

# County Administrator's Digest

September 18, 2015 Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator



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## **Kristin Caron Awarded for Customer Service**

**Ottawa County extends its congratulations to Kristin Caron who was selected to receive the Outstanding Customer Service Award for the second quarter of 2015. Kristin is a Probation Specialist for Ottawa County 58th District Court Probation and Community Corrections.**



"Kristin has a great work ethic and a willingness to go above and beyond. I am pleased and honored to work with her," said Alma Valenzuela.

The Individual who nominated Kristin wrote: "I was told by a coworker of an incident where Kristin was working and provided an example of outstanding customer service and I would like to see her recognized for her actions. Kristin had been at work conducting home checks and during one stop she noticed something to be off about a probationer's behavior. Upon asking the probationer if everything was alright, that person confided that she was upset and considering self-harm. Kristin asked whether or not she had a plan to harm herself, and after she was shown the tool the probationer planned to use to harm herself, Kristin asked if she could turn the tool over to the individual's social worker who lived nearby and was able to remove the tool from the home. Kristin then went out of her way to go to the store and purchase a journal and some pens and returned to the distressed probationer's home and recommended that the person try journaling when they were feeling overwhelmed. When I heard about this from a coworker, I was extremely impressed with the level of care and thoughtfulness Kristin demonstrated in her actions. She went above and beyond by reaching out to the individual to ask what was wrong and then taking the additional steps well outside of what is required of her to prevent the individual from harm. Not only did Kristin prevent harmful behavior, but she also provided a healthy outlet for the individual to express her feelings in similar future situations. Kristin has been involved in her current position for less than a year and although she is relatively new to field su-



pervision, she demonstrated concern and compassion that perfectly exemplifies the standards the 58th District Court hopes to set for customer service and community outreach.”

Meet Kristin Caron at <http://bit.ly/cs-award>.

### **REGISTER NOW FOR OTTAWA COUNTY'S TENTH ANNUAL WATER QUALITY FORUM**



**November 13 • 8AM - 4PM**  
12220 Fillmore, West Olive. Main Conference Room

Featuring initiatives and research conducted to preserve and protect one of our most valuable resources: *Water*

View the agenda, register or print a registration form at [www.miOttawa.org](http://www.miOttawa.org). Registration fee is \$12 online or \$10 by mail and is limited to the first 150 participants. Registration must be received by November 6. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please contact Misty Cunningham at 616-738-4898 or [mcunningham@miottawa.org](mailto:mcunningham@miottawa.org) with questions.

register now

### **COUNTY INVOLVED IN ADDITIONAL SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS**

The next two articles highlight successful partnerships. The party in the park represents partnerships at two levels, first the long-term lease with the City of Holland of land that when added to existing parks property became Paw Paw Park; and second, the partnership between the Parks Department and Department of Public Health that made the park more accessible to the Holland Heights neighborhood via a grant funded trail extension. Kudos to all who worked together to make this great improvement a reality!

The partnership with Hudsonville produced a visionary master plan that won the top planning award in the State. Congratulations to Hudsonville and the Planning & Performance Improvement Depart-

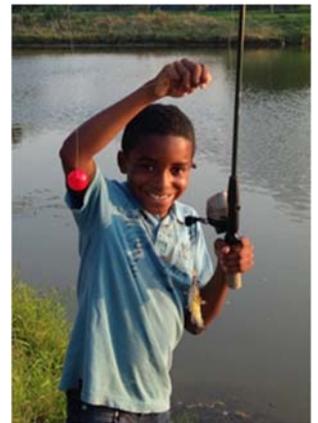
ment for yet another outstanding collaborative achievement!

### **PAW PAW PARK PROJECT COMPLETE** (Amy Sheele & John Scholtz)

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health and Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission have partnered to make infrastructure improvements within Holland Heights. With funding support from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Building Healthy Communities grant, a coalition was formed with representation from a variety of community agencies. In addition to completing health assessments, the coalition helped to oversee a half-mile trail expansion at Paw Paw Park (formerly Macatawa Greenspace) that increased connectivity of the park to nearby neighborhoods. "We know that connectivity is an important component to increasing trail utilization" said Amy Sheele, Health Educator at Ottawa County Department of Public Health.



On Tuesday, September 1, almost 300 neighbors from the Holland Heights community came out to enjoy a park party (with funding support from the grant). In addition to a free meal, community members enjoyed a scavenger hunt, bird watching, fishing, plus viewed live Birds of Prey (from Outdoor Discovery Center), and tried out disc golf plus a variety of kids' activities. "We are excited to increase utilization of this park by the neighboring community. This was a great way to make more people aware of the opportunities available in this beautiful park" said John Scholtz, Director of Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission.



Scholtz, Director of Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission.

This project highlighted a successful partnership between the departments and ultimately, increases access to physical activity while increasing utilization of our park system.

### **OTTAWA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY OF HUDSONVILLE WIN PRESTIGIOUS PLANNING AWARD** (Paul Sachs)

The County Planning Commission was notified this week that the City of Hudsonville's new Master Plan, titled "Imagine Hudsonville 2030" is this year's sole recipient of the Michigan Association of Planning's prestigious Daniel H. Burnham Award. The Award, which recognizes community plans

that advance the science and art of the planning profession, honors America's most famous planner, Daniel Burnham. Mr. Burnham was the lead planner for the development of several major U.S. cities including Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. The judges for this year's Burnham Award were from the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association.

"Imagine Hudsonville 2030" was created as part of the County Planning Commission's Urban Smart Growth Demonstration Project. The Project is designed to enhance the vibrancy, livability, and aesthetic character of an urban community. This is accomplished by developing and implementing new planning tools and techniques in the demonstration community to create an environment that can attract and retain residents and visitors, promote entertainment and recreational opportunities, and foster an environment that is always welcoming and one that promotes civic pride and a sense of livability.

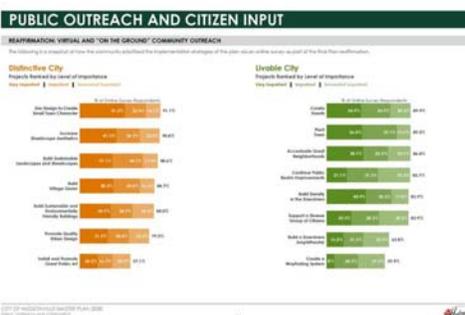
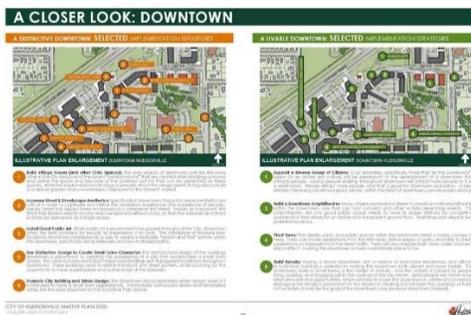
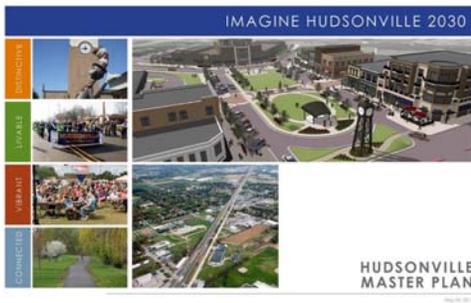
Imagine Hudsonville 2030 is one of the most exciting, ambitious outcomes of the collaborative partnership. The first-of-its-kind Master Plan utilizes a bold combination of color, layout, photographs, and text to clearly depict a myriad of planning techniques and programs that will be implemented in the City over the next 15 years.

The creation of Imagine Hudsonville 2030 also employed one of the most robust public input strategies for a community master plan. At the very onset of the master planning process, residents, business owners, students, and entire families converged to share their expectations of what the city should become in the future. Multiple community meetings were held, visual preferences surveys were conducted, and extensive "on-the-ground" public input was solicited during the planning process.

It is anticipated that Imagine Hudsonville 2030 will serve as a model for other urban communities that are working to enhance the vibrancy, livability, and aesthetic character of their respective community, and striving to find more effective, exciting methods of engaging their citizenry in the planning process.

A congratulations also needs to be extended to Mark Miller of Nederveld Inc. who served a pivotal role in helping the County and City create the award-winning Master Plan. The Plan is available for view and download at: <http://www.hudsonville.org/ImagineHudsonville/>

An Awards Banquet hosted by the Michigan Association of Planning is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at the Renaissance Center in Detroit.



**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING ISSUES**

I put the CMH funding history and current funding issues memo together for the Board of Commissioners and our State legislative delegation a few weeks ago with the help of CMH Director Lynne Doyle and others. We had a follow-up phone call with State Department of Community Health (DCH) staff who indicated that some relief is likely on the way though it appears that it may only address about 50% of the funding deficit faced by CMH over the next few years.

Everyone was stunned when the news broke about Kandu ending its 62 year existence. The Kandu director incorrectly said to the media that Ottawa CMH was one of the main reasons for the Kandu shutdown and that the CMH had cut \$1.5 million from Kandu revenue. In reality, CMH reduced the number of clients it was sending to Kandu by a contract amount of \$400,000 which is less than 5% of the Kandu budget. This action was taken after the CMH budget was reduced on a regional level. There are a lot of organizations and individuals that would like to see a Kandu type operation continued and it remains to be seen if that will be put together.

**GVMC HOSTS TWO SENATORS IN TWO MONTHS**

That's right, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) hosted U.S. Sen. Stabenow for a quarterly luncheon on August 12 at the GVSU Seidman Business Center in Grand Rapids and on September

14 hosted U.S. Sen. Peters for a quarterly breakfast at the same facility. Both events were heavily attended and the speeches by the Senators were interesting as well. Commissioner Jim Holtvluwer and I represent the County on the GVMC Board of Directors and we had other Commissioners in attendance at these events as well.

### **KUDOS TO SPRING LAKE VILLAGE AND SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP**

Several Commissioners and staff also had the pleasure of attending an event in Spring Lake this week that celebrated the successful renovation of the Village Hall into a facility that now serves as the location of the Village and Township governments of Spring Lake. State grant funding helped defray the expense of the initiative. What a great accomplishment. Township Supervisor John Nash and Village President Jim Maclachlan noted the challenges in pulling something this major off and also the contributions of the boards and staff in making this happen. Lt. Governor Calley, Sen. Majority Leader Meekhof, and Rep. Price addressed the attendees.

Congratulations to all involved!

### **ROAD COMMISSION - COUNTY QUARTERLY MEETINGS** (Keith Van Beek)

Attendees: Al Vanderberg, Joe Baumann, Phil Kuyers, Keith Van Beek, Brett Laughlin and Mike Mikita

#### **Road Commission Financial Report Review:**

- [Michigan Transportation Fund \(click here\)](#): shows modest (approximately 2%) in this primary source of funding from the State, budgeted at \$16,900,000 in FY 2015. Have been notified that in FY 2016 there will be one-time additional \$2.8 million appropriation as a separate line item.
- Trunkline maintenance: still waiting for increased budget to provide maintenance for new M-231. Currently have about a \$3.6 million budget for the state system for which the State contracts with the Road Commission to maintain, including snow removal.
- Sent out and accepting comments on the annual Strategic Improvement Plan, includes the new county millage plan.

**Miss Dig Issue** - dealing with unfunded mandate potential change that would require road commissions to flag their facilities when a citizen or contractor calls about a dig. Historically they have been exempt, and MDOT and other public entities are exempt, but not the road commissions in this recent instance. Investigating to see if this can be resolved or not. Suspect if this is forced it could require up to two new employees to handle all the tickets that would come in.

**MOU Review** - very positive impact from GovDelivery, exemplified by having a doubling of the amount of subscribers that received the Road Commission newsletter prior. Have still on the list to

investigate other IT partnerships, including possible server storage and support. Contracts expire in May of 2016. Also savings from use of the reverse purchasing program.

**M-231 Project** - still have not set an official opening date, but expect it in middle Fall of this year. Will likely have several events to celebrate the opening: official groundbreaking, M23.1K Run on October 3 and possible public day for access to bridge and/or dedication of non-motorized pathway/bridge named for veterans.

**Discussed Driveway Restoration and Permitting Policy** - For the purpose of constructing or restoring driveways adjacent to the County road system, this statement of general policy is intended to provide criteria for the installation of new driveways adjacent to the County road system and the restoration of driveways from construction projects within the County right-of-way (ROW).

New Driveway Installations shall conform to the current edition of the Ottawa County Road Commission's Rules Governing the Granting of Permits for Driveways, Banners & Parades.

The installation of a concrete surface treatment for the portion of the driveway from the roadway edge to the ROW line on County Roads without concrete curb or a bituminous valley gutter system is prohibited.

Driveway Restoration resulting from a construction project within the County Road ROW shall follow these guidelines:

- **Concrete Driveways:** Concrete driveways will be restored with bituminous material in lieu of concrete from the edge of the roadway to the ROW line (or a shorter distance as determined by the Commission). However, if the County Road has a concrete curb or a bituminous valley gutter, then the driveway will be restored with concrete.
- **Bituminous Driveways:** Bituminous driveways will be restored with bituminous material to a distance as determined by the Commission.
- **Aggregate Driveways:** Aggregate driveways will be restored with aggregate material. However, if the construction project involves new concrete curb or bituminous valley gutter, then the aggregate driveway will be replaced with bituminous from the edge of curb 10 feet back or to the ROW line as determined by the Commission.

**GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE** (John Weiss)

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





**August 28 2015**

**GVMC Demonstrates our Data  
Collection Vehicle to the  
Michigan Transportation Asset  
Management Council**

At the August Meeting of the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council, GVMC demonstrated our data collection vehicle "the van" to leaders of the Council.

The Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) was established to expand the practice of asset management statewide to enhance the productivity of investing in Michigan's roads and bridges. Part of the TAMC's mission is to collect physical inventory and condition data on all roads and bridges in Michigan.

TAMC is a legislated body of representatives from agencies who own roads or are responsible for road funding that coordinate:

- The collection of the condition of federal-aid eligible roads and bridges
- The collection of asset investment data

They also report the collected data and analysis to the Legislature and State Transportation Commission.

The Council is composed of members from throughout the state and includes representatives of MML, MTA and the Michigan Association of Counties.

The van currently collects data on 1,600 miles of roads in the federal aid system and over 1,000 miles of



Local roads.

Using a 5 point laser data collection system the van is able to gather data about the pavement including roughness, rutting and other pavement distresses. Data is collected at highway speeds.

It is also able to collect photos. Approximately 50,000 images can be collected per day. This information is processed by our computer system and then scientifically analyzed to determine its PASER rating.

The van is also a useful tool in obtaining sign inventories, maintaining sign inventory systems and viewing any objects found within the right-of-way.

The operational cost for the van is approximately \$30 per mile. In the past, the cost from private consultants was approximately \$235 per mile. GVMC uses the van to support all our MPO members in Kent and eastern Ottawa Counties. It is made available to all GVMC members at a reduced cost.

We also have done contract work for many other municipalities including Novi, Portage and Meridian Township.

Further information can be found at our website, [www.gvmc.org](http://www.gvmc.org)



**You are Invited to GVMC Breakfast**

**U.S. Senator Gary Peters**

**September 14, 2015**

**8:00-10:00 am**

**GVSU**

**L. William Seidman Center**

**50 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

**RSVP Required by September 7, 2015**

**Cost is \$20**

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



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**GVMC Environmental Programs Featured at Whitecaps Game**

On August 8th, Grand Valley Metro Council Environmental Programs were featured at the Whitecaps Game at Fifth Third Park. It was our first combined major Clean Air/Clean Water Event. Working together our Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds and our West Michigan Clean Air Action conducted an education program, were featured at events during the game and conducted a public survey of environmental issues. It was a great opportunity to share our message. Seventeen volunteers and four GVMC staff participated in the event.



Our LGROW mascot, "Major Runoff" threw the first pitch in the game and was a hit for spectators leaning more about environmental issues. According to Scott Conners, City Engineer of Walker and an LGROW Board Member, "Major Runoff was often flooded with children who were surprisingly aware of the importance of protecting their watersheds. The staff and volunteers that participated were able to engage thousands of fans with the help of the West Michigan Whitecaps. I was surprised at how many fans wanted to stop and talk about their watershed and the importance of keeping it clean".



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