

County Administrator's Digest

July 30, 2015

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator



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M23.1K RUN

Ottawa County is partnering with the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Grand Haven Running Club, Robinson and Crockery townships, plus the offices of Senator Arlan Meekhof and Representative Amanda



Price to organize a preview of the new highway with the "M23.1K Run." (The run will be followed by an opportunity for non-runners to see the highway, as well.) Along with being a fun community event, the run will raise funds for Ottawa County's non-motorized pathway system, specifically the Grand River Greenway Trail, North Bank Trail and Spoonville Trail. An extensive

system of paved trails benefits residents and visitors alike. Paved trails through Ottawa County's spectacular landscapes provide: opportunities for fitness and family recreation; environmental benefits; transportation corridors; and economic benefits to the community.

More information regarding the race and registration will be available soon. We are still anxiously awaiting a title sponsor for the event, just imagine 'Your Company Name' 23.1K Run. If you are interested in sponsoring the event please contact Misty, mcunningham@miottawa.org or Stephanie, sroelofs@miottawa.org to find out how.



EFFORT TO FUND OTTAWA COUNTY BIKE LANE SUCCESSFUL (Shannon Felgner)

With only days left to fund the Lakeshore Bike Lane and \$20,000 pledged through last weekend, Ottawa County officials and partners in the community entered the week cautiously optimistic that they could still raise the additional \$40,000 needed to fund the effort. Then, final construction bids were confirmed lowering the cost of completing the bike lane to \$138,039. **As a result, the combination of \$23,325 in crowd funding pledges and \$120,000 in previous contributions is enough to construct the widened, 4-foot-wide bike lane on Lakeshore Drive between Butternut Drive and New Holland Street.**

"Support from our local community and area businesses has been spectacular," said Greg DeJong, Ottawa County Commissioner and Chairman of the Ottawa County Planning Commission. "On behalf of the Ottawa County Planning Commission and Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, I'm thrilled to announce that our financial goal to help extend the Lake Shore Drive Bike Lane has been met! So many things make Ottawa County a great place to call home and the generosity of our community is just one of them."

The Ottawa County Planning Commission launched a crowd-funding campaign on Monday, July 13, 2015 to secure funds for the widened bike lane on Lakeshore Drive between Butternut Drive and New Holland Street. The new bike lane will complement a 4-foot-wide bike lane on Lakeshore between Robbins Road and Croswell Street and is part of a long-term effort to create a cyclist-safe stretch from Grand Haven to Holland.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials indicates that a 4-foot-wide bike lane meets the needs of the growing competitive, touring and commuter cycling community which is important both for the area's tourism industry and for area firms working to attract young professionals who are increasingly becoming involved in the sport. The 4-foot-wide bike lane creates a safe space for these faster cyclists who neither fit well on the separated bike path where they conflict with leisurely bikers and pedestrians nor in primary traffic lanes where they conflict with vehicles.

"In the beginning, I did not know if we could make this happen. However, people in the community, local government, non-profits groups, and area businesses rallied together in an impressive show of support," said Kerry Irons, of Pedal Holland. "This will be a great asset for the community and I am excited to get out there and ride it later this year."

Over \$120,000 was secured from contributions by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, the

the northern half of Ottawa County, the obvious irony being that today Muskegon is considered to be a Democrat-dominated county, or at least the most Democratic county surrounded by Republican-dominated counties.

"So the story goes that the first attempt at drawing a map of the new border between Ottawa and the new Muskegon County was a straight line, which at first blush makes sense. However, drawing a straight line made Muskegon County larger than Ottawa by one township.

"Since Ottawa was the existing county, it was thought to be more fair to add one township back to Ottawa so it would be one township larger than Muskegon County.

"Back in 1859, Lake Michigan property did not have the value it does today and was not as valuable as farmland, and thus Chester (Township) was 'put back' into Ottawa when the final map was drawn.

"One wonders if the correction might have been made with Norton Shores if the decision had been made a hundred years later.

"Interestingly, the current makeup and borders of Michigan's 83 counties was not finalized until 1899."

Thanks, Al!

Do you have a question for the Tribune? Email it to mbrooky@grandhaventribune.com, and type "Mailbag" in the subject line. Or mail it the old-fashioned way to: Grand Haven Tribune's Mailbag, 101 N. Third St., Grand Haven, MI 49417. We'll do our best to get you an answer! A new Mailbag appears on grandhaventribune.com at 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

STATE MEDICAID OFFICES ASKED TO DESIGN ACTION PLANS TO INCREASE ACCESS AND USE OF PREVENTIVE DENTAL SERVICES (Kristina Wieghmink)

At the 2015 Michigan Oral Health Conference, held at the Grand Valley State University Eberhard Center, Debra Bassett, RDH, BHS, Oral Health Team Supervisor from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) presented Ottawa County's involvement in Michigan's oral health initiative. This initiative was designed, in 2011, by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and set goals for oral health improvement by 2015. CMS asked State Medicaid Offices to design action plans to increase access and use of preventive dental services. They were also asked to support progress towards increasing the rate at which children receive preventive services by 10 percentage points

over five years.

Bassett shared OCDPH's *Miles of Smiles* (MOS) mobile dental unit program, which has been operating for the past 21 years, and the Seal! Michigan program. The programs help provide year-round dental services to qualifying Medicaid insured and low-income uninsured children; who otherwise may have gone without oral health preventive services. Pain from untreated dental diseases makes it difficult for children to eat, sleep and concentrate in school. Poor oral health may also affect their self-esteem, cause long term medical complications and create preventive medical expenses. These programs are made possible by dental professional volunteerism; school administration dedication; Ottawa County Department of Public Health's commitment; Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, county administration and community support; and funder's generosity*.

*"Inadequate oral hygiene may lead to future health complications and preventable medical expenses,"
said Debra Bassett, RDH, BHS, Oral Health Supervisor.*

Miles of Smiles in Ottawa County

- More than 100 volunteer dental professionals and GRCC students provide dental services on MOS each year.
- More than 33,000 client appointments have been provided on MOS.
- 2013/2014 fiscal year
 - ◇ 1,100 exams/screenings
 - ◇ 1,000 cavities (ages 2-12)

***Funders**

American Dental Association Foundation

Community Action Agency

Community Foundation of the Holland Zeeland Area

Delta Dental Foundation

Dr. & Mrs. James Strikwerda, D.D.S.

Holland Junior Welfare League

Merchant Services

Michigan Dental Association Foundation

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Oral Health America

Robert DeNooyer Chevrolet, Inc.



St. John's Episcopal Church

West Michigan Dental Foundation

Contact: Debra Bassett, Oral Health Supervisor, 616-494-5540 or dbassett@miottawa.org

OTTAWA COUNTY OFFERING NEW SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE TO RESIDENTS (Shannon Felgner)

In a world where 24-hour news stations and the internet provide as-it-happens news, Ottawa County is doing its part to get in the game.

Ottawa County residents now have a new way to receive information about their local government. The public can visit miOttawa.org and subscribe to news and updates from Ottawa County through an innovative email and text messaging communication system. With over 100 Ottawa County government topics to choose from, subscribers can select as many topics that interest them. Additionally, subscribers can choose *when* they wish to have messages delivered: real-time, once-a-day or once-a-week. Registration is simple and takes only a few minutes.

"We have never had the means to communicate with citizens in this capacity before. We have so much information to share and so many opportunities to offer. We are thrilled to have this new method of connecting with residents," said Shannon Felgner, Communications Manager. "Citizens expect and deserve to be informed. Thanks to the subscription service, powered by GovDelivery, the County can provide up-to-the-minute updates on anything from emergency alerts to countywide events."

Residents can stay informed about road construction, park programs, and upcoming elections or be one of the first to know about County employment opportunities by signing up with the new free information service. More importantly, when public health or safety is in jeopardy, alerts can be sent directly to a mobile device.



When it comes to communication from Ottawa County, the research is clear: citizens desire more. In its biennial citizen survey, officials asked, "Is Ottawa County doing enough to keep residents informed about programs and services or should more be done?" In 2014, 2012 and 2008, "keeping residents informed" was identified by respondents as the top service where more should be done by the County.

Some of the email subscription topics available to choose from include:

- Board Agendas & Minutes
- Press Releases
- County Administration
- The Courts
- Election Information
- Genealogy Records
- Sheriff's Office News
- Employment Opportunities
- Parks & Recreation
- And More

Text message alerts are available from the Public Health Department and the Sheriff's Office, which are delivered real-time in the interest of protecting health and safety. Ottawa County is also partnering with the Ottawa County Road Commission, offering subscriptions to their newsletter, construction project updates, board meeting minutes and more.

Benefits to Citizens & Ottawa County

- Improve Service to Citizens: Give citizens the information they want, when they want it.
- Urgent Communication: Offers an additional tool to reach citizens in emergency situations.
- Efficient: Sending notifications through email saves money on paper, postage and staff time used for traditional direct mailings. The technology powering the service is efficient for staff. Plus, it drives citizens directly to website where services and news can be accessed.
- Environmentally Friendly: Sending communications electronically saves our forests and cuts transportation emissions and CO2.

The service is being provided by GovDelivery, the world's leading government-to-citizen digital communication solution. GovDelivery serves federal, state and municipal governments around the country, including Michigan, Oakland County and Macomb County.

Access county services and learn more at miOttawa.org, facebook.com/miottawa or @miOttawa on twitter.

BORCULO FUEL SERVICES, LLC BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Borculo Fuel Services, LLC, a subsidiary of locally owned and operated Zeeland Farm Services, Inc., received approval from the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners at their July 28 meeting to utilize tax increment financing to help construct a new alternative energy fueling station in Blendon Township. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is an economic development tool that allows a developer to be reimbursed for eligible costs related to clean-up and site preparation activities needed at a site before construction commences.

The long vacant property at the southeast corner of 96th Avenue and Port Sheldon Road is a "brownfield site" which means that there is a presence or threat of contamination on the property. The site is home to a former gas station and several previous industrial uses. The Blendon Township Board of Trustees approved a Resolution in support of the redevelopment project at their July 16 meeting.

ZFS plans to invest over \$2.4 million to remove contaminated soil and groundwater from the property, along with the construction of the new alternative energy fueling station and a 3,000 square foot convenience store. The recently approved TIF for the project will allow ZFS to be reimbursed \$318,354 in eligible site remediation activity costs. The reimbursement dollars will be captured from the increase in taxable value of the property as a result of ZFS' redevelopment of the site.

The "Anew Fuel Station" will offer customers 4 types of ethanol-blended fuel options that include E-10, E-15, E-30, and E-85. The E-30 and E-85 ethanol-blended fuels are for use in flex fuel vehicles and E-10 and E-15 have been approved for all passenger and commercial vehicles that are 2001 or newer. The benefit of ethanol-blended fuel to consumers is that it is generally cheaper than traditional unleaded fuels.

The alternative energy fueling station will be the first facility of its kind in Michigan. When the project is complete, it will create 2 full time and 10 part time jobs.

RENDERING OF PROPOSED BORCULO FUEL SERVICES, LLC CONVENIENCE STORE

FACING 96TH AVENUE





REGIS Advisory Committee Formed

As part of our strategic reorganization of REGIS a new Advisory Group has been formed. This group will serve as a resource to the REGIS and GVMC Board of Directors and to the staff. They will be involved in both program and technical decision-making. Members of the Advisory Group represent both their municipality and their specialty.

They began their work with an update of the extensive evaluation of the REGIS hardware and software that is currently begin conducted by the Trivalent Group. They also were asked to provide their 5 highest priorities for REGIS in the future.

As direct users of REGIS, the Advisory Group will be key in assisting and participating in decisions regarding future programs, priorities and services. They will serve as a new and crucial part of the REGIS organization and important advisors as the agency moves forward. Members include:

Sue Becker, Joel Hondorp, Steve Peterson, Tom Stressman, Doug LaFave, Robin Rothley, Dan Strickwerda, Teri Schut, Nick Monoyios, Rick Sprague, Dan VanderHeide, Jeff VanSetter, Peter Elam, Doug Kadzban, Travis Mabry and Brian Bigorowski. Paul Gerndt is the Chairman.

GVMC Chair Authors Article On Customer Service in Ottawa County

GVMC Chair and Ottawa County Administrator Al Vanderberg was recently published in ICMA's PM Magazine. His article; "*The Ottawa Way*"-A Michigan County Adopts a Customer-Centric Culture".

The article follows the journey that Ottawa County followed to adopt the "Disney Way". This is a very focused process to insure the highest levels of customer service.

If you would like to read the article, it can be found at:

http://icma.org/en/press/pm_magazine/article/105910

Next Board Meeting

August 6, 2015

8:30 am

Kent County Building

At our next meeting of the Board of Directors we will have 3 major items for your consideration.

1. Presentation of the 2016 Budget (approval in September)
2. Discussion of 2016 Executive Committee and At-Large Appointments
3. Addition of new member communities.

These items and possibly others will be discussed at our August Meeting.

You are Invited to GVMC Luncheon

Senator Debbie Stabenow

August 12, 2015

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

GVSU

L. William Seidman Center

50 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

RSVP Required by August 3, 2015

Cost is \$25

Register at <http://gvmc.org/payment.shtml>



Sponsored by our Friends at





U.S. Senator
Debbie Stabenow to
Speak at GVMC
Luncheon



Senator Debbie Stabenow will be the featured speaker at our **August 12th** Luncheon. The meeting will be held at Grand Valley State University's Seidman Center. The luncheon will from noon-1:30.

Ticket prices are \$25 each. Everyone is invited to attend and reservations can be made at <http://gvmc.org/payment.shtml>.

You can also find more information at our website www.gvmc.org

First elected to the United States Senate in 2000, Senator Stabenow is the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and a member of the Energy, Finance and Budget Committees.

Her committee assignments put her on the front lines in developing America's policies in the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, health care, and energy, which are so critical to our future.

Debbie Stabenow has long been a champion of agriculture and forestry, Michigan's second largest industry. In 2011, she be-

came Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee - the second Senator from Michigan to do so, over 120 years after her predecessor, Senator Thomas Palmer, who served as Chairman from 1887-1889.

We are very pleased to welcome Senator Stabenow to west Michigan and welcome our partners from the Regional Prosperity Alliance, Farm Bureau and business community to join us.

This event is sponsored in part by our friends from ITC.



GVMC Presents to
Grand Valley State University
Board of Trustees

On July 10th, Brian Zuber our GVSU Graduate Assistant and I had the opportunity to present GVMC to the Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees.

We updated the Trustees on the many partnerships that exist between the University and GVMC. As one of our most important community partners, Grand Valley is involved in

many of our programs.

Through the generosity of GVSU, a Graduate Assistant is provided to GVMC and is dedicated to our Environmental Programs.

President Tom Haas, stated, "The Grand Valley Metro Council

is a wonderful success story and model for regional planning and collaboration in our state. The people and communities of west Michigan are well served by the Council's membership and its excellent team of professionals. We believe the GV Metro Council is an excellent return on investment and appreciate the opportunities to partner with it for the benefit of our region and state."



Brian Zuber, John Weiss and Tom Butcher at the GVSU Board Meeting

