

County Administrator's Digest

November 11, 2011

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

VETERAN'S DAY

Today is Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day, in which at the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918" the cessation of hostilities began on the Western Front. Some 93 years ago, on June 28, 1919, the Great War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. President Wilson said: To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations.

November 11 was declared a national holiday in many of the allied nations to commemorate those members of the armed forces who were killed during the war. After World War 2, the name of holiday was changed to Veterans Day and now recognizes all of our veterans.

As the old saying goes: Freedom isn't free.

America's Wars Total (1775–1991)

Military service during war 41,891,368
Battle deaths 651,030
Other deaths in service (theater) 308,800
Other deaths in service (non-theater) 230,279
Non-mortal woundings 1,431,290
Living war veterans 17,456,000⁴
Living veterans 23,442,000

Global War on Terror ⁵

Total Service members (Worldwide) (as of Dec 31, 2010) 1,429,367
Deployed to Iraq (Operation New Dawn) (as of Dec. 31, 2010) 85,600
Deployed to Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom) (as of Dec. 31, 2010) 103,700
Battle Deaths (as of May 12, 2011) 4,724
Other Deaths (In Theater) (as of May 12, 2011) 1,294
Non-mortal Woundings (as of May 12, 2011) 43,399



EASTMANVILLE BAYOU IMPROVEMENTS (John Scholtz)

Improvements to the Eastmanville Bayou Open Space are nearly complete and were opened to the public for the Labor Day week-end. The highly visible site located west of 68th Avenue immediately south of the Eastmanville Bridge over the Grand River has been a popular destination for fisherman, kayakers and hikers since its opening. The site has a small boat launch providing access to Eastmanville Bayou, a floating canoe/kayak launch providing barrier free access to the Grand River, picnic area and hiking trails extending along the site's nearly two miles of riverfront including a pathway connection under the bridge.



The roller system on the new barrier free canoe and kayak launch at Eastmanville Bayou provides a safe and stable means of launching for people of all abilities.

CONTINENTAL DAIRY JOB FAIR (Bill Raymond)

On Wednesday, November 2, Ottawa County Michigan Works! organized, promoted and helped staff a job fair for Continental Dairy Products, in Coopersville. Ottawa County Michigan Works coordinated with neighboring Michigan Works and partner organizations to support the event. This was a milestone event as CDP has spent \$100 million dollars renovating the former Delphi plant to become a new, state-of-the-art milk processing facility. This spring, Continental Dairy Products will begin production of nonfat dry milk, condensed milk and cream for the food manufacturing industry. The new employees will join the existing staff to facilitate full production.

Business Services representative, Marlene Brostrom worked with representatives for more than two months regarding grant requirements, hiring specifications and other details. According to the Chief Operating Officer at CDP the job fair was "organized exceptionally well and exceeded all expectations." The job fair attracted nearly one thousand applicants and by a show of numbers has been Ottawa County Michigan Works' most successful job fair to date.

The event was attended by people from around West Michigan who heard about it from a variety of sources including, the Muskegon Chronicle, Grand Rapids Press, Michigan Talent Bank, Grand Haven Tribune,

WOODTV 8, WZZM Channel 13, various radio stations, and word of mouth.

CDP had 47 open positions with wages ranging from \$14.68 - \$22.30 per hour. The positions included benefits.

HOLLAND HARBOR FISHING ACCESS DEDICATION (John Scholtz)

The Holland Harbor Fishing Access improvements along the waterfront at the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks were completed early this fall. The extensive fishing docks, waterfront walkway, parking area and interpretive displays were opened to the public following a dedication event on September 15. The \$565,000 project was made possible through a \$500,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. The project marks an important step in the implementation of the master plan for the Historic Ottawa Beach Parks which was approved in 2004. The Parks Commission is currently seeking grant support to link the new waterfront walkway and fishing docks, called Black Lake Boardwalk West, to the eastern section of Black Lake Boardwalk which was constructed in 2005. The picture below shows Parks Commissioner David VanGinhoven and Brian Napont, of the Great Lakes Fishery Trust Board of Directors, cutting the ribbon for the new facility.



PRISONER RE-ENTRY/2ND CHANCE GRANT (Bill Raymond)

A little over a year ago, Ottawa County was awarded a 2nd Chance Adult Re-entry Demonstration grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and we recently received an additional year of funding (\$750,000). The goal of Ottawa County's demonstration grant is to reduce re-incarceration by "connecting felony convicted parents of children 0 – 18 years to neighborhoods, families and jobs upon release from prison/jail." Last week, we were notified that Ottawa County/West Shoreline Re-Entry Initiative (Ottawa, Muskegon & Oceana Counties) was one of 18 grantees which will be assessed to be a national evaluation site for 2012-13. Breaking the cycle of reoffending and re-incarceration has many important implications for public safety and policy, as well as

reducing state budgets. As an evaluation site, the effectiveness of programs and the service delivery system established in our region will be evaluated by national-level researchers from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Justice. The findings will be used to establish national models for what works and does not work when assisting ex-offenders as they transition from prisons or jails back into their community. Being chosen as an evaluation site is an indication of the high level of work going in through the West Shoreline re-entry program and the various partners in the initiative.

Partners in the initiative are:

Ottawa County Michigan Works!

Pathways of West Michigan

Ottawa Mediation Services

70 x 7 Life Recovery

Good Samaritan Ministries

Goodwill Industries of West Michigan

Muskegon Mediation and Restorative Services

GBS Community Outreach, Muskegon (11 General Baptist State Convention churches in the Muskegon area)

Muskegon Social Justice Commission

Michigan Department of Corrections - Ottawa and Muskegon Probation/Parole

Ottawa County Community Corrections

Muskegon County Community Corrections

