are committed to the*

*region's future prosperity. Our success is dependent on such collaboration, dialogue, and cooperation.*" Wyoming City Manager Curtis Holt added, "*The Session brought together many different people from all areas of West Michigan to discuss issues that affect our region and our State. The more buy-in the better chance for success in the future.*"

Walker Mayor Mark Huizenga was pleased with the event, "*I must say I was thoroughly impressed with the great mix of public and private sector representation. I found many comments at my table to be "big picture" minded and focused on the entire region, not just the city, county, or MSA.*"

### **Grand Valley Metro Council Strategic Planning Session**

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 Byron's Whistlestop Park.

There will be **NO** GVMC Board Meeting on April 3, 2014.





### **Presentation of Annual Report and Audit**

Program and fiscal highlights were presented to the Board at our last meeting. During the year, continued progress was made on the goals and objectives of GVMC with increased involvement by our members and the public.

Throughout 2013, GVMC continued to be at the forefront of many issues in our state and region including leadership in the Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative, Personal Property Tax Reform, our Street Summit, transportation funding and environmental issues to name a few.

This year several hundred public and private sector leaders participated in our programs, educational opportunities and served on our numerous committees.

Also, our membership grew with the addition of Lowell Township, Ada Township and the Village of Sand Lake. We welcome them.

We also focused our efforts in serving the 22 communities who are members of our environmental effort, by hiring dedicated staff to assist them. The program and services continue to expand.

Financially, it was the second year of our transformation and our goals were met with continued conservative management of our resources. Our Annual Report is available at [www.gvmc.org](http://www.gvmc.org).

### **Metro Council Adopts Resolution to Restore Funding and Fix Our Roads!**

At our March meeting the Board of the Grand Valley Metro Council adopted a resolution asking the legislature and Governor to use part of the state budget surplus to restore funding to local governments and fix our roads. As a result of past cuts from the state and federal governments cities, townships and counties have been forced to dramatically reduce services to the public including police fire and road maintenance. This resolution asks the state to restore some of the \$6 billion in local funding that was taken over the past decade.

## **You are Invited to Attend A Community Conversation Regarding the Future Prosperity of West Michigan**

**When: Monday, March 17, 2014 2:15-4:15**

**Where: Ballroom C, DeVos Place**

**The West Michigan Prosperity Alliance invites you to Community Conversation to discuss the future of our region. At this meeting a criteria will be determined to develop future projects of regional economic significance. This meeting coincides with the 2014 Governor's Economic Summit. You do not have to be attending the Summit to join us. Everyone is invited there is no cost to attend!**

**Please RSVP to: [huggert@rightplace.org](mailto:huggert@rightplace.org)**