

County Administrator's Digest

August 8, 2014

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

PROPOSAL 1 PASSES BY HUGE MAJORITY

Michigan voters passed Proposal 1 by an overwhelming margin, 69%-31%. This means that manufacturing businesses will have their personal property tax (PPT) phased out over a 10-year period and local government revenues will be maintained at current levels and protected in the future from the whims of the legislative appropriation process. A statewide authority will be created for the purpose of collecting Use Tax revenue from the State and paying it out to the local governments that would lose revenue due to the elimination of the tax for manufacturers. The State will also assign expiring tax credits such as those that have existed for the new battery manufacturing operations and will assess a statewide levy on manufacturers for funding of essential services such as police-sheriff, fire and jail services. Ottawa County was heavily involved in this process. I had the honor of working with a team consisting of representatives from Ottawa County, Kent County, the City of Wyoming, the City of Grand Rapids and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council that worked directly with Lt. Governor Calley for over 6 months on the details of the legislation.

I mentioned at the Metro Council meeting yesterday that the huge support for Proposal 1 by all government and business organizations and by many other groups including AARP, was unprecedented as an initiative that was truly a win-win-win outcome. The State government achieves the goal of eliminating the tax for manufacturers which they believe will lead to creation of 15,000 new jobs; local government revenue is protected; and the manufacturers get the tax credit. In addition, no-one else faces some redistributive tax increase to pay for this.

The bottom line for Ottawa County is the protection of \$2.7 million in General Fund Revenue.

FALL GOLD TRAINING SCHEDULE

Attached is the Fall 2014 Training Schedule for the Ottawa County GOLD (Growth Opportunities in Learning and Development) Program. We were pleased to welcome 25 employees from local municipalities to our classes this past spring, so we are once again opening up employee training opportunities to city, town-



ship, and village personnel in Ottawa County. Details on enrollment are found inside the first page of the brochure. A course enrollment form is also attached ([click here](#)). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laura Mousseau at 738-4801 or Kelli Rantz at 738-4806. If you need printed copies of the brochure, we would be happy to send some out to you.

We look forward to continuing to work with employees of our cities, townships and village in our GOLD Standard classes!

HEERINGA DONATES \$100,000 FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE COLD CASE TEAM EFFORTS

Chair Holtrop and I had the honor of attending a ceremony at Trendway Corporation that celebrated justice served and closure in the Rick and Gail Brink cold case murder investigation, prosecution, trial and sentencing. Mr. Don Heeringa, announced that he is giving a total of \$100,000 to the Ottawa County Cold Case Support Fund administered by the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area. The following news article provides an excellent summary.

With murders of Rick and Gail Brink solved, friend gives \$100,000 to crack other cold cases



By [John Agar | jagar@mlive.com](#) [Follow on Twitter](#) on July 31, 2014 at 5:45 PM, updated August 04, 2014 at 5:54 PM

GAIL AND RICK BRINK HOMICIDE

[All Stories](#)

[With murders of Rick and Gail Brink solved, friend gives \\$100,000 to crack other cold cases](#)

['We finally got him,' sister of Ryan Wyngarden says of his double murder conviction](#)

[Ryan Wyngarden found guilty of killing sister and brother-in-law in 1987](#)

['Crux of the case is Pam Wyngarden,' says defense attorney in double-murder trial](#)

[Ryan Wyngarden sent 29 letters from jail, hoped wife would change story about double murder](#)

Trendway Corp. chairman Don Heeringa announces \$100,000 contribution to cold-case investigations in Ottawa County. *Courtesy Art*

HOLLAND, MI – For nearly 27 years, Trendway Corp. chairman Don Heeringa would look outside at the flagpole and plaque, in honor of slain friends Rick and Gail Brink, and wonder if anyone would be brought to justice.



The murders at the couple's Park Township home went unsolved until an Ottawa County sheriff's cold-case team arrested Gail Brink's brother, Ryan Wyngarden, 51, in early 2013.

Now, Heeringa has added a plaque to a memorial outside of the Holland company where Rick Brink worked.



A memorial says, "Justice Served" in 1987 killings of Rick, Gail Brink. Provided

The plaque says, "Justice Served."

Heeringa also has started the privately funded Ottawa County Cold Case Support Fund to help investigators crack other unsolved killings. Heeringa donated \$100,000 to the cause, and hoped others would help the fund grow.

Heeringa, who helped raise a \$50,000 reward soon after the killings, said unsolved cases are extremely difficult for victims' families.

He was one of the first on the scene after the killings.

"I looked out at that flag pole from my office every day for almost 27 years wondering if the crime would ever be solved," he said Wednesday, July 30, before the Brinks' family and friends, and law-enforcement officials.

He said he deeply appreciated police efforts that brought a "positive outcome to a very difficult situation."

Wygarden shot and killed the Brinks on Nov. 21, 1987, with a .22-caliber revolver because of his jealousy of the Brinks' success and a history of sexual episodes with his sister when they were teens, trial testimony showed.

Sheriff Gary Rosema, a former detective, said it was hard on family to know that Gail Brink's brother could be behind such a horrible crime. But, he said, the arrest brought answers that eluded family and police for so long.

The fund will be administered by the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland area.

The money won't be used for staffing, but for travel, advanced DNA testing at private laboratories and use of advanced technology, Rosema said. He said the electronic trail of criminals plays a bigger, and costlier, role in investigations.

In the immediate aftermath of a homicide, police use all resources available to track down the killer. In cold cases, police have to consider costs of travel and technology.

Rosema said families need to know what happened to lost loved ones. Investigators focus on victims. The arrest meant a lot for those who originally worked the case. They're retired, now.

"For years, we'd sit around, 'Who did this? Who did that?'"

The cold case team takes the case back to the beginning, methodically poring over evidence, statements, and re-interviewing witnesses. Advances in technology have helped crack old cases.

"You take the case apart piece by piece," Rosema said. "All the sudden, a couple stories don't match up. You've got to do this for the victims and the victims' families. Keep them a primary focus for the entire process. You're also answering questions for the family."

The fund will be administered by the Community Foundation, with proceeds dedicated to Cold Case support. Details are currently being worked out with the Sheriff's Department. Those interested in participating or want

more information can call Mike Goorhouse at 616-396-6590.

John Agar covers crime for MLive/Grand Rapids Press E-mail John Agar: jagar@mlive.com and follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ReporterJAgar

OTTAWA COUNTY ASSIGNMENT: CNN iReport – Due before AUGUST 10! (Kristina Wieghmink)



miOttawa Department of
Public Health

Ottawa County Assignment: CNN iReport – Due before Aug 10!

In less than 10 minutes, share what inspires you to live a healthy lifestyle.

Each month, CNN features 10 inventions, ideas or people that are changing the world. In August, they are picking 10 cities/counties that are making wellness a priority, whether it's by getting active, reducing teen birth rates or providing better services for mental health.

The CNN *iReport Assignment: Convince us your city is healthy!* gives us the opportunity to share why Ottawa County is such a great place to live, work and play.

CNN iReport

Community members, health partners and organizations please take a few minutes to enter your story before August 10. Also, forward this email to as many of your contacts you feel necessary. We only have 10 days to pull it off - no problem! Grab your video camera or smartphone (they have other uses besides the Candy Crush or Clash of Clans game apps - I admit I'm hooked) and:

1. Create a short video. Be yourself, have fun and let your passion for a healthy lifestyle connect with viewers.
 - a. Introduce yourself (and organization, if applicable) and tell CNN how Ottawa County, Michigan inspires you to be healthy.
 - b. Show action! If possible, provide on location footage of your healthy lifestyle choices and the activities you're talking about. (e.g. county parks; farmer markets; access to health care services; substance abuse prevention programs; initiatives to lower chronic diseases; cleaner environment; etc.).
2. Visit <http://ireport.cnn.com/topics/1153052> to submit your story.
3. Selection will be based on:
 - a. Originality and creativity of the video.
 - b. Articulation of Ottawa County's inspiring qualities.

- c. Your passion for health.
- d. Number of entries from Ottawa County. Be sure to enter as Ottawa County and not specific towns, villages or cities.

Ottawa County example videos:

Kristina Wieghmink, M.Ed.
Communications Specialist
Ottawa County Department of Public Health
Ottawa County Youtube channel <http://youtu.be/mtuqVAzI7h8>
CNN iReport submission <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-1157700>

Jennifer D. Sorek, MA, MEP
Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
Ottawa County Department of Public Health
Ottawa County Youtube channel <http://youtu.be/jx4blobOITM>
CNN iReport submission <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-1157483>

Please send a pdf copy of your submission and a link to your video to Kristina Wieghmink, Ottawa County Department of Public Health at kwieghmink@miottawa.org. Also, please give consent, so we may post your video to <https://www.youtube.com/miOttawa>.

Contact

Kristina Wieghmink, M.Ed.

Communications Specialist

Ottawa County Department of Public Health

(616)494-5597 or kwieghmink@miottawa.org

Additional Information

Sharing your story in the CNN iReport: *Convince us your city is healthy!* is encouraged by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH). The project liaison confirmed with CNN that counties are included and not just cities.

Ottawa County 1st in MI in the 2014 County Health Rankings found at www.miOttawa.org/healthdata.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's 2014 County Health Rankings, placed Ottawa County 1st in Michigan for Health Outcomes. Community wide health partnerships and initiatives helped Ottawa County residents to rate at the top of all Michigan counties for quality and length of life. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/michigan/2014/rankings/ottawa/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

Assignment: Convince us your city is healthy!
Information and where to submit your story at
<http://ireport.cnn.com/topics/1153052#>

See other entries at the bottom of the web page.

The ingredients of a good story.

<http://ireport.cnn.com/toolkit.jspa>



Our Vision – Healthy People

GROUNDWATER STUDY UPDATE (Aaron Bodbyl-Mast)

In November 2013, the Planning Commission completed a Scope-of-Work for the Ottawa County Phase II Water Resource Study and the Michigan State University Institute of Water Research's (IWR) completed a Study Methodology in response to the Scope-of-Work. Both documents were developed with consultation and input from wide range of community stakeholders. In December 2013, the Planning Commission approved the IWR Study proposal and forwarded it to the County Board of Commissioners.

The County Board of Commissioners then appointed a 13-member Groundwater Task Force to review and approve the Scope-of-Work and Study Proposal as well as provide oversight for the Phase II Study once it commences. This Task Force includes a broad cross-section of the community including county commissioners, local unit of government supervisors, farmers, well drillers, private-sector engineers, groundwater scientists, and local business interests.

As part of the Task Force review process, an independent third-party engineering firm, Barr Engineering, was retained to evaluate the IWR proposal as well as a competing proposal. This second proposal was submitted by the Western Michigan University Michigan Geological Survey (MGS) at the request of local well drillers and the Michigan Groundwater Association. Barr Engineering completed its report in May. The Barr Engineering Report determined that only the IWR proposal was designed to address goals and objectives developed for the Study.

On July 7, the Ottawa County Groundwater Task Force voted to recommend that the County Board of Commissioners proceed with the IWR's Phase II Study proposal. The Board of Commissioners approved a contract with IWR on July 8.

To pay this Study, the Planning and Performance Improvement Department completed a \$450,000 fund-raising campaign. Contributions or pledges have been received from Ottawa County, the Ottawa County Farm Bureau, all local townships, the West Michigan Lakeshore Association of REALTORS, the Grand Haven Area Com-

munity Foundation, the Marion A. and Ruth K. Sherwood Foundation, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The 3-year Study will have two primary components: a countywide groundwater analysis; and a groundwater assessment of 34 other counties across the State.

The countywide analysis utilize precipitation, runoff, and evapotranspiration measures along with withdrawal rates, static water levels, and other pertinent data to populate a refined 3D groundwater model of Ottawa County. Then, if necessary, a set of options will be proposed (with stakeholder input) which local decision-makers and private-sector interest can utilize at their discretion to resolve the problems being experienced and/or to minimize the chances of the issues becoming more critical in the future.

For the statewide assessment, the IWR will identify the geology of each county in the study, estimate current and historic groundwater levels, and estimate current and historic chloride concentrations. Once this assessment is completed, each county will have results similar to the Phase I Study IWR completed for Ottawa County.

The following provides a summary of project milestones over the course of the Study:

2014

- *Countywide Water Sampling:* The IWR will sample 500 wells countywide to measure chloride levels. These measurements will be used to create a countywide 3D chloride model.
- *Streamflow Measurements:* The IWR will measure streamflows for more than 80 streams across the County. These streamflows measurements will be used to develop a precise estimate the water level of the glacial aquifer and to help estimate groundwater recharge.
- *Aquifer Pumping Test:* The IWR will complete a 4-day long pumping test in the bedrock aquifer. This test will help to develop model the bedrock aquifer

2015

- *Countywide Recharge Model (PAWS):* Using climate, streamflow, soils, and topographic data, the IWR will complete a 3D model of the County's glacial aquifer to analyze water recharge. This model will provide precise recharge, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, and runoff data at 250 acre-scale across the entire County. This model is expected to be completed in May 2015.
- *Statewide Groundwater Assessment:* Using Wellogic and WaterChem data, the IWR will develop geological simulation of each the 34 lowland counties in Southern Michigan. These simulations will also provide groundwater level and chloride information. The data produced for this assessment will be the same products Ottawa County received in the Phase I Water Resource Study. This assessment is expected to be completed in July 2015. If necessary, the IWR will then develop an "Action Plan" for these counties. This Plan would prioritize which counties are most in need of additional study, develop interim options for these counties to address quantity and/or quality issues, and provide preliminary study proposals for the priority areas.

2016

- *Countywide Groundwater Quantity Model (IGW)*: Using recharge, topographic, geologic, water level, and water use data, the IWR will complete a 3D model of the County's glacial and bedrock aquifers to analyze the flow and quantity of groundwater. This model will provide precise data about the thickness of each aquifer, water level of each aquifer, inflows and outflows of each aquifer, and a graphic summary of the groundwater budget for each aquifer. This data will be produced at 250-acre scale across the entire County. This model is expected to be completed by July 2016.
- *Chloride Concentrations Model*: Using chloride data from the Countywide Water Sampling Program, the IWR will complete a 3D visualization of the chloride plume in the County. This data will be produced at 250-acre scale across the entire County. This model is expected to be completed by July 2016.

2017

- *Future Sustainability Model*: The IWR will model groundwater quantity and quality in the county at 5 years, 10 years, 20 years into the future. To do this, the IWR will project how recharge, water usage, and chloride concentrations are impacted under the following scenarios: 1) land use and climate conditions remain unchanged in the future; 2) precipitation and temperature shifts due to climate change; and 3). A build-out scenario based on local unit of government land use plans. This model is expected to be completed by March 2017.
- *Hotspot Models*: Using the IGW and Chloride models, the IWR will select two "hotspot" areas for a more intensive analysis. For these hotspots, the IWR will complete 3D models for areas about 10-15 sq mi in size. These models will produce the same data produce by the Countywide IGW model, but at 22-acre scale instead of a 250-acre scale. These models are expected to be completed by March 2017.
- *Web Tool Enhancements*: In the Phase I Study, the IWR completed an interactive Web tool which displays all the data from that Study in Geographic Information System (GIS) map of the County. In the Phase II Study, the IWR will enhance this Web tool using all the updated and newly developed data and graphic. The Web tool will display data such as recharge, soil moisture, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, aquifer thickness and depth, aquifer water levels, chloride concentrations, and a severity rating for groundwater quantity and chloride concentrations.
- *Groundwater Management Guidebook*: If the IWR models show that water quantity and quality in the County is or will be an issue, the IWR will develop a guidebook that includes optional management strategies and projects. These strategies and projects could include, but need not be limited to, the following: water conservation; land use planning; engineered solutions projects (e.g. engineered wetlands, green infrastructure improvement, public water system extensions, etc); well placement; and a long-term monitoring plan. This guidebook would be completed in July 2017.
- *Final Report*: The IWR will complete a final report which summarizes the data and findings of the Study. The final report would be completed in July 2017.

OCCDA DIRECTOR TIM SMITH - SMART 911 RADIO INTERVIEW

New enhanced 911 system could be a life saver



July 18, 2014 | AP



People in Ottawa County with smart phones can sign up for a new free enhanced 911 emergency service. It's a feature that makes vital information immediately available to first responders in medical or other emergencies.

Smart911 is an enhanced emergency system that allows easier and faster police response. Tim Smith is Executive Director of the Ottawa County Central Dispatch Authority. He says the system can shave vital seconds or minutes off response time, just with a few added pieces of information.

"You can put in your home address, your work address, your school address. And then it augments additional information into our system, so if we get a call from near your home location, we're gonna know that we need to send somebody in that direction near your house or your work location."

You can also input information like allergies, medications you're taking or other medical conditions.

Smith says the smart system is a closed secure database and only police dispatchers can see the information when you call 911. Learn more at www.smart911.com.



[Listen](#)

Mlive.com article: [Smart911: Back to School Campaign Launched to keep kids safe](#)

IMMUNIZE: PROTECT THE ONES YOU LOVE



miOttawa Department of
Public Health

Contact: Sue Schryber, Clinical Health Immunization Supervisor, (616)393-5736, sschryber@miottawa.org

Immunizations protect your health, minimize your risk for disease and protect your community.

Vaccines are the single most powerful, cost-effective public health intervention ever developed. Immunizations have significantly reduced the incidence of many serious infectious diseases. Immunizations are not just for children. All adults, especially pregnant women, need vaccines too.

"Vaccines are a safe, proven and effective means to help prevent and stop the spread of vaccine preventable diseases."

- Sue Schryber, BSN, RN at Ottawa County Department of Public Health
Clinical Health Immunization Supervisor

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), immunizations have had an enormous impact on improving the health of children in the United States. Most parents today have never seen first-hand the devastating consequences that vaccine-preventable diseases have on a family or community. Here are some of their stories <http://www.pkids.org/immunizations/videos.html>. While some diseases are not common in the U.S., they persist around the world and are only a plane ride away. It is important that we continue to protect our health with vaccines because outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases can and do occur in this country.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). The purpose of this observance is to highlight the importance of immunizations, one of the top 10 public health accomplishments of the 20th century, according to the CDC. Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) supports NIAM. Pictured below is the OCDPH clinical staff: "Immunize - Protect the Ones You Love"



<http://www.nphic.org/niam> #NIAM14

Ottawa County Department of Public Health Clinical Staff



Back row (L to R): DeAnne McCammon, Tamara Holsinger, Leanna Kermeen, Cindy Botbyl, Lis McNeil, Sue Keen—Front row (L to R): Tonya Barber, Sue Schryber, Cecilia Garcia, Jill Kraynak



L to R: Abbie Munsters, Robin Schurman, Shelley Kuyers

OCCDA JULY STATISTICS (Tim Smith)

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

Total Incidents – 11,186 even with July 2013 and even YTD with 2013

Fire Incidents – 1,222 down 5.6% over July 2013 and up 2.6% YTD over 2013

Law Incidents – 9,964 up 1% over July 2013 and even YTD with 2013

911 Calls – 10,434 up 3,2% over July 2013 and even YTD with 2013

911 Hang Up calls - 927 down 6.2% over July 2013 and down 2.9% YTD over 2013

Wireless 911 calls – 95.3% of 911 calls for July 2014 and 91.2% of 911 calls YTD for 2014

911 calls answered in 10 seconds or less - 92.5% for July 2014 and 94.0% YTD 2014

(NENA recommended standard is 90% within 10 seconds)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: STRONG ECONOMIES, RESILIENT COUNTIES REPORT (Mark Knudsen)

The Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement (PPID) Department has been operating an Ag Tech Business Incubator for the past 9 months as a pilot project. The purpose of the Business Incubator is to assist entrepreneurs commercialize agricultural equipment, machinery, and software ideas. As a result of its initial success, and based on support already received from both public granting agencies and corporate sponsors, the PPID is developing a plan to transform the pilot project into a fully operational Incubator. Ottawa County's Ag-Tech Business Incubator, and the Ottawa County Michigan Works!, received recognition from the National Association of Counties (NACo) this month when Ottawa County was selected as 1 of 35 national economic development case studies to be featured in their *Strong Economies, Resilient Counties Report*.

A digital copy of the Full Report is available from the following link: http://www.naco.org/newsroom/pubs/Documents/Infrastructure%20and%20Sustainability/FINAL_web_Econ%20Dvlp.07.02.14.pdf

The Case Study of Ottawa County's Ag Tech Business Incubator and Ottawa County's Michigan Works! is available from the link below: <http://www.uscounties.org/strong-economies/profiles/OttawaMI.pdf>

The Ag Tech Business Incubator and one of the Incubator clients, GrassRoots Energy (GRE), are also featured in a prominent photo in the Report's Executive Summary: http://www.naco.org/research/Documents/FINAL_Ec%20Dev%20Exec%20Summ_06.23.14_final.pdf

Finally, the NACo Report is accompanied by an interactive map that provides more information about, and the full text of, each of the 35 case studies: <http://www.uscounties.org/strong-economies/>

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER EVALUATION PROGRAM (Kristina Wieghmink)

Dale Zahn, CEO of WLAR, wrote a great article about our department's collaboration with realtors to help home buyers and seller's understand the Real Estate Transfer Evaluation Program. I'm excited to hear the Home Owner's Guide our environmental health on-site team and I created is well received and used by community

members!

Dale's 12/06/2013 article to the Holland Sentinel was included in the [01/31/2014 Digest](#) and the attached 07/18/2014 article is a great follow-up.

www.miottawa.org/landevaluation

Ottawa County Home Owner's Guide

http://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/pdf/Realtor_Home_Owner.pdf



7/18/2014

Print

Holland Sentinel The Holland Sentinel 07/18/2014 A: Main

(0-hol-0718-c04-c.pdf.0) Page C04

REALTORS & OTTAWA COUNTY-WORKING TOGETHER IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION



Dale P. Zahn
Chief Executive Officer At
West Michigan Lakeshore
Association of REALTORS

Last week in Las Vegas, a major event took place. It had nothing to do with winning a jackpot or a one-armed bandit or taking in a celebrity concert. The event was the 78th Annual Conference of the National Environmental Health Association in partnership with the 13th World Congress of the International Federation of Environmental Health. One of the program sessions, attended by a large audience of Health Department Officials from around the globe, fea-

tured the writer of this article and the County Environmental Health Manager Adeline Hambley. The duo talked about how cooperation and education benefits everybody - REALTORS, buyers and sellers of homes, and the County in general. Suffice it to say, the presentation was a hit. Such to the point that a number of attendees felt we should have our own show on a Vegas stage, but that's a story for another day.

As stated in the Homeowners Guide, which members of the West Michigan Lakeshore Association of REALTORS have available to hand out to prospective buyers and sellers in Ottawa County, "Transition can be challenging for families". The transfer evaluation program in the County protects the buyer, seller, agents and the community. Sewage from a failed wastewater dispersal system can flow back into wetlands, backyards or nearby creeks. A dam-

aged water supply system can contaminate water serving many homes.

In Ottawa County, a mandatory evaluation of water supply systems

Well and Septic Systems. It's a known fact that some buyers who have lived with city water and sewer service sometimes shy away from well and septic served properties simply

in Las Vegas casinos!

When systems are evaluated in Ottawa County, certain 'conclusions' are reached. WMLAR working with the County has developed 4 possible conclusions that are clear and easy to understand. A system will be "Acceptable" and in conformance with current standards. "Acceptable with Substantial Conformance" simply means the system may not be up to current standards BUT it is functioning properly and was installed prior to current standards. It may continue to be utilized. The next conclusion is "Unacceptable - Non-Conformance/Failure" which means the system presents a health hazard and continued use is not permitted. Correction is required. The fourth conclusion is "Undetermined" which indicates an adequate assessment of the condition of the system could not be made.

The free Homeowners Guide also includes a Ser-

vice Log for homeowners to log in the dates on which tanks were pumped and by whom, and when the water supply system was tested and by what driller. These guides can be obtained from members of the REALTOR Association, from the Association headquarters itself in Grand Haven, or online at www.wmlar.com, the Association website.

The relationship between organized real estate and Ottawa County is strong. As a result, meetings are taking place with Muskegon County and Allegan County in an effort to have some uniformity along the lakeshore for the good of the region when it comes to environmental health. WMLAR is proud to have been part of this Conference and sharing the stage with Ottawa County. Though we presenters may not have scored the big jackpot on the casino floor, every indication is that the presentation was indeed a winner!



WMLAR CEO Dale Zahn and Ottawa County Health Manager Adeline Hambley review program details before making their presentation.

and wastewater dispersal systems is required under law prior to the sale or transfer of ownership of any home or business that is served by such systems, commonly referred to as

from fear of the unknown. Through proper education and communication, everybody comes out a winner. That's not something all can say when they leave the machines

July 18, 2014 Powered by
TECNAVIA

Copyright © 2014 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved. 07/18/2014 3:32 pm

PARK WEST DRAIN

Water Resources Commissioner Joe Bush and staff will be meeting with affected property owners who wish to meet with him regarding their assessment next Thursday in the Board of Commission Chambers. The Planning &

Policy Standing Committee meeting will be held in Conference Room A that morning.

The following Holland Sentinel Article did a nice job of updating residents on the drain project.



Leisure Acres subdivision is home to many Holland residents off 168th Street between Lakewood Boulevard and James Street.
Andrew Whitaker/Sentinel Staff

By Annette.Manwell@hollandsentinel.com, (616) 546-4270

July 13, 2014 7:00AM

Yes or no to the Park West Drain? Residents don't agree

Read more: <http://www.hollandsentinel.com/article/20140713/News/140719731#ixzz39otZe5d7>

Since it was deemed necessary by a Board of Determination, the Park West Drain has been disputed in Park Township.

The divide has been obvious from day one: Those whose properties flooded asking others to remember why the drain is necessary. Those who are opposed worry about the cost, the assessment to the property owners in the drain district and possible environmental effects.

The divide could be seen last month as Leisure Acres, a subdivision off 168th Avenue south of James Street, hashed out misunderstandings and differences of opinions. This one small subdivision of about 60 homes illustrates the divide in the township.

The Park West Drain is the result of the serious flooding of 2008 and 2009. The original plan from now-retired Drain Commissioner Paul Geerlings called for underground pipes and ditches to carry water away from the area to Winstrom Creek and eventually Lake Macatawa.

After winning the election in 2012, Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner Joe Bush set to reinventing the drain with green infrastructure. His plan calls for bioswales that are meant to absorb and filter the rainwater as opposed to pushing it into Lake Macatawa.

The map on the water resource commissioner's page of the Ottawa County website showing the drain district shows the proposed bioswale going through Leisure Acres along Leisure Boulevard near the retention pond built in 1996 when the subdivision was built. A portion of the drain permit application to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality lists the basin as part of the drain system, and "work will consist of brushing, grading landscaping and installation of inlet and outlet structures in the existing basin."

The dispute at Leisure Acres started from a misunderstanding and false information from staunch drain opponents, Bush said. Surveying was done there, but that isn't his plan. The drainage system in the subdivision is an orphan drain that he doesn't have control over yet, he said.

A petition was sent out by Leisure Acres Homeowners Association President Dan Ritsema asking those in subdivision to sign it in opposition to the drain and particularly the idea that a dry basin built into the subdivision would be used as a catch basin for the drain.

Leisure Acre resident Brian Douthitt countered the petition from Ritsema, saying some of the information Ritsema provided "simply is not correct."

Ritsema claimed the subdivision had no problems during the flooding. Douthitt said it did and that he was there at the time.

"People of good will can come to different conclusions about this," Douthitt wrote. "And I disagree with the board. The Park West Drain will provide better management of surface water run-off and ground water discharge all the way to Winstrom Wetlands."

Douthitt's neighbor joined him in opposing the board. Deanna Hansen wrote she was greatly disturbed by the misinformation that was distributed.

Ritsema's petition read that "we do not have a problem, never did and never will." Hansen wrote she was affected and even had to move and spend a lot of money to prevent similar severe damage again in the future. "I am offended by this dishonest statement," she wrote.

In a phone interview with The Sentinel, Douthitt said the response following the letters was disappointing and underwhelming.

Some of the opposition could be with potential assessment on properties within the drain district. Ritsema's petition said it could cost \$1,000 to \$1,500 per person in the each household. However, the assessment is charged per property and will be based on a variety of factors.

"Even at twice that amount, it would be money well spent," Douthitt said.

Park Township is notorious for a high water table, he said. In past decades township officials did not impose a minimum basement elevation on new construction, Douthitt said. His basement is lower than it should be, and he's not alone.

In the meantime, Bush continues to push forward on the drain. He received the MDEQ permit for the drain late last month and sent the project to bid. The bids are due by Aug. 7, he said.

Follow this reporter on Facebook or Twitter, @SentinelNetty.

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

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

Fall 2014

Ottawa County Training Schedule



Olive Shores Park, West Olive

Classes available
September - December

Growth Opportunities in Learning & Development

Go for the  LD



Ottawa County
Training & Development

Ottawa County GOLD Training Enrollment Form



Ottawa County GOLD Training Enrollment Form

Municipality/Organization: _____

Billing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Course Title _____ Date _____ Employee Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ Fee _____

Submit form by e-mail to KRantz@mioottawa.org OR by Fax to 616-738-4082.



Enrollment and Attendance Guidelines

- To enroll, please contact Kelli Rantz at 616.738.4806 or submit the completed Ottawa County GOLD Training Enrollment Form by email to krantz@miottawa.org or fax the form to 616.738.4082.
- You will receive an invoice via email after your enrollment is confirmed.
- Payment must be made **before** the class runs and must be paid by check to County of Ottawa. Checks can be mailed to: County of Ottawa, Human Resources, 12220 Fillmore Street, Room 359, West Olive, MI 49460.
- If classes do not have enough students to run, notification will be sent out two to three days prior to the class.
- Email reminders will be sent to all enrollees prior to the scheduled class.
- In case of severe weather or other emergency situations, classes may be cancelled. We will notify all students by phone and/or email if this situation arises.
- If you are unable to attend a course, please contact the training department at least one week before your scheduled course.
- You will receive a full refund if your enrollment is cancelled one week prior to the course. If you cancel within one week of the class, your enrollment fee can be applied to another class or another employee.
- Please contact the Ottawa County Human Resources Department with any questions.

Ottawa County Training Schedule — Fall 2014

Behavioral Interviewing Techniques

Cost: \$85.00

How do you know which candidate is right for you? What should you ask during job interviews? How do you avoid getting the same standard responses? What topics do you need to avoid?

Learn the answers to these questions and many others as we explore the best methods for seeking out and adding quality staff members to your team—employees that will fit your group, increase productivity, and be a long-term asset to your organization. This course is highly recommended for all hiring managers and key personnel involved with hiring decisions.

Thursday, November 13

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Fillmore - Conference Room C

CPR/AED

Cost: \$60.00

This hands-on course prepares students to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies in adults and infants/children. An emphasis will be placed both on CPR techniques and utilizing the AED equipment. Upon completion of the class, participants will receive their Ottawa County CPR certification card. The card will be valid for two years. This course is offered in cooperation with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office and is not affiliated with the American Red Cross.

Thursday, September 25

1:30pm - 4:30pm

Fillmore - EOC Training Room

Monday, December 8

8:30am - 11:30am

Fillmore - EOC Training Room



Documentation & Discipline

Cost: \$60.00

This class will explore the best practices in documenting employee behaviors and issues, as well as handling the entire discipline process. We will discuss topics including coaching memos, verbal and written reprimands, the definitions of "at will" employment, personnel files, and when, why, and how to terminate an employee. This course will include an overview of the county's policies, as well as the legal ramifications of appropriate discipline practices.

Thursday, December 18

8:00am - 11:00am

Fillmore Main Conference Room



FMLA For Supervisors

Cost: \$60.00

This class provides an opportunity for supervisors to gain a better understanding of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and their role in it. This course will cover an overview of the act, an explanation of the required paperwork, and helpful tips on managing employee leaves. This course will also include a brief explanation of the Ottawa County Salary/Wage Continuation Program and unpaid leave best practices.

Wednesday, October 8 2:00pm - 4:00pm Holland - James St. Campus
C Bldg. Main Conference Room

Generational Diversity

Cost: \$60.00

Today, there are four unique generations in the workforce. Each generation embodies different values that can make working together difficult. In this seminar, participants learn key characteristics of each generation, examine how work behavior is affected, and apply case studies to help understand how to work with different generations.

Thursday, September 4 2:00pm - 5:00pm Fillmore Main Conference Room

Supervising Off-Site Employees

Cost: \$60.00

Many departments and divisions operate with supervisors and employees in different locations. This training focuses on the top remote-management concerns that arise from this situation. You will discover the secrets to getting staff to pull together and work as a team ... even when they hardly ever see one another. You'll find new ways to keep the lines of communication flowing smoothly. You will also learn the best methods for staying on top of what you need to know, when you need to know it.

Monday, October 27 1:30pm - 3:30pm Fillmore Main Conference Room

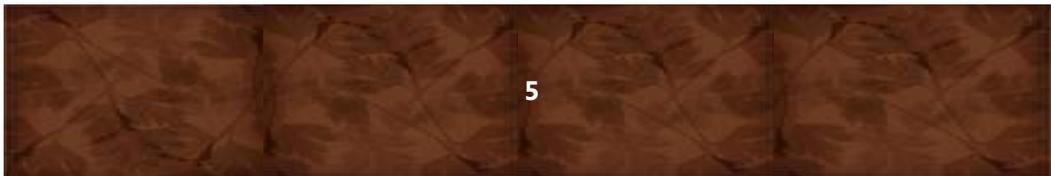
Understanding Different Behavioral Styles (DiSC)

Cost: \$100.00

"Life would be easier if everyone were like me." Daily communication, different perspectives on the same issue, diverse approaches to solving a problem are all areas where behavioral style differences can be seen. The impact of these differences can be either positive or negative. Utilizing the DiSC profile (which will be completed prior to the session), this course builds communication skills based on meeting the preferences of others and leads to increased communication effectiveness, enhanced productivity, and stronger working relationships.



Thursday, November 20 1:00pm - 5:00pm Fillmore Main Conference Room



— FALL 2014 Computer Training Classes —



Microsoft Office 2010: Tips & Tricks

Cost: \$60.00

This course will cover all the basic features of Windows 2010. We will highlight some of the new options available in the 2010 version, and show you how to perform essential everyday tasks quickly and efficiently. This course will explore the Backstage View, Tabs and Ribbons, Quick Access Toolbar, Screenshot, Compatibility, Printing and Saving, Getting Help, and other features that are common to all the Office 2010 programs. This is a hands-on course that will help you fully utilize the wide range of helpful tools within the Windows 2010 suite. This is an excellent course to take before taking the Word, Excel or PowerPoint courses.

Thursday, October 9

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Fillmore - Computer Training Room

Excel 2010 Functions & Formulas

Cost: \$60.00

Many experienced, self-taught Excel users miss out on a wide range of functions and formulas that could be making their jobs much easier. This course will walk you through time-saving functions that no one should do without. Topics covered will include IF, AND, OR, and CHOOSE functions; VLOOKUP, INDEX, and MATCH; specialized rounding functions; basic statistical and financial functions; SUMIF and COUNTIF functions; frequently overlooked TEXT functions, and specialized date and time functions. Users must have a good working knowledge of Excel before taking this course.

Wednesday, November 5

1:30pm - 4:30pm

Fillmore - Computer Training Room

Excel 2010 Introduction

Cost: \$85.00

This course will teach you the skills necessary to create and format a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel 2010. The topics covered will include getting familiar with the interface, entering data, formatting data, adding worksheet formatting, creating basic formulas, using shortcuts, and changing views.

Thursday, September 11

8:00am - 12:00pm

Fillmore Computer Training Room

Excel 2010 Pivot Tables

Cost: \$60.00

This course will teach you what PivotTables are and how they can help you manage data; how to easily group and view data in a spreadsheet; how to convert PivotTables into easy-to-read charts — instantly; how to create a macro that keeps your PivotTable data automatically updated; how to group date-related data into months, quarters, and years; and how to get PivotTables and graphs to look — and print — exactly the way you want. A good working knowledge of Microsoft Excel is required prior to taking this class.

Tuesday, October 28

8:30am - 10:30am

Fillmore Computer Training Room



Microsoft Office 2010 Graphics

Cost: \$60.00

This class will demonstrate many of the exciting new graphics features available in the Office 2010 suite of products: Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Publisher. Topics covered will include inserting pictures, clip art, and shapes; removing backgrounds; cropping and editing images; using hard-to-find tools; adding artistic effects; manipulating and editing stock clip art; and many other fun features. This is an excellent course for anyone who works with graphics and wants to create more interesting and professional publications and presentations. A good working knowledge of basic Office 2010 functions is a pre-requisite for this course.

Wednesday, December 17 10:00am - 12:00pm Fillmore - Computer Training Room

PowerPoint 2010 Animations

Cost: \$85.00

PowerPoint animation effects give motion to text, pictures, and other content on your slides. Besides adding action, they can also help you guide audience focus, emphasize important points, transition between slides, and maximize slide space by moving things on and off. Used well, animation effects bring flair, interest, and unexpected elements to a basic presentation. This course covers both the basic methods of adding animations and transitions, as well as the more detailed, customized options.

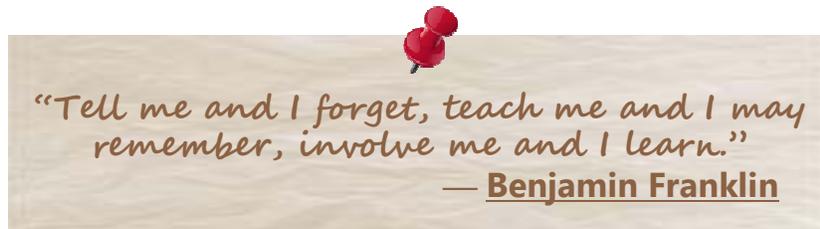
Thursday, December 4 8:00am - 12:00pm Fillmore - Computer Training Room

Word 2010 Forms

Cost: \$60.00

This course provides the basics on how to create a form using Microsoft Word. You will be creating a form by using the form options in Microsoft Word. In addition, the following items will be covered: using toolbars, inserting tables, merging cells, adding form fields, adding text fields, adding drop down fields, adding check boxes, and saving a form. Previous experience in Word is required prior to taking this course.

Thursday, September 18 8:30am - 10:30am Fillmore Computer Training Room



The activities and courses of the GOLD Standard Employee Training Program are brought to you by the members of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. Their support for the mission and purpose of this program is greatly appreciated as we work to provide development opportunities for all Ottawa County employees and local partners.

Commissioner James Holtrop, Chairperson, District 5
Commissioner Joseph Baumann, Vice-Chairperson, District 2
Commissioner Stu Visser, District 1
Commissioner Allen Dannenberg, District 4
Commissioner Greg DeJong, District 8
Commissioner Dennis Van Dam, District 6
Commissioner Donald Disselkoen, District 3
Commissioner Matthew Fenske, District 11
Commissioner Jim Holtvluwer, District 7
Commissioner Philip Kuyers, District 9
Commissioner Roger Bergman, District 10

Laura Mousseau

Human Resources Manager
Phone: 616.738.4801
Email: lmousseau@miottawa.org

Kelli Rantz

Human Resources Specialist (Training)
Phone: 616.738.4806
Email: krantz@miottawa.org



The County of Ottawa
12220 Fillmore St. West Olive, Mi 49460

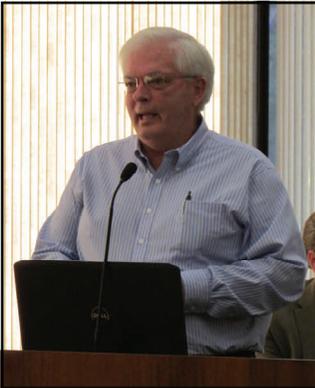


August 8, 2014

Lowell Township Joins GVMC

At our August Board Meeting, Jerry Hale, Supervisor of Lowell Township became the newest member of the GVMC Board of Directors. Jerry was sworn into office by GVMC Chairman Al Vanderberg.

We welcome Jerry to our Board of Directors and Lowell Township to membership in our organization. Lowell Township becomes the 36th member of GVMC.



Lowell Twp. Supervisor Jerry Hale

Proposal 1 Approved/The Journey Successfully Completed

Reform of the antiquated Personal Property Tax system in Michigan was a long and successful journey for GVMC, business and our members. The journey ended successfully with over 69% of Michigan voters approving Proposal 1.

For almost two years, GVMC and our West Michigan Work Group have partnered with Governor Snyder, Lt. Governor Calley, the MML, MTA, MAC and business representatives to eliminate this decades old tax.

Our team was involved from the very beginning partnering with others to analyze PPT reform proposals and insure replacement of the much needed revenues for local government.

The passage of Proposal 1 solid-

ifies important reforms including:

- The elimination of PPT on small business
- The phase out of PPT on manufactures over the next 9 years
- Ensures 100% reimbursement to local governments for lost PPT revenue.

GVMC and our members along with our other partners were active in the effort by informing the public through television, newspaper and radio interviews, board resolutions and press conferences about this important change in Michigan's tax system.

I want to thank all of you that participated in this effort! Job well done!!

MDOT Officials Present to GVMC Board

Dave Wresinski, Director of the Bureau of Transportation Planning and Grand Region Engineer Roger Safford spoke at our August GVMC Board Meeting. They informed the Board about the recent reorganization of MDOT to follow the Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative boundaries and other important transportation topics in our region. They also gave a status update of major projects in our area including the new M-231 in Ottawa County and the very creative bridge slide construction at M-50 and I-96 in Lowell Township. Finally, both speakers expressed their appreciation for the excellent working relationship and partnership between GVMC and MDOT. Together we continue to work on a wide variety of critical transportation issues impacting our region and we look forward to our continued partnership with MDOT.



Roger Safford, Dave Wresinski of MDOT and Steve Warren (seated) of the Kent County Road Commission



LGROW Progresses on Strategic and Business Plan

LGROW and the GVMC Environmental Programs continues to make great progress. At their most recent Board of Directors Meeting the group reviewed a draft strategic plan. Funded by grants from the Wege, Grand Rapids, and Frey Foundations, LGROW has worked to developed a focused strategic plan. Leadership for this effort is directed by Wendy Ogilvie from GVMC and Terri Horton from The Johnson Center at GVSU.

A large and diverse organization like LGROW can be pulled in many directions and participate in almost unlimited opportunities within our region. LGROW currently serves 22 local governments in addition to other public

and private sector environmental interests. The Lower Grand River Watershed covers 1.8 million acres of property, 2,900 square miles and all or portions of 10 counties.

The proposed Strategic Plan focuses on three goals with guiding principles:

- Healthy Watershed
- Engaged Community
- Sustainable and Robust Organizational Capacity

As part of this process, the group is also developing an LGROW Business Plan. Work is also progressing on the development of the plan which will serve as a guide for the sustainability of the organization in the future.

Michigan Senate Names Transportation Funding Work Group

Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville named six members of the Senate that will meet to discuss transportation funding. Along with Richardville other members of the group will be Senators Arlan Meekhof, Mike Kowall, Gretchen Whitmer, Rebekah Warren and Bert Johnson. The group has three republicans and three democrats.

The group is expected to begin work in August. Richardville stated, "This isn't an empowered committee. This is a group of senators very interested in ...discussing potential solutions" Mr. Richardson expects the discussion to involve the overall transportation issue and specifically cited PA 51, overweight truck fines and more.

Proposition 1

Several of our GVMC Communities have adopted resolutions in support of Proposition 1. This ballot initiative will eliminate the personal property tax on equipment and machinery used by business while insuring revenue replacement for local government.

If your community has adopted a resolution or motion in favor of Proposition 1, I would appreciate it if you would forward a copy to john.weiss@gvmc.org



Terri Horton of the Johnson Center at GVSU leads a Strategic Planning Session with the LGROW Board of Directors