

County Administrator's Digest

August 29, 2014

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator



M-231 Bridge Tour



MDOT Great Lakes Region Engineer Roger Safford and other officials from MDOT and the State of Michigan led a group of County Commissioners, staff and Reps. Joe Haveman and Amanda Price on a tour of the new M-231 Bridge. The group viewed progress of the project by bus and also did a walking tour which included climbing up on a grade

near the beginning of the structure and then walking down below to where the actual crossing construction is taking place.

When completed, the M-231 Bridge will be the State's seventh longest bridge. The bridge also features a 14' non-motorized pathway. The group heard an update on the progress of the M-231 project from MDOT and update from County Planning & Performance Improvement representative Aaron Bodbyl-Mast on the County work to make sure the bridge connects to pathways on both sides of the bridge after completion.

I've included a project update that covers the period 2011 through August 2014 ([click here](#)).

LEDA TRAINING

I completed the 8 hour LEDA training this week and we had a great group of employees from all over the County attend. If you haven't signed up yet you will want to do so because it is excellent!

County of Ottawa
Administrator's Office
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460
(616) 738-4068
avanderberg@miottawa.org
www.miottawa.org



GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL (John Scholtz)

More and more people are taking to the water to explore nature, get exercise and enjoy time with friends and family. The recent rise in popularity of kayaking is evident in Ottawa County with paddlers of all ages seeking places to enjoy their sport. In response, Ottawa County Parks is working to expand access to area rivers including the Macatawa, Pigeon and Grand. As its name implies, the Grand River is a special resource with a multitude of paddling opportunities in Ottawa County alone. Ottawa County Parks has established the Grand River Heritage Water Trail as a way to promote access to the Grand River in Ottawa County.



The Grand River Heritage Water Trail website provides information on parks and other places to access the river, natural features to be observed, and interesting historical points of interest to help explain the colorful and rich local history tied to the Grand River. Details provided include the facilities available at each access point, distance to the nearest restaurant, contact information for local outfitters, and much more. Printable maps for the six reaches (each 5-8 miles) in Ottawa County are helpful in planning an excursion. The website also highlights preferred paddle trips.

Kayaking or canoeing on the Grand is a great way to experience the many properties that have been preserved and made accessible through the Grand River Greenway, a high priority initiative of Ottawa County Parks over the past fifteen years. Over 2,400 acres with 13 miles of shoreline is available for public access. Facilities have been added at key sites to help people access and enjoy the river. Recently, universally accessible kayak and canoe launches have been installed at Connor Bayou, Eastmanville Bayou and Grand River Park. These floating launches provide an easy and enjoyable means of launching and retrieving kayaks and canoes for people of all abilities.



Water trail signs with maps were recently installed at the universally accessible launch sites. Next steps for the water trail will involve adding signs at other river access points. Also, markers are planned along the river to show paddlers the boundaries of all park properties.

Go to www.miottawa.org/parks and click on the water trail logo to learn more about the Grand River Heritage Water Trail and plan your paddling adventure.

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE 2014 (Sgt. Steve Austin)

Safe driving is a challenge for drivers of all ages. Cars have changed, so have traffic rules, driving conditions, and the roads you travel everyday. Even the most experienced drivers can benefit from brushing up on their skills.

By taking the AARP Smart driving course you'll learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. In addition, you'll learn:

- How to minimize the effects of dangerous blind spots
- How to maintain the proper following distance behind another car
- The safest ways to change lanes and make turns at busy intersections
- Proper use of safety belts, air bags, anti-lock brakes and new technologies used in cars
- Ways to monitor your own and others' driving skills and capabilities
- The effects of medications on driving
- The importance of eliminating distractions, such as eating, smoking and cell phone use

Take the AARP Smart Driver course at the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Fillmore Complex on October 1 & 2, 2014 9am-1pm. (must attend both days)

Contact Sgt. Steve Austin - 616-738-4042 or Email saustin@miottawa.org



Refresh your driving skills with the AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE!

You will learn:

- Defensive driving techniques
- Proven safety strategies
- New traffic laws and rules of the road

Plus, there are no tests to pass. You simply sign up and learn. Upon completion you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance.*

DATE(S) & TIME(S)

October 1 & 2, 2014

LOCATION

Fillmore Street Complex
12220 Fillmore St. West Olive, MI 49460

TO REGISTER

Contact Sgt. Steve Austin
EMAIL: saustin@miottawa.org
PHONE: 616-738-4042

CLASSROOM COURSE:

\$15 for AARP members • \$20 for non-members

For more information visit www.aarp.org/drive

TOYOTA

This program is supported by a generous grant from Toyota to AARP Foundation.



* Upon completion you may be eligible to receive an auto insurance discount. Other restrictions may apply. Consult your agent for details.

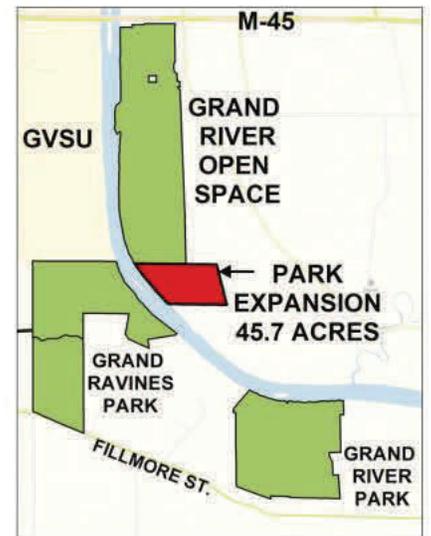
GRAND RIVER OPEN SPACE EXPANDS (John Scholtz)

In June, the Parks Commission purchased 45.7 acres of riverfront property from the Jessie Zemaitis Trust to expand Grand River Open Space in Tallmadge Township. The purchase expanded the site to 279 acres with 1.5 miles of Grand River frontage.

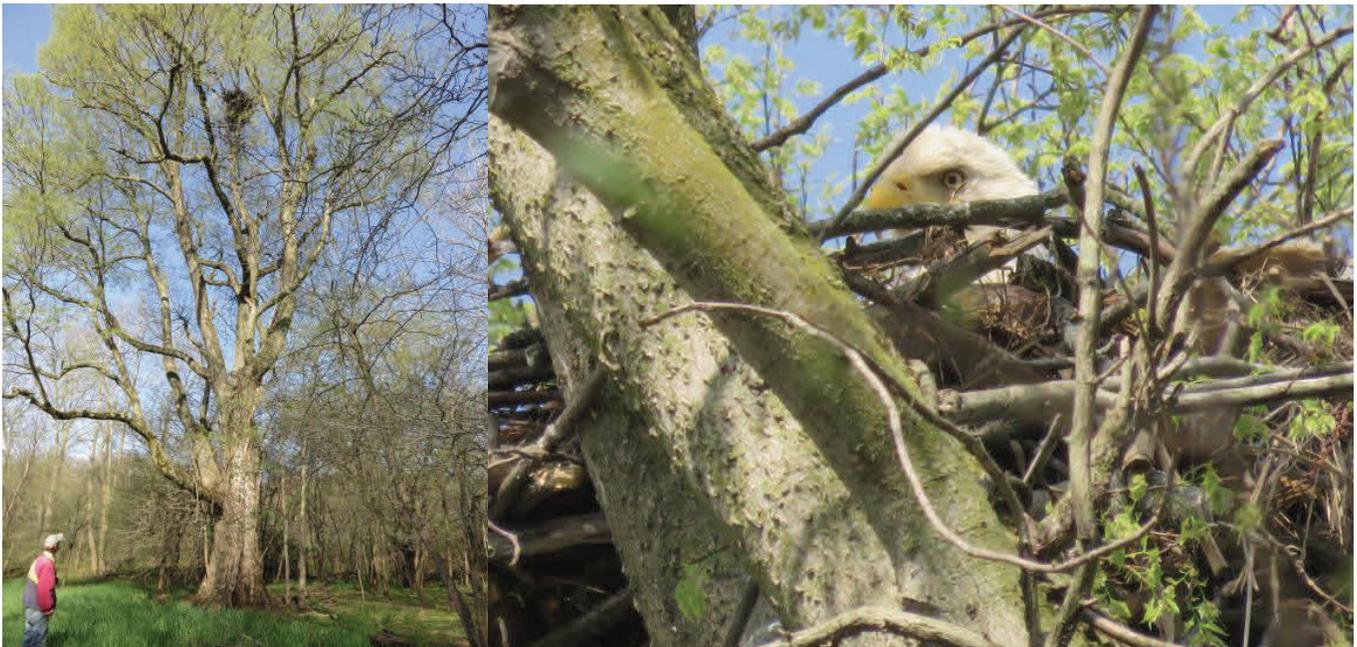
A grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund contributed \$80,000 to the \$194,225 purchase with the balance of funds from the county parks millage. The purchase adds high quality natural land to the park system and will offer opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreational pursuits. The property is located directly across the river from Grand Ravines and protects the view shed of a park lodge planned for that location in 2015.

The purchase is part of Ottawa County Parks' Grand River Greenway initiative which preserves and protects key lands within

the river corridor for enjoyment by people and to provide a habitat corridor along the river for wildlife.



Bald eagles prefer large tracts of natural land near water for nesting. A pair nested successfully at Grand Ravines for a number of years until their nest tree came down last winter. With an abundance of protected natural land to choose from within the Grand River corridor, the eagles elected to rebuild across the river on Grand River Open Space property where they raised three young this season.



Ray Statema, neighbor and Parks Commissioner, stands below the new nest tree at Grand River Open Space. Right: An eagle on the nest in early spring. Both photos by Lee Koets



miOttawa Department of
Public Health

OTTAWA COUNTY IREPORT VIDEO ACCEPTED FOR CNN'S NEWS COVERAGE (Kristina Wieghmink)

"Convince us your city/county is healthy" assignment

The Ottawa County [Dancing in Grand Haven on the Boardwalk](#) video was provided by Grace Farr Stanton, resident of Grand Haven, and submitted to the CNN iReport assignment: "Convince us your city/county is healthy". CNN iReport producers review the most compelling, important and urgent iReports and select the cities or counties that make wellness a priority. Grace's video was cleared for CNN and made a part of their news coverage. CNN receives, on average, 500 iReports a day, and a fraction of those are approved. (Look for the red "CNN iReport" stamp to see which stories have been verified for CNN.) <http://ireport.cnn.com/community/assignment>

CNN PRODUCER NOTE - Grand Haven, Michigan, resident Grace Farr Stanton enjoys going to weekly waterfront dances during the summer. "I love dancing and music and being outdoors, and what could be nicer than doing all three and in such a beautiful setting as the boardwalk along the Grand River?" asked the 74-year-old retiree, who filmed this video. Her submission was uploaded on her behalf by Kristina Wieghmink, Communications Specialist at Ottawa County Department of Public Health. - *zdan, CNN iReport producer*

Here's what Grace had to say:

"My name is Grace Farr Stanton. I'm a resident of Grand Haven – a city in Ottawa County, Michigan. Ottawa County has been nationally recognized three times this year as being among the healthiest, safest and most pleasant areas in which to live.

People come from miles around (Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Holland) to enjoy this summer treat. Featured in this video is a group of special needs young adults, who came from their camping experience at nearby Grand Valley State University. Several of the regular dancers mingled and danced with the guests; all of whom were obviously having a most enjoyable time.

Dancing opportunities are plentiful in our community. Whether one's preference is ballroom, line dancing, country, zumba, tai chi and even belly dancing – it's here in Ottawa County. Not only does dance have the physical advantage of exercise, the social interactions are most beneficial. There are weekly Boot Scooter parties and pubs with dance combos, especially on weekends. The Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging is one of the venues for classes in tai chi, zumba, belly dancing, tap, etc. Perhaps, the most pleasant dances of the year are the Wednesday Waterfront Dances held along the Grand Haven City waterfront during the summer months of June, July, and August.

The Grand River is a tranquilizing backdrop as boats and kayaks glide by. Great musicians play in the band shell and offer a variety of tunes for listening and dancing, anywhere from swing to tango, fox trots, waltzes, polkas and line dancing. The bleachers at the dancing area are connected to a two mile boardwalk route

along the Grand River, where locals and visitors are accustomed to walking on the pier.” - Grace Farr Stanton, resident of Grand Haven



View other Ottawa County iReport submissions. By selecting the favorite button, it helps CNN producers know which stories are generating a buzz. Enter your own video at <http://ireport.cnn.com/community/assignment>.



Jennifer D. Sorek, MA, MEP
Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
Ottawa County Department of Public Health
<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-1157483>



Anastasia Endres-Bercher, BS & Jessica Voglewede, BS
Environmental Health Specialists
Ottawa County Department of Public Health
<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-1160623>



Kristina Wieghmink, M.Ed.
Communications Specialist
Ottawa County Department of Public Health <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-1157700>



Heather Alberda, BA
Sexuality Educator
Ottawa County Department of Public Health
<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-1159929>

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . . (Kristina Wieghmink)

Ottawa County Department of Public Health awarded Gold & Silver!

Last week, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) received 7 gold and silver awards (see the list below); walking away with the most In-house Production awards. The winners of the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) *Awards of Excellence in Public Health Communications* were announced during the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media.

Grady College faculty members, the Athens Health Network's executive director and a senior communications specialist at the CDC judged more than 275 entries; submitted by public health officials, journalists and media relation agencies from around the nation. Judging criteria included quality of writing, effective use of graphics, review of hard copy materials and supporting documents, along with the overall impact and results of each project.

"This is a great opportunity to surface and recognize the best work in public health on the communications front," commented Glen Nowak, director of Grady College's Center for Health and Risk Communication.

Nowak also said involvement from the college provides a great resource that can be used as teaching aids of examples of how health departments are handling health issues through communications. OCDPH is honored to receive these nationally recognized awards and to be a model for others. We are so proud to share the ways in which Ottawa County employees, community partners and county residents work together to address health concerns within our communities. One of our department's goals is to effectively communicate important health messages and empower people towards solutions that may provide a better quality and length of life.

Congratulations to everyone who was a part of the funding, development, implementation and promotion of each project! Every person worked diligently, with thoughtfulness and a passion to touch and change lives!



In-house Production Awards

Ottawa County Department of Public Health Winners

GOLD - Annual Reports and other Major Reports

OCDPH Annual Report

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-print-annual-reports-winners>

www.miottawa.org/health2013

GOLD - Brochures

OCDPH ecoOttawa booklet

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-print-brochures-winners>

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

GOLD – Health Literacy

OCDPH Nutrition Options for Wellness (NOW) program

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-print-health-literacy-winners>

<http://www.miottawa.org/Departments/Admin/pdf/Digest/2014/04042014.pdf> (Pages 7-8)

SILVER - Annual Reports and other Major Reports

Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey Report

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-print-annual-reports-winners>

www.miottawa.org/2013YAS

SILVER – Graphic Specialty Projects

OCDPH Wear One campaign

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-print-graphic-specialty-winners>

www.miottawa.org/SexEd

SILVER - Graphic Specialty Projects

OCDPH Brand Guidelines

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-print-graphic-specialty-winners>

<http://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/pdf/reports/AnnualReport2013.pdf>

SILVER – Media Kits

Stair Week Media Toolkit (2013 version entered)

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-media-relations-media-kit-winners>

http://www.miottawa.org/Health/OCHD/pdf/stairs/Stairs_Mediakit_web.pdf



BRONZE - Graphic Specialty Projects (2013)

OCDPH Beach Health campaign

<http://www.nphic.org/awards-print-graphic-specialty-winners-2013>

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

M-231 Ottawa County

Start: Spring 2011 End: Spring 2016

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is constructing M-231, a new two-lane, limited access roadway from M-45 (Lake Michigan Drive) north to the I-96/M-104/112th Avenue interchange near Nunica in Ottawa County. It will be located west of the existing 120th Avenue roadway. M-45, Lincoln and M-104 are the access points to M-231. Total cost: \$200 million.

The bridge over the Grand River is: 3,700' long, the 7th longest bridge in Michigan, just the 4th Grand River crossing in the county, will include a non-motorized path on the west side, has 16 spans, 15 piers, 8,000 cubic yards of bridge deck concrete (32,400,000 pounds), 19,000,000 pounds of structural steel (26,000' long), beams vary from 7' to 9'-4" tall and 60' to 140' long, spans vary from 190' to 330' (over the river), heaviest beam is 95,000 pounds.

Update as of August, 2014:

- The substructure has been built and two-thirds of the steel beams have been set for the bridge over the Grand River.
- The bridge over Little Robinson Creek is complete.
- The bridge over North Cedar Drive is complete.
- M-104 has been reconstructed and widened from west of 124th Avenue east to I-96.
- The 112th Avenue bridge over I-96 has been replaced and widened to four lanes.
- The ramps at 112th Avenue and I-96 have been reconstructed, with the addition of a new westbound I-96 on ramp and a new eastbound I-96 off ramp.
- The Cleveland Street/Apple Drive/112th Avenue intersection has been reconfigured.

Update on M-231, from M-45 to Little Robinson Creek:

- Work to widen M-45 for the new M-231 intersection is currently in its second stage. The south portion has been reconstructed and widened at 120th Avenue. Work continues on the north side.
- The Stearns Creek bridge substructure is complete, the beams are set, and work on the superstructure is under way.
- The Buchanan Street bridge substructure is complete with beams set.
- The Rich Street bridge substructure is complete. Additional work is pending the reopening of Buchanan Street (only one of these two can be closed at any one time).
- The Lincoln Street/M-231 intersection has been reconstructed and widened. It has reopened on the base course asphalt. Remaining asphalt will be placed during M-231 paving later this fall.
- The Sleeper Street bridge has pile-driving work under way.
- M-231 grade work from M-45 to Little Robinson Creek has the bulk of the earthwork and embankment complete; however, some segments are still ongoing. Gravel is in place in many locations. Base-course paving will continue intermittently through the summer, with leveling-course paving planned for this fall. Final paving, shoulder gravel, etc., will be completed in spring 2015.

Update on M-231, from the Grand River to M-104:

- The Leonard Street bridge is substantially complete.
- Roadway paving is partially complete with leveling-course asphalt from Cypress Street to M-104. Final paving, shoulder gravel, etc., will be completed in 2015