



Lenawee County

February, 2017 Newsletter



From the Administrator

Martin D. Marshall

Monday, February 20, 2017
Presidents Day
County Business Offices are closed

The Board of Commissioners held the organizational meeting of the board on January 5th. David Stimpson was unanimously voted into a two year term as board chairperson. Commissioner Terry Collins was elected as Vice-Chair of the commission. At the January 11th meeting all of the standing committees were continued without change with the exception of the Physical Resources Committee which will now be chaired by Commissioner Knoblauch.

The commissioners accepted a bid from Novogradac & Company LLP to perform a Housing Needs Assessment and Target Market Analysis encompassing all of Lenawee County. Funding for the study will come from program income through the residential rehabilitation grants that the County has received for many years. Having the study available to the County and to other communities within the county make it possible to apply for grants and other funding through State and Federal programs.

The board also approved an additional program with Honeywell to provide ongoing, real-time, monitoring and adjustment of the heating and cooling systems in the Judicial Building and the Human Services Building. The Energy Management Setpoint Optimization Program has been in place for approximately one year and the performance to date indicates an annual savings to the County of over \$22,000. This service is possible because of the prior changes to County systems that have already saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in utility and maintenance costs.

A proclamation in recognition of local school board members was passed by the commission acknowledging the important role that the board members of our public school system play in providing educational opportunities to more than 15,500 students in Lenawee County. The Board of Commissioners proclaimed January 2017 as Local School Board Member Recognition Month in the county.

Several County officials, including five commissioners, took part in the Lenawee Visioning kick-off meeting held on January 26th at Siena Heights University. The two sessions of the kick-off were well attended with a total of about 150 participants. The next steps in this process are to hold civic forums to obtain information and recruit additional participants to work on a strategic vision that incorporates the entire Lenawee County community. Priorities developed from the comments in the civic forums will be presented to focus groups to create an action plan to achieve the goals identified in the community.

2017 Regular Meeting Dates
Lenawee County Board of Commissioners

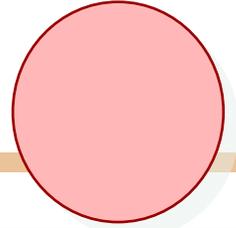
Wednesday at 1:30 P.M.

January 11	February 8
March 8	April 12
May 10	June 14
July 12	August 9
September 13	October 11
November 8	December 13

All are welcome to attend!



Official Business



Actions taken by Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners accepted the proposal from Novogradac & Company LLP in the amount of \$25,000 to perform a Housing Assessment and Target Market Analysis. The last Housing Needs Assessment in Lenawee was conducted in 2003. The Housing Assessment and Target Market Analysis will include the basic findings of:

- 1) Type of units that could be developed in the study area
- 2) The locations where different types of housing should see maximum success
- 3) Amenities, floorplans, and building types to concentrate on
- 4) The size and composition of the targets for different housing types
- 5) A rough indication of the absorption rate and period
- 6) Any major impediments to housing development that can be described

Funding for the Housing Needs Assessment will come from a grant and the Community Development Block Grant program income.

The Board of Commissioners also:

- ADOPTED the Depository and Investment annual policy (RES#2017-001)
- ADOPTED resolution #2017-002 appointing Michael Bartolo, David Erickson, Joseph Fenicle, Glenn Richard, and Scott Warnke to the 2017 Peer Group and approving the 2017 Peer Group contracts
- APPROVED the remonumentation monumentation and research agreements with Associated Engineers and Surveyors and Bartolo Surveying
- APPROVED the police protection contracts with the Village of Britton, Village of Deerfield, and Macon Township
- APPROVED the Energy Management Setpoint Optimization Program annual service agreement for 2017

Local school board members are exceptional people who tackle the enormous job of governing school districts, and demonstrate, to the over 15,500 K-12 students in Lenawee County, the high character of civic duty and responsibility that all citizens should engage.

Lenawee County Board of Commissioners recognize the contributions of the local boards of education to the academic success of public school students, and express its sincerest appreciation for their focus on the well-being and achievement of children throughout the county; and Proclaimed January as Local School Board Member Recognition Month



Scholarships: Lenawee County Board of Commissioners

Overview

The Lenawee County Commissioners Scholarship was established in 2007. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a Lenawee County graduating senior, who is pursuing a career in political science/government, criminal justice/public safety or business/economics.

Qualifications

- ✓ Applicant must be graduating from a high school in Lenawee County.
- ✓ Applicant must be applying for College Scholarships through LCEF.
- ✓ Applicant must be a high school senior.
- ✓ Applicant must be pursuing a career in political science/government, criminal justice/public safety or business/economics.

Quick Facts

- 📅 Apply by Feb 24, 2017
- 🏆 \$500.00

Scholarship opportunities... there are people out there who care about your future.

Many scholarships for Lenawee County graduates are available through the Lenawee Community Foundation, Lenawee County Education Foundation, or your local school district. See your guidance counselor for scholarships specific to your school. Visit the Lenawee County Education Foundation website <http://www.lenaweecef.org/> for scholarships available to any Lenawee County graduate, or contact the Lenawee Community Foundation at 517-423-1729.





Highlights



State report says Michigan needs additional \$4B per year

"Michigan's infrastructure investment gap exceeds \$60 billion over the next 20 years with an annual investment gap of approximately \$4 billion," states the final report of a commission appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The 21st Century Infrastructure Commission reviewed data and held hearings around the state in compiling the lengthy report, which examines Michigan's infrastructure needs from water delivery to digital networks.

Michigan ranks at the bottom of the spectrum for percentage of a state's budget dedicated to infrastructure and the current state of our infrastructure as a result of the apparent neglect, the commission found. It concluded, "Current taxes and user fees do not raise sufficient revenue and the state lacks sustainable funding sources to build infrastructure systems for today, as well as for the future."

In addition to calling for a significant annual investment, the Commission examined asset management and developed long-term strategies for dealing with our infrastructure needs.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

For more information, contact Deena Bosworth, bosworth@micounties.org or 517-372-5374.

Where is Michigan Today?

For more than half a century, we have not fully addressed the challenges facing our infrastructure systems. As a result, the problems we face today threaten our day-to-day quality of life.



'Open and obvious' defense to be allowed in sidewalk claims

Townships will soon have an additional defense for sidewalk falls under a newly signed bill. [HB 4686](#), sponsored by former Rep. Harvey Santana (D-Detroit), is now PA 419 of 2016 and will take effect April 4. The new law was supported by MTA and is meant to address the "trip and fall" lawsuits that local units face from citizens seeking compensation for injuries due to the thousands of miles of sidewalks they build and maintain. Currently, private business owners can use what's known as an "open and obvious" defense against such a lawsuit. This means they're protected if someone is injured as a result of an obviously dangerous sidewalk condition. Under PA 419, local units will also be able to use this defense, likely decreasing liability claims against municipalities.

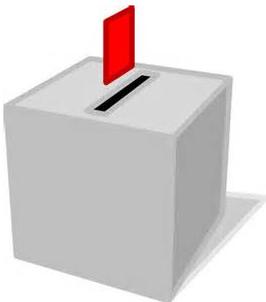
VITA Tax Filing Assistance

Trained and IRS certified volunteers are available to prepare your Federal, State and City (if applicable) tax returns. This service is provided by the Community Action Agency (CAA) who sponsors the IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. FREE tax preparation is available for anyone with a household income of up to \$54,000.

Call CAA at 517-263-7861 or dial 211 to schedule your free appointment.



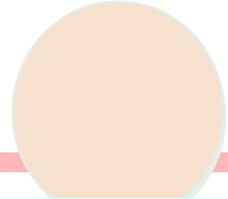
Lenawee County will be getting new voting equipment. Three digital optical scan systems have been approved by the state. The County Clerk's Office, along with local clerks will attend demonstrations of the new equipment within the next couple months, to determine what system will work best for our county. The rollout of the systems is expected to be gradual, occurring later this year or early next year.



Lenawee County Human Services Building
River Raisin Room
Thursdays
(5 to 6 pm)
Cost: \$10/Drop In
Or \$48/6 week session
No Experience Necessary!
Contact Rhonda Carrier at 517-439-9357
for more info!



Highlights



WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR LENAWEE COUNTY?

BY WORKING TOGETHER WE
CAN ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE
GOOD OF LENAWEE COUNTY.

UNIFY
IDENTIFY
DEVELOP
ENCOURAGE

individual efforts & impacts
and deal with gaps and overlaps
a common vision for Lenawee that has long-term benefits
all groups to develop their own visions and action plans,
bearing in mind how their own unique missions contribute to
the good of the greater Lenawee community

CIVIC FORUMS

Attend and help develop a common vision and prioritize goals for our County. Your input, creativity, and ideas are needed to make this effort successful!

- Blissfield: Tuesday, February 7
5:30-7:30pm, Village Hall
- Onsted: Wednesday, February 15
6:30-8:30pm, Cambridge Township Hall
- Hudson: Thursday, February 23
4:00-6:00pm, Hudson Community Center
- Adrian: Monday, February 27
6:00-8:00pm, Adrian District Library
- Tecumseh: Wednesday, March 8
6:30-8:30pm, AJ Smith Recreation Center

FOCUS GROUPS

The priorities we developed in the civic forums will be developed into action plans to help us achieve these goals together!

Joseph Williams
Joseph.Williams@oldnational.com
517-815-5047



one Lenawee

The Greater Lenawee Tobacco Reduction Coalition invites students to participate in an exciting and educational poster contest.

The poster contest "Love Your Lungs – Keep Them Smoke Free" promotes student awareness of the harmful effects of both smoking and second-hand smoke. It has proven to be educational and beneficial to students and their families for the last eight years. Last year over 600 students from across the county submitted art for the "Love Your Lungs – Keep Them Smoke Free" poster contest!

This contest is open to all Lenawee County students in grades 4 through 8. **The rules and requirements for the students' submissions can be found on the website. Posters must be submitted to the Health Department by March 9, 2017 by 4:30 pm.**
www.lenawee.mi.us/HealthDepartment

Pesticide Applicators Exam Date

February 23, 2017 - 9:00 am
to Register go to
michigan.gov/pestexam

Human trafficking

the ugly, and often hidden truth is, it is REAL and in our community ...

Learn how you can be **MORE:** **Aware**
Proactive
Resourceful

Lenawee County Health Department welcomes:

Speaker: Trooper Duffin
Date: February 3, 2017, in the River Raisin Room
Location: the Health and Human Services Building
Time: 1:00 to 2:30pm

For more information, or to RSVP, contact Lisa Nelson, FNP, Lenawee Co Health Department Reproductive Health Services @ 517 264 5231, or email: Lmconnell@hline.org

You might be the only person to ever suspect the child, adult, woman, man is a victim. SEE something, SAY something

February 28th -
last day to purchase your 2017 dog license at \$10.00

