

County Administrator's Digest

February 14, 2014

Alan G. Vanderberg, County Administrator



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GOLD TRAINING OFFERED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & ROAD COMMISSION

We sent out an invitation to the townships, cities, village and Road Commission to participate in the GOLD Leadership Training Program last week. At last count, 17 employees from a number of township and city governments had already signed up. In case you missed it, the training catalogue is linked here:

OTTAWA COUNTY 2014 GRAND RIVER POSSIBLE FLOODING (Beth Thomas, Emergency Management Director, and Joe Bush, Water Resources Commissioner)



Ottawa County 2014 Grand River and Local Waterway Stakeholders

We all knew spring would eventually get here. The question is “where will all of this snow and ice go”? You may be aware of the media already asking the same question or perhaps you’ve already had residents calling with complaints of flooding or questions on how to mitigate the hazard.

We would like to help you answer some of these and other questions during a “**Get Ready**” meeting to be held at the **Fillmore Complex on Thursday, February 27th from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Main Conference Room.**

We will talk together with you about how residents can mitigate flood hazards, how you as a jurisdiction can meet some of their flood-related needs, which other



agencies can help, and how we can support you in those endeavors.

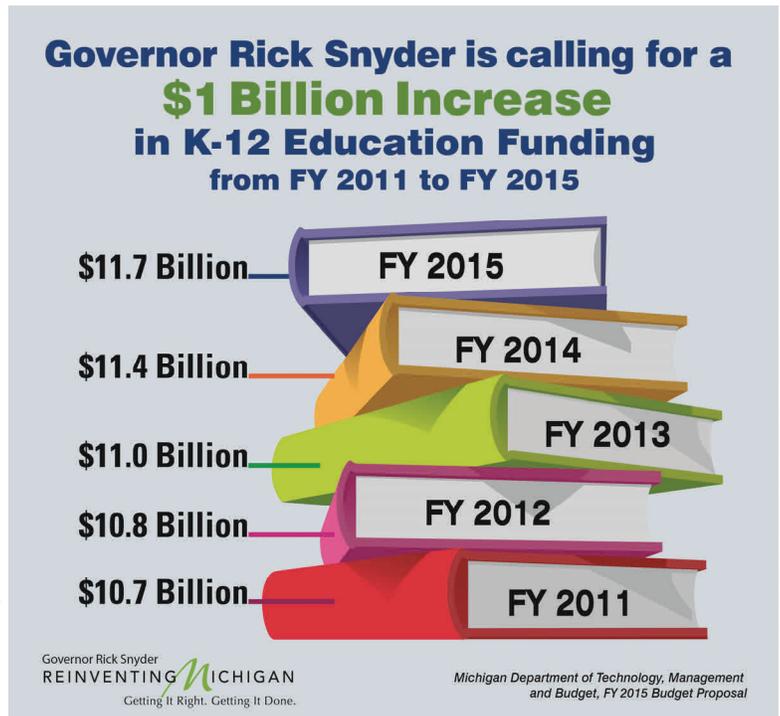
Frequently, if not usually, communication is the “make or break” during any incident and this spring will likely be no exception. Let us know how you are best communicated with and what your communication needs are so that we can best support you during what is said to be a wet spring! Please join us in this proactive approach to communication and collaboration in order to best serve our residents.

GOVERNOR SNYDER RELEASES PROPOSED BUDGET

The big new for County government is the Governor’s proposed restoration of State Revenue Sharing payments so what they were when he first took office. This would add back an estimated \$939,998 to the General Fund budget beginning in 2015 if the Governor’s proposal survives legislative approval further on in the budget process.

GCSI forwarded some other highlights:

- **52B\$ budget**
- **11.7B\$ for education (this is up 1B\$ over last)**
- **\$30M is budgeted for teacher evaluation assessments.**
- **Higher Education up 80M\$, an approximate a 6.5% increase over last year**
- **9M\$ increase for community colleges, an approximate 3% increase**
- **There will be a 3.2% tuition restraint**
- **Taxes—Some of the increased revenue will be used for targeted tax relief with approximately \$102M of this amount ongoing, the rest one time**
- **There is \$2M for arts and cultural programs**
- **\$2M for agricultural export initiatives**



Follow the links for related [talking points](#) and a [fact sheet](#)

FRACKING EDUCATIONAL SERIES (Aaron Bodbyl-Mast)

Planning Commission hosts education series on Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)

Hydraulic Fracturing is a confusing subject and is difficult to understand due to the variety of strong viewpoints expressed by both supporters and detractors of the gas extraction process. In a continuing effort to equip individuals to make well-informed judgments about this technology, the Ottawa County Planning Commission is sponsoring a three-part educational series, "Understanding Hydraulic Fracturing." Each session in this series will be held in the Main Conference Room of the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, 12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, MI, 49460.

The first session in the series, Hydraulic Fracturing – A Panel Discussion, is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. This panel discussion is designed to provide attendees with a straightforward, factual, and scientific perspective about the Hydraulic Fracturing process. It will also provide a comparison of the fracturing processes used in Michigan to those used in other states. The forum will conclude with a Question & Answer period.

Some of the subjects to be covered at this session include the following: Hydraulic Fracturing Overview; Geology & Fracturing (see rock samples and some materials used in fracking process); Fluids and Flow-back; Current Fracking Activity in Michigan; Permitting, Regulations, and Violations; Health and Environmental Concerns; The Gasland Movie and its Applicability to Michigan; Lawsuits; and Newly Proposed Rules and Legislation.

Panelists for this session were selected based on their knowledge and expertise. These panelists include Jason E. Poll, CPG, Lakeshore Environmental; Amy L. VanDyke, Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones; and Adam Wygant, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Jason & Amy are members of the Michigan Oil & Gas Association

The second session in the series, Land-Owners – Ensure You're Protected When Negotiating an Oil & Gas Lease, is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. At this session, Curtis Talley, Jr. of Michigan State University Extension will inform land-owners about the process of leasing oil and gas rights to oil companies. Some of the topics that will be covered for this session include the following: State Regulations that Apply to Oil & Gas Leases; What to Consider when Negotiating a Sale or Lease; and How to Evaluate Contract Offers from an Oil and Gas Company.

The third session in the series, Land-Use Regulations and Hydraulic Fracturing, is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. At this session, Ron Bultje, attorney with the law firm Scholten Fant, will provide local officials as well as land-use planners and zoning administrators with an overview of the current regulatory landscape, particularly at the local level. Some of the specific land-use topics to be addressed include the following: General Zoning Regulation; Truck Traffic; Noise; Odor; Lighting; Hours of Operation; Dust; Earth Change Permits; Soil Erosion Permits; and Groundwater Well Permits.

Individuals interested in attending may register in advance either online at <http://miottawa.org/Departments/Planning/fracking.htm> or by contacting the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department

at 616-738-4852 or by email at plan@miottawa.org.

PLANNING COMMISSION – ZBA TRAINING (Aaron Bodbyl-Mast)

New Date for Planning Commission Zoning Board of Appeals Basic Training - Every year, the Ottawa County Planning Commission hosts basic training seminars for local officials, including a Zoning Board of Appeals Basic Training and the Planning Commission Basic Training. These trainings are provide free of charge by Ronald Bultje and Rodney Schermer of the law firm Scholten Fant.

The ZBA Basic Training was originally scheduled for January 30, 2014, but was postponed due to weather conditions. The ZBA Basic Training is now scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room at the Fillmore Street Complex.

The objective of the ZBA Basic Training is to guidance and tools to support objective decision-making on zoning-related issues. Some of the topics that will be covered in this seminar include the following: Roles and Responsibilities of a Zoning Board of Appeals; The Rationale behind Zoning Ordinances; Zoning Variances; Non-conforming Uses; Appeals of Administrative Decisions; and Procedures and Protocols to Ensure that the Decision-making Process has been Conducted in a Legal Manner.

There is also still time to register for the Planning Commission Basic Training, which is scheduled to Thursday, March 6, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room at the Fillmore Street Complex.

The Planning Commission Basic Training is designed to provide an overview of planning and zoning essentials for incoming planning commissioners. Experienced commissioners can also benefit from the opportunity to hear the insights from two veteran Scholten Fant attorneys. Some of the subjects that will be discussed in this training include the following: The Statutory Basis of Local Planning; Relationship between Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances; Duties of a Planning Commission; Duties of a Zoning Board of Appeals; Legal Responsibilities Relating to the Zoning and Rezoning of Property; Contract Zoning; How-to Avoid an Unconstitutional Taking of Property; and How-to Run an Effective and Efficient Meeting.

Individuals interested in attending may register in advance by contacting the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department at 616-738-4852 or by email at plan@miottawa.org.

MICHIGAN WORKS PRESS RELEASE – FEB. 3 (Angie Barksdale)

New Program Bridges the Skill Gap between Businesses and Job Seekers

Ottawa County has been awarded a total of \$1,306,767 as part of the Skilled Trades Training Fund initiative, a program designed to enhance and promote economic growth and sustainability. Ottawa County Michigan Works! was instrumental in bringing these funds locally and promoting the need for skilled trades training for area businesses.

As the economy continues to recover, the Michigan Works! system is increasingly faced with the task of finding new and innovative ways to meet the demands of businesses in need of employees with specific skill sets. To meet these needs the Skilled Trades Training Fund, or STTF Program, was created. The program's objective was to provide eligible participants with the training and skills required to fill positions and ultimately allow businesses to expand their organizations in a way that contributes to the local and state economy. Funding focused on those businesses which are currently providing jobs in skilled trades including industrial, construction, and skilled service.

Leading the state, West Michigan received 37% of all funding for this initiative. Ottawa County received \$1,306,767, 15.8% of the total funding awarded. Twenty-four separate proposals were approved and Ottawa County received funding to train a total of 1,420 participants resulting in 1,318 jobs retained and 102 immediate jobs created. An additional 294 jobs are to be created in the next 6 months. Twenty-four companies in Ottawa County will share nearly \$1.3 million in grants, among the largest are Gentex, Herman Miller, and Grand Haven Stamped Products.

Ottawa County Michigan Works! partnered with several agencies including Thompson M-TEC, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce, and Lakeshore Advantage on this project. These agencies worked to identify potential businesses for which training funds would benefit and with businesses to develop up-to-date training modules that promoted job retention and creation.

"The program ensures Michigan's employers have access to the talent pipeline they need to compete and grow, and participants have the skills they need for in-demand jobs," MWDA Director Christine Quinn said in a news release.

The STTF program was designed to reduce unemployment levels by supporting businesses' needs in an ever-changing economy. Ottawa County has greatly benefitted from this program and continues leading the state in economic recovery and advancement.

Helping you prepare for what's next. # #

MEDICATION DISPOSAL SITE NO LONGER AVAILABLE (Kristina Wiegink)



miOttawa Department of
Public Health

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) Grand Haven office no longer offers medication disposal services. Due to space limitations, they are prevented from collecting at their new location, 1207 South Beechtree Street. To find other Ottawa County medication disposal locations, please visit www.miOttawa.org/eco

[eco](http://www.miOttawa.org/eco)

ecoOttawa



Free disposal of unwanted or expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications are accepted at participating locations.

During 2010 to 2013, OCDPH Disposal Program served **26,387**

Ottawa County residents to process and properly dispose of

653,246 total pounds of hazardous waste; 5,989 pounds

were prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs.

Prevent drug misuse and abuse

Each year in the U.S. more than 71,000 children aged 18 and younger are seen in emergency rooms for unintentional overdoses of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.* To help prevent drug misuse and abuse, please dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs at any participating location at no charge. Don't ever flush medications. They contaminate our drinking water and pose a threat to people's health. Improper disposal of any household hazardous waste can pollute the environment. Some items can be reused, recycled or must be managed properly as hazardous waste. "Every team member of the OCDPH Environmental Health Disposal Program has worked very hard to ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste, unwanted medications and recyclables," said Matt Allen, REHS; environmental health team supervisor. "When I think of how much material the site attendants handle and how many people they see, it boggles my mind. Their diligent work has brought this program where it is today." Environmental Health staff, the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, participating disposal locations and the work of residents help keep Ottawa County's environment clean from pollutants and drinking waters safe. For more information on the OCDPH Disposal Program and the Resource Recovery Center hours and locations, visit <http://ow.ly/rwxPb>

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Medication Disposal Sites Please remove pills from bottles and place in a sealable plastic bag.

Liquids or gels may be kept in original packages with the labels blackened or removed. www.miOttawa.org/eco

Law Enforcement Offices

Zeeland City 29 W. Main St

West Olive Sheriff's Office 12220 Fillmore St

Holland City Police Dept 89 W. 8th St

Grand Haven Township 13250 168th Ave

Coopersville City 289 Danforth St

Georgetown Township 3100 Port Sheldon Rd

Participating Pharmacies

Tasker Drug Store Coopersville

Pfaff Pharmacy Grand Haven

Family Fare Holland, Zeeland & Allendale

D&W Fresh Market Holland & Grand Haven

Participating Health Department Office

12251 James St, Holland

ecoOttawa	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Resource Recovery Service Centers Customers	13,101	12,958	13,429	13,224	52,712
Pounds of Liquid Hazardous Waste Collected	40,400	89,656	66,200	78,728	274,984
Pounds of Solid Hazardous Waste Collected	40,962	71,270	93,021	103,605	308,858
Pounds of Pesticides Collected	10,938	11,207	22,059	25,200	69,404
Total pounds of Hazardous Waste Processed*	92,300	172,133	181,280	207,533	653,246
Cubic Yards of Recyclables Collected	3,415	3,606	3,450	3,420	13,891
Recycling Memberships	601	659	728	676	2,664

4 Resource Recovery Service Centers and over a dozen medication drop off locations are available to residents.
 Most services are offered at no charge.
www.miOttawa.org/eco

*Of the total pounds of hazardous waste processed 2010 - 2013, below are the pounds for **medication disposal**.

- 2010 - 640 lbs
- 2011 - 789 lbs
- 2012 - 2,300
- 2013 - 2,260 lbs (Includes the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office)

TOTAL – 5,989 lbs

Sources

*www.drugfree.org

Image courtesy of Ezran Kamal



Our Vision – Healthy People

MILES OF SMILES PARTICIPATES IN “GIVE KIDS A SMILE!” DAY (Kristina Wiegink)



HOLLAND – Friday, February 7 was the 12th annual American Dental Association's "Give Kids a Smile!" day. Dr. Hillary Lane D.D.S. volunteered her day on Ottawa County Department of Public Health's *Miles of Smiles* (MOS) mobile dental unit. She provided comprehensive dental care for Medicaid-insured and financially-qualifying uninsured children at Glerum Elementary School in Holland (West Ottawa School District). Every child will received a gift bag, complete with oral health aids and oral health education for parents.

Miles of Smiles operates year-round to provide free dental services. "Give Kids a Smile!" day provides MOS an opportunity to participate in a nationwide event. Dental professionals in dental offices, dental clinics and dental schools in all 50 states opened their doors to provide free dental care to dentally-underserved children. The event raises awareness about the number of children with unmet dental needs and the obstacles they face when seeking dental care.



Pain from untreated dental disease makes it difficult for children to eat, sleep, and concentrate in school. Poor oral health also affects their self-esteem. "Our *Miles of Smiles* program is the best example of a community collaborative effort that I could ever envision," said Debra Bassett RDH, BHS, dental team supervisor for Ottawa County Department of Public Health. "This partnership includes dental society involvement, dentist and hygienist volunteerism, school administration dedication, community support, funder's generosity, Ottawa County Administration support and Ottawa County Department of Public Health's commitment to helping improve the health of children in our community." www.miOttawa.org/dental

GVMC WEEKLY UPDATE (John Weiss)

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

DISCUSSION POINTS
Governor's FY 2015 Executive Budget Recommendation
February 5, 2014

Key Points

- The governor's FY 2015 budget recommendation reflects Michigan's impressive comeback.
- Gov. Snyder inherited a \$1.5 billion budget deficit upon taking office in 2011. Fast-forward to January 2014, when the state's improving economy helped to generate \$971 million in additional revenue for the state.
- This is a healthy, responsible budget built on the foundation of fiscal discipline and economic growth policies laid over the past three years.
- It mirrors the values and priorities of Michiganders. Nearly three-fourths of the budget is devoted to education, and health & human services.
- This is a taxpayer's budget:
 - It respects the fact that Michigan taxpayers foot the bill by providing additional property tax relief for about 1.3 million low- to middle-income taxpayers.
 - It saves money in the long run through upfront investments in critical areas such as transportation, public safety, and health & human services.
 - It adds \$120 million to the Budget Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund, which is the state's savings account.
 - It pays down long-term obligations.
 - It ensures that taxpayers receive value for their hard-earned money by tying state spending to measured outcomes.
- The governor continues to invest heavily in education. He recommends \$11.7 billion for K-12 education alone, a \$1 billion increase in state funding for classrooms over FY 2011. This includes \$150 million toward the foundation allowance, which equates to a range of \$83 to \$111 per student.
 - He also proposes an additional \$80.3 million for our public universities – a 6.1% increase – and an additional \$8.9 million for community colleges – a 3% increase.
 - This is the largest percentage increase for universities since FY 2001.
- Other areas of emphasis in the budget are job growth, transportation, stronger communities, environmental & natural resources protection, and increased public health and safety.
- This budget strikes the right balance by making critical investments to fuel Michigan's comeback, reducing state debts, saving for the future, and giving taxpayers a break.

Budget Facts

- Budget total: \$52.1 billion
- General Fund budget total: \$9.8 billion
- School Aid Fund total: \$12.2 billion
- New investments (one time and ongoing; doesn't include deposits to reserves): \$1.4 billion
- Budget Stabilization (Rainy Day) Fund deposit: \$120 million (brings balance to \$700 million)
- Health Savings Fund deposit: \$122 million (now a sub-fund of the Rainy Day Fund)
- Total in state savings accounts: \$822 million (Rainy Day fund and health sub-fund)
- Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPERS) reserve: \$50 million

Education Highlights

- A strong, 21st century education is key to the success of our children and the prosperity of our state. Gov. Snyder's staunch support of education is unwavering.
- This budget provides significant investment at all academic levels. These funds also invest in innovative ways to improve and enhance education, whether it's expanding the learning calendar year, helping teachers enhance their skills, or improving the infrastructure to meet online learning needs.
- Preparing students to meet the needs of a global economy and changing work force demands innovative thinking and system reinvention.

- **Early Childhood:**
 - An additional \$65 million for the Great Start Readiness Program, to benefit 4-year-olds who are unable to access preschool services due to funding constraints. More than 16,000 additional children will now receive a quality preschool education and the waiting list will be eliminated, making Michigan a "no wait state" for early education.

- **K-12:**
 - \$11.7 billion for K-12 education, a \$1 billion increase in state funding over FY 2011.
 - \$150 million toward the foundation allowance, which equates to a range of \$83 to \$111 per student.
 - An increase of \$270 million to fund the retirement liabilities within the school retirement system over and above the district share, which is now capped at 20.96 percent. This ensures that retirement promises made to teachers can be kept.
 - \$2 million to pilot voluntary year-round school programs to enhance learning through a more balanced school year calendar.
 - \$7.3 million for greater support to financially distressed schools by creating a Financial Independence Team. The new multi-agency team will help to provide an "early warning system" to identify troubled schools needing assistance.
 - \$27.8 million for the phased-in implementation of evaluation tools and systems for teachers and administrators.
 - \$1.8 million in funding incentives for schools offering dual enrollment, which allow students to earn college credits while still in high school.
 - \$80 million to reward schools that incorporate best practices.
 - \$50 million in technology infrastructure grants to help districts meet online learning needs.
 - \$5 million to assist with consolidation of school districts or services.
 - Nearly \$1.4 billion to provide over 208,000 students with special education services.
 - \$10 million in emergency reserves for school districts at risk of closure during a school year and for fiscal relief to districts that may have to enroll students from a dissolved district.

- **Post Secondary Education:**

- \$80.3 million for our public universities (a 6.1% increase) and \$8.9 million for community colleges (a 3% increase). This is the largest percentage increase for universities since FY 2001.
- Universities and community colleges must hold tuition increases under 3.2% in order to receive new operations funding.

Tax Relief Highlights

- The governor understands the needs of Michigan families, and respects the fact that taxpayers foot the bill for the state's services.
- Any tax relief must be balanced with needed investments in critical areas such as public safety, education and transportation.
- The governor recommends expanding the Homestead Property Tax credit.
 - Results in \$102.7 million in additional property tax relief to low- and middle-income seniors, disabled residents and working families.
 - This plan will generate increased tax refunds for 1.3 million taxpayers.
- How the plan works:
 - Currently, the general Homestead Property Tax Credit is available to homeowners and renters with incomes up to \$50,000. It is calculated by subtracting 3.5% of the taxpayer's income from the amount of property taxes on the taxpayer's home and multiplying that result by 60%. An enhanced credit is available for low-income seniors and disabled citizens. Renters calculate their credit using 20% of rent.
 - Beginning with tax year 2013, the governor proposes two significant changes to the calculation of the Homestead Property Tax Credit. First, the governor proposes to change the Homestead Property Tax Credit income percentage from 3.5% to 3%, allowing a greater percentage of property taxes to be refunded. Second, the governor proposes to extend the credit of taxpayer's with incomes up to \$60,000.
 - Taxpayers who qualify for and claim the existing credit will be issued a supplemental refund check in the summer of 2014 for the 2013 tax year. Newly eligible taxpayers will need to file a credit claim in order to receive a refund. In future years, eligible taxpayers will simply claim the credit by filing a Homestead Property Tax Credit return.

Job Growth Highlights

- Gov. Snyder continues to be relentless when it comes to Michigan's economic turnaround. His innovative policies will keep this positive momentum driving forward.
- Gov. Snyder is the nation's most pro-immigration governor. He knows that attracting highly skilled, job-creating immigrants to Michigan will result in more and better jobs for our families. He recommends \$385,000 to create the Office for New Americans, which will allow the state to drive strategies for attracting immigrants with advanced academic degrees or entrepreneurial skills.
- \$5 million for the Automotive, Engineering and Manufacturing Technology Fund will allow Michigan to focus on this important sector of the economy.
- \$10 million for the skilled trades training program will encourage more residents to master a skilled trade, which helps to address job-to-talent mismatches.

- The budget proposes \$100 million in bond funds for an engineering talent investment program for universities and another \$50 million in bond funds for a community college skilled-trades equipment program.
- The agriculture industry plays a vital and important role in the Michigan economy. A total of \$2 million in new funding for the Food and Agriculture Industry Growth Initiative is focused on removing barriers and leveraging opportunities identified by food processors, agri-business, and those in agricultural production critical to business development and growth.
- The Pure Michigan campaign has proved to be a successful investment, attracting tourists from across the globe and helping to improve the economy. And it's a smart investment with a high return on the dollar. A total of \$2 million in new funding for Pure Michigan is proposed to keep the momentum going.
- An increase of \$15 million is recommended in funding for community revitalization and business attraction efforts.

Healthier Families Highlights

- The governor is a strong proponent of improving the health of Michigan residents. A healthier Michigan is good for the individual, good for the economy, and good for all taxpayers.
- \$17.4 billion will assist the Department of Community Health in developing health policy and managing the state's publicly funded health care systems. Programs include Medicaid, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and public health services.
- \$71.7 million will allow for the implementation of the Healthy Michigan Plan, which makes health care benefits available to low-income residents while encouraging healthy behaviors and personal responsibility.
- \$15.7 million in gross funding for the Healthy Kids Dental program, allowing for expansion into Kalamazoo and Macomb counties. This will result in 100,000 more kids receiving dental care, which leads to an overall improvement in health.
- \$2.5 million to expand rural prenatal health visitations in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Michigan by the Department of Community Health.
- \$15.6 million to support recommendations in the Jan. 21 report issued by the Michigan Mental Health and Wellness Commission.
- \$3 million for programs at Eastern Michigan University, Western Michigan University and Michigan State University to train autism treatment providers. This will increase the number of trained service providers and available autism services.
- \$6.1 million for jail diversion programs, to help divert people with mental illness or developmental disabilities from the criminal justice system and provide them with needed medical attention.

Infrastructure & Transportation Highlights

- A modern, well-maintained system of roads and bridges is vital to Michigan's economy.
- Last year, the governor proposed a comprehensive solution to fixing our roads through a \$1.2 billion investment package. While discussions continue with our legislative partners, the governor remains committed to addressing this situation.
- The longer we wait to fix our roads, the more it will cost taxpayers. The annual need has now grown to \$1.3 billion.

- For FY 2015, the governor proposes \$254 million to match all available federal aid to improve roads and bridges and our transportation systems across the state.

Human Services Highlights

- Michiganders take care of each other. The governor's proposed budget enhances state support for our vulnerable residents.
- \$410.6 million will support Michigan's child welfare system, to provide services for abused and neglected children.
- \$510,200 for the Office of the Children's Ombudsman, enhancing the investigation of complaints concerning children who for reasons of abuse or neglect are under the supervision of the Department of Human Services or its private contracted agencies.
- \$190.3 million for foster care. This will support 6,100 children in out-of-home care to give them the care and supervision they need until they are returned to their parents or are adopted.
- \$241.1 million to support 26,800 abused or neglected children who have been adopted in permanent homes.
- \$151.6 million to provide 33,200 families with financial support through the Family Independence Program, with the goal of helping them find employment and become self-sufficient.
- \$235 million in federal and state funds to support heating assistance programs. No Michigan family should be without heat during the winter months, and protecting families from losing home heating is a priority for the governor.
- \$179.9 million for Michigan's child support program, to help children obtain child support from absent parents. Child support enforcement will be enhanced with \$3 million to develop a Web-based employer portal and information database.

Serving Seniors Highlights

- The governor's budget offers substantial support for Michigan seniors.
- \$5 million will expand the distribution of home-delivered meals, and expand other in-home services such as home health aides, personal care, homemaking and other care management services. This investment eliminates the waiting list for these services.
- The MI Choice Waiver Program helps seniors and residents with disabilities who might otherwise be living in a nursing home to receive needed care and services while remaining in their home. Another \$9 million will eliminate the waiting list for this program, ensuring that those who want to remain in their homes can do so.
- We cannot tolerate any abuse of our seniors. A total of \$1 million will go toward increasing awareness of the new penalties under recently passed elder abuse laws, as well as for training medical and financial professionals.

Supporting Our Veterans Highlights

- Supporting our troops upon their return to Michigan is the right thing to do. Their sacrifices have earned our gratitude and assistance. But assisting with their transition is good for Michigan's economic comeback as well.
- \$5 million will create a state tuition assistance program for eligible Air and Army National Guard personnel.
- \$750,000 will provide 10 new regional coordinators for the Veteran Service Coalition. These

coordinators will manage the workload of Veterans Services Organizations and help to monitor and measure performance, including incentives for increased grants to regions that exceed established goals.

- \$7 million for capital improvements to armories and veterans homes across the state (\$4 million for armories and \$3 million for veterans homes)

Making Michigan Safer Highlights

- Michigan must be a safe place to live and work. Safe cities and neighborhoods improve our overall quality of life and our economy.
- Prior investments to protect Michigan's roadways and communities are working. In the first 10 months of 2013, violent crimes were down 30% in Flint, down 16% in Saginaw, down 7% in Detroit, and down 6.5% in Pontiac.
- \$17.8 million will train an additional 100 state troopers and 31 motor carrier officers through the Michigan State Police Training Academy. Michigan's trooper strength in 2011 stood at 957. With this new investment, projected trooper strength in 2015 will move to 1,184.
- \$25.3 million to replace equipment within the Michigan Public Safety Communications System, helping ensure that emergency first responders can share information during times of crisis and respond to distress calls quickly.
- Michigan's corrections system fulfills a critical safety function. This budget recommends \$1.6 billion to operate a safe, secure prison system that currently houses 43,700 prisoners. Total corrections funding is set at \$2 billion and includes probation, parole and community support.
- Improving the timeliness of arrests improves the safety of our state. A new investment of \$750,000 is provided to fund the electronic warrant to disposition reporting system, developing a statewide information exchange to eliminate redundant data entry required to request, approve, and issue warrants for arrest.
- One of Michigan's greatest threats comes from the cyber world. Cyber terrorists and hackers are attacking Michigan's computer systems and networks every day. Cyber crime can cost businesses as much as \$1 trillion globally. In 2012, the state of Michigan blocked 187,000 cyber attacks each day. This budget recommends \$6.7 million in added funding for the enhancement of the state's cyber security efforts to improve the ability of cyber professionals to respond to cyber attacks.
- Bullying and hate crimes will not be tolerated. A total of \$500,000 is recommended in new funding for Civil Rights to expand initiatives focused on anti-bullying and hate crimes.

Protecting Our Environment & Natural Resources Highlights

- Michigan's natural treasures must be protected. This budget continues the governor's strong investment in environmental and natural resources protection and enhancement.
- \$3.5 million to hire and train 25 additional DNR conservation officers to enforce the law. Coupled with the new conservation officers currently in training, this brings the total number of conservation officers to 227, up from 186 in 2010.
- Gov. Snyder is following through on his commitment to make Michigan the "Trail State." A total of \$2.5 million in new funding is provided for the development of a trail system from Belle Isle to the Wisconsin border in the Upper Peninsula.
- Invasive species can do great harm to Michigan's natural resources and economy. The governor is committed to the prevention, detection and eradication of invasives and he

proposes \$6 million in new funding toward this effort.

- Michigan's forests are protected in this budget with \$4 million in new funding for wildfire protection and forest management through the hiring of 10 new foresters. Continued funding in the amount of \$2.5 million is provided for the Qualified Forest Program designed to assist landowners in private forest management while providing the economic benefit of harvests on non-industrial private forest land.
- A new investment of \$1 million is provided for the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps, helping put youth and returning veterans to work in protecting our natural resources.
- \$6.5 million in added funding for the repair and maintenance of state parks.
- \$1.9 million to protect Michiganders by maintaining the current Hazardous Waste Management program.
- \$1 million for a recycling initiative to increase the number of counties with convenient access to recycling.
- \$4 million to support the Water Quality and Use Initiative, which focuses on developing a comprehensive water strategy to address the increased demand for water quality. Also recommended is \$2.5 million for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund.
- \$3 million devoted to clean up leaking underground storage tanks.

Arts and Culture Highlights

- A vibrant arts and culture sector is essential to creating strong communities, growing our economy and enhancing our overall quality of life.
- \$2 million will be devoted to increasing the visibility of this vital sector; supporting arts education; encouraging creative and innovative works of art; and broadening cultural understanding.

Ensuring Food Safety Highlights

- The safety and quality of Michigan's food supply is vital to the health of our state.
- \$1.8 million will increase the number of inspectors for food and dairy safety to meet the expanding needs in the milk and food processing markets.
- \$800,000 to continue the pesticide and plant-pest management program, which is responsible for the production, distribution and use of pesticides, animal feed and fertilizer products.

Stronger Communities Highlights

- Michigan is only as strong as its communities. Whether it's a small community or one of our urban cores, Michigan's future depends on leadership and success at the local level.
- To assist with the Detroit bankruptcy and in an effort to reduce impacts on city pensioners, a total of \$17.5 million over 20 years is set aside annually in tobacco settlement reserves to resolve ongoing issues in the bankruptcy of Detroit.
- New funding of \$36 million is provided to support governments across Michigan through the Economic Vitality Incentive Program, enhancing incentive-based funding, helping high-need communities and rewarding others that adopt best practices.
- Local governments are supported with \$764.9 million in constitutional revenue sharing payments and \$211.2 million in county payments.
- \$2.5 million for the Regional Prosperity Program, which encourages communities to work

collaboratively to develop regional economic development models.

Good Government Highlights

- Taxpayers deserve effective, efficient government at all levels. This budget dedicates resources to help give taxpayers the best service possible.
- Michigan's trial courts need a single case management system to improve efficiency. A total of \$4.1 million is recommended for the implementation of the Next Generation Michigan Court System, moving the state's trial courts to a single case management system linking all locations and bringing greater efficiency to case management. A total of \$1 million is also provided for the Trial Court Performance Innovation Fund, providing grants to trial courts with innovative ideas for improving court performance and service to citizens.
- \$18 million is dedicated to Unemployment Insurance Agency to maintain customer service while pursuing process improvements in the midst of reduced federal support. An additional \$2.4 million is provided for designing an application for mobile filing of unemployment claims.
- \$1.8 million is provided for fraud detection within the Department of State, helping to reduce fraud during vehicle registration renewals and improving data analytics for fraud prevention.

Fiscal Responsibility Highlights

- Upon taking office, the governor faced a \$1.5 billion budget deficit. Working with his legislative partners, that deficit was erased, and Michigan is now able to reinvest in its priorities. This success is due to Michigan's return to fiscal discipline.
- \$120 million will be deposited into the Budget Stabilization ("Rainy Day") Fund, bringing the total balance to \$700 million. When the governor first took office, the fund was at a mere \$2.2 million.
- \$122 million into the newly created Michigan Health Savings Fund to offset future health care costs. When combined with the Rainy Day Fund balance of \$700 million, the state's total savings is \$822 million.
- The governor's focus on paying down debt and solving our long-term liabilities continues with this budget with an increase of \$270 million to fund the retirement liabilities within the school retirement system over and above the district share which is now capped at 20.96%, providing stability to the system and ensuring that the retirement promises made to teachers are kept.

Preventative Maintenance Highlights

- Investing in the maintenance of state facilities is the prudent thing to do. Wise investments now help to prevent higher costs later, which is good news for taxpayers.
- \$5 million in increased funding for infrastructure investments in state facilities, avoiding future upkeep that would result in higher costs, bringing the total investment to \$33 million.

Technology Highlights

- Investments in technology are a key driver for improved government efficiency and cost savings for taxpayers.
- \$28 million is proposed for the Information Technology Investment Fund to support various IT-related projects, including upgrades and replacements of outdated computer systems.

END



Fueling Michigan's Future The Comeback Continues

Budget Highlights

- Budget total: \$52.1 billion
- General Fund budget total: \$9.8 billion
- School Aid Fund total: \$12.2 billion

Education Highlights

- \$11.7 billion for K-12 education alone, a \$1 billion increase in state funding for classrooms over FY 2011.
- \$150 million toward the foundation allowance, which equates to a range of \$83 to \$111 per student.
- \$270 million for retirement liabilities to help districts ensure retirement promises are kept.
- \$80.3 million for our public universities, an increase of 6.1%.
- \$8.9 million for community colleges – an increase of 3%.
- \$65 million for early childhood education, eliminating the waiting list.
- \$2 million to pilot voluntary year-round school programs to enhance learning.
- \$27.8 million for evaluation tools and systems for teachers and administrators.
- \$1.8 million in for dual enrollment, allowing students to earn college credits while still in high school.
- \$80 million to reward K-12 schools that incorporate best practices.
- \$50 million in technology infrastructure grants to help districts meet online learning needs.
- \$5 million to assist with consolidation of school districts or services.
- \$10 million in emergency reserves for financially distressed school districts.

Tax Relief Highlights

- Provides \$102.7 million to expand the Homestead Property Tax credit.
- Benefits low- and middle-income working families, seniors and those with disabilities.
- Generates increased tax refunds for 1.3 million taxpayers.

Job Growth Highlights

- \$385,000 to create the Office for New Americans to attract immigrants with advanced academic degrees.
- \$5 million for the Automotive, Engineering and Manufacturing Technology Fund.
- \$10 million for the skilled trades training program helping address job-to-talent mismatches.
- \$100 million in bond funds for an engineering talent investment program.
- \$50 million in bond funds for a community college skilled-trades initiative.
- \$2 million for the Food and Agriculture Industry Growth Initiative.
- \$2 million for the Pure Michigan campaign, a smart investment for the economy.
- \$15 million for community revitalization and business attraction efforts.
- \$2 million for increasing the visibility of arts and culture programs.

Health Investment Highlights

- \$15.7 million in gross funding for the Healthy Kids Dental program, allowing expansion into Kalamazoo and Macomb counties and the addition of 100,000 more kids receiving dental care.
- \$2.5 million to expand rural prenatal health visitations.
- \$15.6 million to support recommendations by the Michigan Mental Health and Wellness Commission.
- \$3 million for university autism programs aimed at training autism treatment providers.

- \$6.1 million for jail diversion programs, diverting people with mental illness or developmental disabilities from the criminal justice system and providing them with needed medical attention.
- \$1.7 million to increase the number of inspectors for food and dairy safety.

Transportation, Technology and Preventive Maintenance Highlights

- \$254 million to improve roads and bridges and transportation systems across the state.
- \$28 million for upgrades and replacement of outdated state computer systems.
- \$5 million in increased funding for infrastructure investments in state facilities, avoiding future upkeep that would result in higher costs, bringing the total investment to \$33 million.

Senior and Veteran Highlights

- \$5 million for home-delivered meals and in-home services for seniors, eliminating the waiting list.
- \$9 million to help seniors and residents with disabilities who might otherwise be living in a nursing home to receive needed care and services in their own homes, eliminating the waiting list.
- \$1 million for training and awareness of recently passed elder abuse laws.
- \$5 million to create a state tuition assistance program for Air and Army National Guard personnel.
- \$750,000 for the Veteran Service Coalition to help manage the workload of Veterans Services Organizations.

Public Safety Highlights

- \$17.8 million to train an additional 100 state troopers and 31 motor carrier officers.
- \$25.3 million to replace equipment within the Michigan Public Safety Communications System, helping ensure emergency first responders can share information quickly.
- \$750,000 to implement an electronic warrant-to-disposition system to improve the timeliness of arrests.
- \$6.7 million to enhance cyber security and protect computer systems.
- \$500,000 to expand initiatives focused on anti-bullying and hate crimes.

Environment and Natural Resources Highlights

- \$3.5 million to hire and train 25 additional DNR conservation officers to enforce conservation laws.
- \$6 million to combat invasive species.
- \$2.5 million to make Michigan the "Trail State."
- \$4 million for wildfire protection and forest management to hire new foresters.
- \$1 million is provided for the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps.
- \$6.5 million for the repair and maintenance of state parks.
- \$1.9 million for the Hazardous Waste Management Program.
- \$1 million for recycling to increase the number of counties with convenient access to recycling.
- \$4 million for water quality initiatives to develop a comprehensive water strategy.
- \$3 million devoted to clean up leaking underground storage tanks.

Local Government Highlights

- \$36 million to support governments across Michigan through the Economic Vitality Incentive Program.
- \$764.9 million in constitutional revenue; \$211.2 million in county payments.
- \$2.5 million for the Regional Prosperity Program to encourage local collaboration.
- \$17.5 million annually over 20 years to assist in the Detroit bankruptcy and reduce impacts on city pensioners.

Fiscal Responsibility Highlights

- \$120 for the Budget Stabilization (Rainy Day) Fund, bringing the total balance to \$700 million.
- \$122 for the newly created Michigan Health Savings Fund, a sub-fund of the Rainy Day Fund.
- Total in state savings accounts: \$822 million (Rainy Day Fund and health sub-fund).



February Luncheon to Focus On Regional Healthcare



Our next Quarterly Luncheon will be held on February 20th at noon. It will be at the Metro Health Conference Center located at the Metro Health Campus in Wyoming Michigan. (M-6 and Byron Center Avenue)

Healthcare is one of the key emerging issues not only our region, but also our state and nation. Michael Faas, President and CEO of Metro Health Hospital and Metro Health Corporation will speak to us about “2014: Healthcare Strategies and the Impact for West Michigan”.

Metro Health is an integrated healthcare system including Metro Health Hospital a 208 bed general acute care teaching hospital; 12 neighborhood physician offices located throughout West Michigan; nationally-recognized heart and vascular services; a cancer center developed in partnership with the University of Michigan and many joint ventures with other healthcare providers.

Reservations can be made at our website, gvmc.org or by contacting Gayle at mccrathg@gvmc.org. Tickets are \$25.00 each. If you have a group attending, reserved tables of 8 can be purchased for \$200.

Board of Directors Meeting

February 20, 2014

10:00-1:30

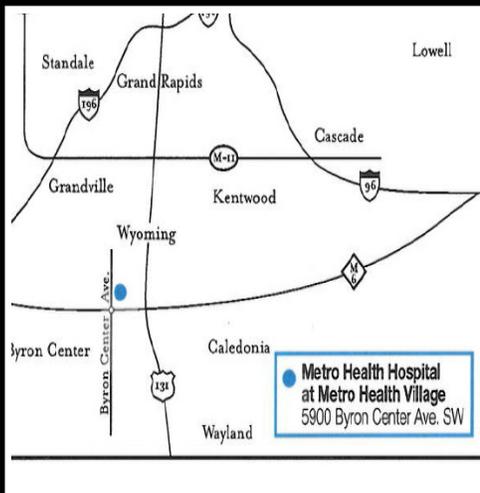
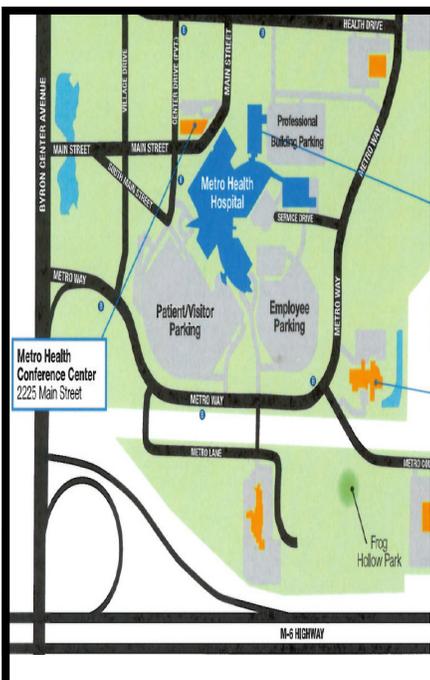
Metro Health Campus

**Vic Krause Conference Room
(inside the hospital)**

Our meeting will focus on Community Conversation lead by the Center for Michigan.

The Center for Michigan is a non-profit think-and-do tank, that strives to be the state’s “Citizenship Company”. The Center would like to take this opportunity to gather as many opinions as possible about Michigan from a broad group of elected officials. GVMC provides them with a unique opportunity to bring together a diversified group of city, county and township officials. **We welcome all members of your board to participate in this activity with the Center for Michigan. Please invite your colleagues to join us.**

The Board Meeting Be Held Inside Metro Health Hospital. The Quarterly Luncheon in the Metro Health Conference Center.



Reminder

Please Invite Fellow Board Members and staff to attend our Board Meeting on February 20th at 10:00 AM. The Center for Michigan needs their opinions too!



Recent GVMC Public Presentations

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in public presentations about GVMC and our many activities in the region. The evening that Mayor Jack Poll of Wyoming gave his "State of City Address", I was also on Wyoming's agenda for an update on Grand Valley Metro Council. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about our efforts on the same night that the Mayor expressed his vision for the future of his City.



A few days later, I was the featured speaker for the Bryon Center Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. Over 100 area business leaders attended the event and learned about our many programs and the ways in which we assist local government collaboration and cooperation.

There was a great deal of interest expressed in our transportation, REGIS, environmental and cooperation programs. The Byron Chamber of Commerce was the largest business group thus far to hear about GVMC and our programs.

Special Board Meeting on February 20th

The Center for Michigan is a non-profit, nonpartisan think-and-do tank, that strives to be the state's "Citizenship Company" They will be conducting a special Community Conversation with GVMC Board Members and local government officials at our next meeting. We are pleased to invite **all** local elected and appointed officials from our members to attend this special session. It will be held at Metro Health Hospital from 10:30-11:45 am on February 20th.

GVMC welcomes all our member communities to bring other elected officials and senior staff representatives to attend this special meeting. This Special Meeting provides a unique opportunity for GVMC member communities to provide our opinions on the issues critical to the future of Michigan. Please invite others from your community to attend!



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