

County Administrator's Digest

October 2, 2015

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator

HENRY E. PLANT MEMORIAL DEDICATION



The Henry E. Plant memorial non-motorized trail dedication ceremony will be held this month. A historical marker will note the designation of the trail name which will be placed mid-bridge on the M-231 bypass bridge.

Plant was the first Congressional Medal of Honor awardee from Ottawa County and was honored for his heroics in battle during the Civil War. He owned a farm in the general vicinity of the trail and the cemetery that his grave is in can be seen from the M-231 bypass.

OCCDA DISPATCHER NAMED DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

Michigan APCO-Public-Safety

Communications Telecommunicator of the Year

Ottawa County Central Dispatch Authority (OCCDA) was notified that Paula (Polly) Hooker, a twelve (12) year dispatcher has been selected by the Michigan Chapter of APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) as Michigan APCO-Public-Safety Communications Telecommunicator of the Year. This award is presented annually to one dispatcher in Michigan; candidates for this award are submitted from dispatch centers across the State of Michigan.

Polly does not seek recognition for the work she does, when complimented she says "I'm just doing my job" and quickly attempts to divert the attention to someone else. She arrives to work with a positive attitude and makes the best out of any situation she faces on a daily basis. Polly Hooker stood out amongst her peers due to her constant dedication for superior service to citizens and fellow employees in several categories.

- A willingness to assist new employees as a trainer by brainstorm potential ways to help those trainees to succeed. Her method of communication and training style adjusts to each individual need and she has success with the new hires.

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- She volunteers to go into the schools and other events held throughout the county to share her knowledge of 9-1-1 and the importance of the work we do.
- She serves as a backup instructor for the training supervisor going into local hospitals and community groups to teach babysitting classes and also the value and importance of Smart911.
- Polly is often overheard encouraging citizens to create profiles in Smart911 so information regarding their special needs would be available in a time of emergency(s).
- Polly has a way of making all of her "customers" know that they are extremely important to her during their time of need.
- Each month she consistently enters more calls for service than her peers, without compromising the quality of her call taking.



Polly consistently puts others needs ahead of hers. She has covered shifts so coworkers could spend holidays with their young children or attend school functions. She is a great role model to those around her and is the epitome of the ideal dispatcher.

OTTAWA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE GRANT

Early this year, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners approved an increase in funding for the Lakeshore Advantage countywide economic development agency, headquartered in Zeeland. This initiative became known as the "economic development challenge grant" though I must be clear in that county and local governments are not able legally to grant funds.

The County is a member of the Lakeshore Advantage organization and I am a member of the Board of Directors. The County currently funds the organization at \$55,000 per year and offered to double that amount in a match of \$1 County dollar for every \$4 private sector dollars raised up to the total cap of \$55,000.

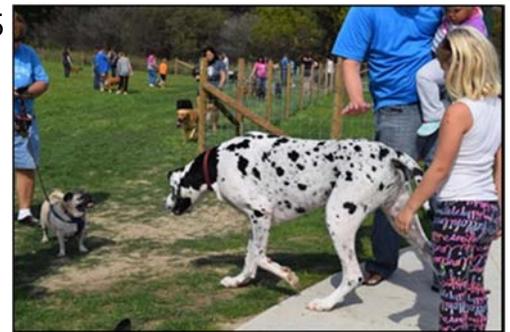
President Jennifer Owens of Lakeshore Advantage recently informed me that the organization raised a total of \$222,450 in new private sector support as a result of contributions from 17 new private sector investors and increased support from 27 existing private sector investors. Lakeshore Advantage was also able to secure an \$81,500 in additional public sector commitments. Fundraising efforts related to the current Growth Campaign will continue through the end of the year.

GRAND RAVINES DOG PARK OPEN HOUSE - Jessica VanGinhoven

Dogs of all shapes, sizes, and breeds visited the Grand Ravines Dog Park on Saturday, September 26 for an Open House Event.

The Grand Ravines Dog Park has been part of the Ottawa County Parks Master Plan since 2011. The creation of the dog park was in direct response to requests by Ottawa County residents. People in Ottawa County love their dogs and they wanted a large place to roam and play off-leash.

Grand Ravines is different than many dog parks in the area both in size (there are 21-acres total) as well as terrain. Dogs and their owners can enjoy three fenced play areas with mowed turf for fetch, Frisbee, and socializing. One of which is a safe haven for smaller dogs (25 pounds and under) who might not feel comfortable running with larger breeds. The park also offers fenced walking trails through the ravines. When planning the dog park, a main concern of regular visitors was the loss of long walking trails. It was important to incorporate trails into the plan so while the community gained play space, they didn't lose walking trails. It's worth noting that is the largest off-leash dog park that is free to the public in the area.



The park has already proven to be a popular spot and its opening was a huge success. Chow Hound who, with the help of its customers, raised \$20,000 was there to deliver their large contribution. Many other supporters and vendors were at the event with giveaways and goodies for dogs.



Deputy Jeff Somers represented the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department sharing information about the K-9 unit. He showed off the gear they use and put his police dog to work during a narcotic search demo.

While the parks department was pleased with the event and is thrilled the community is able to enjoy the park, there is more work to be done before it is officially complete. Funds are being raised for more paved paths as well as places for visitors to sit and find some shade – benches, picnic tables, shelters, and shade trees are all on the list of amenities to add. Eventually

lighting and modern restrooms will also be added.

Ottawa County Parks is happy to say this park is for the dogs – and the ones who love them.

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. 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 with questions.

register now

ANew Fueling Station Under Construction

We will kill two birds with one stone with this Digest update. First, the Instagram photo below shows the progress on the construction of the Anew fueling station in Borculo which was an Ottawa County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority project that was also approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Second, the County now has an Instagram account, click the icon to follow Ottawa County on Instagram. Also, if you have not "friended" the County Facebook account or followed the County Twitter account, both are excellent sources of information for County happenings.



BOND REFINANCE RESULTS

Ottawa County - General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2015

The County of Ottawa has completed the sale of \$11,955,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2015, scheduled to close on November 2, 2015. The Bonds are being issued for the purpose of refunding the County's 2005 which were issued to refund jail expansion bonds and to construct the Holland District County facility, and 2007 bonds which constituted a portion of the financing to construct the Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven and the addition to the Fillmore Administrative Complex in West Olive.

In preparing to sell the Bonds, the County's "Aaa" rating was reaffirmed by Moody's Investor Services. The "Aaa" rating is the highest rating available. Moody's cited well managed financial operations, low direct debt burden and a sizable tax base as some of the key factors in assigning this very strong rating to the County.

The average interest rate on the refinancing bonds is 2.03%, as compared to the average interest rate on the bonds being refunded of 4.46%. Given the County's strong credit rating and favorable municipal bond interest rates, the refinancing will generate overall savings of over \$1,293,000 to the County over the next 12 years.

GREAT LAKES AG-TECH BUSINESS INCUBATOR (GLATBI) – 2015 ACTIVITY SUMMARY- Paul Sachs

BACKGROUND

On December 1, 2014 the Great Lakes Ag-Tech Business Incubator officially opened its doors to provide farmers and entrepreneurs with customized, one-on-one assistance to license or sell their ag-technology invention(s) or start a new business around their invention(s).

The Incubator began as a Pilot Project in the Planning and Performance Improvement Department with 3 clients. One of the innovative aspects of the Project is that the Incubator does not provide physical building space for clients. Instead, resources are dedicated solely to staff who help commercialize, license, or sell client technology.

Based on the success of the Pilot, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners approved that the Incubator be established as a 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation with an independent public/private sector Board of Directors. The (c)(6) designation provides an opportunity for farmers and entrepreneurs in the West-Michigan region (and, in the future, Statewide) to benefit from the Incubator's services. The non-profit status also allows the Incubator to administer an innovative, long-term funding plan that is based on a private sector mind set and performance-based results. The funding plan requires that all clients pay a Business Service Fee (at least 2% of gross sales) to the Incubator – but only if

they generate profit from their invention(s) as a result of Incubator services. This unique fee structure assures clients that they will receive the best possible services since the success of their business venture is directly tied to the long-term success of the Great Lakes Ag-Tech Business Incubator.

The statistics below summarize the activities conducted by the Incubator since December 1, 2014:

CLIENTELE

Stats:

4 clients have signed Service Agreements with the Incubator, with inventions involving ethanol production, drones & algorithms, biofuel engines, and greenhouse equipment.

5 prospective clients have been referred to other West Michigan Incubators

21 prospective clients are on a waiting list to be considered for enrollment into the Incubator

Narrative:

Our target clientele are farmers, entrepreneurs and businesses who have ag-technology ideas or products, including tools, machinery, software and equipment. Depending upon the client's goals, we help build a business around ideas or products, license and sell ideas or products, and engage manufacturers in production of ag tools and equipment to introduce to the ag-tech market.

SPONSORSHIP

Stats:

9 public and private sponsors contribute financial support totaling \$580,000

31 technical associates have committed services

19 affiliate partners are collaborators with the Incubator

Narrative:

In addition to services provided by Incubator staff, clients can receive industry expertise direct from Incubator sponsors related to intellectual property, finance, marketing, legal issues and many other topics. These client services are provided by sponsors at deferred, discounted and in some cases pro-bono rates.

ADMINISTRATION

Stats:

80% of required forms and documents necessary for operations are complete

2 new staff have been added

Narrative:

In June, a full time Senior Business Development Manager was hired. An open Ottawa County staff position that has part time responsibilities for the Incubator was also filled. These positions are in addition to the Executive Director of the Incubator and three other County staff members who currently spend a portion of their time on Incubator responsibilities. Since adding new staff, the Incubator has been making significant progress with legal documents and client processing.

MEMBER COUNTIES

Stats:

Barry County has committed to being a Member County in the Incubator

Allegan County is in the process of securing the necessary funding to become a Member County

Narrative:

An innovative Member County Program has been created that allows prospective clients from other counties to receive Incubator services in exchange for dues paid to the Incubator by the Member County. By joining the Incubator, Member Counties are able to benefit from our pool of technical experts, sponsor donations, and business consultants at cost-effective rates. In return, Member Counties are able to create new ag-technology related businesses, permanent high-paying jobs, capital investment, and property tax revenue in their counties.

Water Resource Study – Mark Knudsen

The Ottawa County Phase II Study was commissioned to further analyze the County's groundwater quantity and quality after a Phase I Study completed by the Michigan State University (MSU) Institute of Water Research (IWR) concluded that groundwater levels may be moderately declining and chloride levels in groundwater may be increasing.

The 3-year Study (2015-2017) includes two primary components: a countywide groundwater analysis; and a groundwater assessment of 34 other counties across the State.

The countywide analysis will 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 the 34 counties in the study, estimate current and historic groundwater levels, and estimate current and historic chloride concentra-

tions. Once this assessment is completed, each county will have results similar to the Phase I Study IWR completed for Ottawa County.

A summary of the recent work completed by the MSU IWR for each of the two primary components is provided below:

Countywide Analysis

The first stage of a Streamflow Measurement Program has been completed. For this Program, the MSU IWR measured over 50 streams throughout the County to determine the streams' baseflow. With the stream baseflows determined, the MSU IWR will be able to more accurately calculate stormwater runoff rates and the glacial aquifer static water levels.

MSU has completed over 450 chloride tests of samples from wells throughout the County. MSU is planning to complete testing this Fall on 50 more wells in locations where additional data is needed. This data will be used to develop a 3D model of the chloride levels in the glacial and bedrock aquifers.

The first stage of an effort to "data mine" historical paper records owned by the Environmental Health Department has been completed. The purpose of this effort is to allow the MSU IWR to more accurately analyze the historical change in chloride levels in Ottawa County. For example, nearly 1,000 new chloride level records have been identified in Allendale Township alone. The goal is to identify over new 16,000 records Countywide. MSU will be providing an initial assessment of this effort to Ottawa County PPID in October.

A preliminary analysis of recharge to the glacial aquifer using the "PAWS" computer model has been completed. The results of the analysis will be provided to the Ottawa County Groundwater Task Force either later this month or in early November.

Statewide Assessment

The MSU IWR is preparing a report on the results of the statewide assessment of chloride levels and static water levels in 34 lowland counties in Michigan.

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

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



REGIS Update

In September we began the most extensive program and equipment upgrade in the history of REGIS. This project began with a complete evaluation of all REGIS hardware and software. Also included was a evaluation of REGIS operations as a result of our reorganization of the REGIS Agency.

For the past 4 weekends, REGIS staff along with the Trivalent Group have been installing new equipment and reorganizing the all the hardware located at our data center. Their progress has been significant and is almost finished.

Our REGIS Board of Directors, new 19 member Advisory Group and the REGIS Technical Committee have been very involved in review of this extensive system enhancement program. Special thanks to Paul Gerndt from the City of Wyoming who serves as Chair of both our Technical Committee and Advisor Group. Also, to Steve Warren of the Kent County Road Commission and Brian Donovan of East Grand Rapids who are the chair and vice chair of the REGIS Board.

We have also had a significant increase in the number of participants in our training classes. Recently, Department of Public Works staff from the City of Wyoming and Byron/Gaines Utility Authority participated in training classes that included both classroom and outdoor field training using their mobile devices.



Board Vacancies

We have 2 vacancies for at-large members of our Board of Directors. If you know someone that might be interested please have them contact us.

You are Invited to GVMC Luncheon

**Valerie Brader, Executive Director
Michigan Agency for Energy**

November 18, 2015

12:00-1:30 pm

GVSU

L. William Seidman Center

50 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

RSVP Required by November 9, 2015

Cost is \$25

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





September 25, 2015

**Michigan's Energy Director to
Speak At November Luncheon**

Valerie Brader is the Executive Director of the Michigan Agency for Energy. Her service with the administration began in 2011 and prior to this role, she served as Deputy Legal Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Snyder, including work on the City of Detroit bankruptcy case. Before her service in state government she was a member (partner) at Bodman PLC, practicing primarily environmental and corporate law (with a specialization in assisting new or expanding businesses, from incorporation to securing permits and tax credits).

A Rhodes Scholar and published author in both the legal and scientific presses, Brader previously worked as the career law clerk for the Hon. John Feikens of the Eastern District of Michigan, as an environmental consultant to the EPA and Department of Defense, and for Gov. Phil Batt (R-Idaho) on environmental and natural resource issues.

Brader, who was the youngest person in the country to be selected to assist a federal court under the "Special Master" rule, was selected by Crain's Detroit Business as one of the "40 under 40" in Metro Detroit, by Michigan Lawyer's Weekly as a "rising star," and by the Joyce Ivy Foundation as its Leader of the Year.

Brader received her AB magna cum laude in government from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges, has two masters degrees from the University of Oxford (an MSc in Environmental Change and Management and an MST in Historical Studies), and a J.D. magna cum laude from Georgetown Law Center.

Brader was the past winner of the Harvard College Women's Leadership Award and was first-runner up in the Pacific Legal Foundation's national writing competition. Brader served as an officer of the Women's Caring Program, Harvard Club of Eastern Michigan and Trinity Evan-

gelical Lutheran Church.

We are looking forward to a very interesting and informative presentation about Michigan's energy future. Director Brader will provide insight into Governor Snyder's energy policy and the future. She has been leading the effort to develop a long-range energy strategy for Michigan and will share with us this critical topic for Michigan's future.

There are 2 vacancies for At Large Members of the GVMC Board. If you know someone that may be interested have them contact us.

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