



### From the Administrator



*Martin D. Marshall*

On November 7th, next Tuesday, the voters of Lenawee County will have the opportunity to directly affect the programs and services of the county and determine the direction of county funding for the future. The question before the voters of Lenawee County is the "Renewal of Separate Tax Limitation Proposal." The success or failure of the proposal will directly impact operations of county government. Our primary concern is that when voters cast their votes next week they do so with an understanding of the policy and financial results of this proposal.

The purpose of the proposal is to renew and establish the maximum authorized millage rate for County operations, general law townships and the allocated portion of the intermediate school district. In the case of Lenawee County, the millage rate has been reduced over time from the 5.75 mills approved in 1968 to the current 4.9412. The renewal would restore the maximum authorized to 5.75 mills.

There has been some misinformation about what the ballot proposal says and how to vote to either fund services or not fund services. As stated above, the renewal sets the maximum authorized levy. The County of Lenawee would use a portion of that increased authorization to continue to fund the services that are offered today. Simply put, a YES vote continues funding for all programs and services currently in place; a NO vote reduces or eliminates some of those programs and services.

There have also been questions concerning which programs and services would be reduced or eliminated. The Board of Commissioners have two different budget recommendations before them at their meeting on November 8th; the day after the election. One recommendation, predicated on the ballot proposal passing, funds all current operations. The other recommendation, in the event the proposal fails, reduces and eliminates programs and services to maintain a balanced and affordable budget.

Information about the budgets and the funding affected is available on the County website. In brief, if the ballot issue fails, funding for road patrol, 4-H programs, recycling, soil conservation, economic development and special court programs will be reduced or eliminated completely. This is not something that the Board of

Commissioners wishes to do. However, the commissioners are responsible for the financial health of county government and they have constitutional and statutory requirements to provide certain offices and services. Simply put, they are required to fund some programs. Others are funded, or not, with any remaining funds.

It should be clear that this ballot proposal will set the direction for Lenawee County in the coming years; determining what programs and services will be available to county residents. There is information on the county website to inform voters on this important decision.



LENAWEE COUNTY  
Investing in *You*

## Town Hall

Meeting

*Please Join Us*

**Lenawee County will hold a town hall meeting to discuss the November 7th ballot proposal to renew the separate tax limitations.**

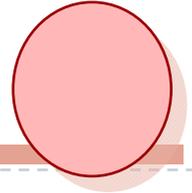
**TONIGHT (Nov 1) at 6:00 pm in the Chamber room of the Old Courthouse located at 301 N. Main Street, Adrian, MI**



# Official Business

From the Board of Commissioners

[Board Minutes are available online](#)



Drain Commissioner, Jenny Escott, provided the **2017 Annual Drain Assessment**.

As requested by the County Clerk, the **Board of Commissioners appointed Richard Germond and Carol Timm** to the Board of Canvassers by way of ballot vote.

Please Join Us!

**Legislative Dinner**  
Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Contact the Administrator's Office for more info  
[www.lenawee.mi.us](http://www.lenawee.mi.us)

The Lenawee County Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking recommendations for appointment of a veteran to serve as a committee member on their Executive Committee .  
More info #264-5335



**SINCE THE BIRTH OF OUR NATION**, patriots have stepped forward to serve our country and defend our way of life. With honor and distinction, generations of servicemen and women have taken up arms to win our independence, preserve our Union, and secure our freedom. From the Minutemen to our post-9/11 generation, these heroes have put their lives on the line so that we might live in a more safe, free, and just world.

**WHEREAS** on Veterans Day, we salute those that have served in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Navy; for they have rendered the highest service any American can offer and we owe them a profound debt of gratitude.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that in the United States of America, no war should be forgotten, and no veteran should be overlooked. Let us always remember our wounded, our missing, our fallen, and their families.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that while communities throughout Lenawee County celebrate our veterans' immeasurable contributions and draw inspiration from their example, that they are also reminded that our obligations to our veterans endure long after the battle ends.

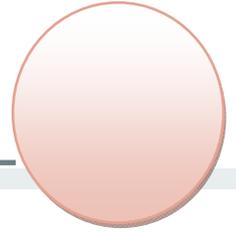
**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Lenawee County Board of Commissioners announces a BUDGET HEARING for the 2018 General Fund Budget at 1:35 P.M. on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017 at the Old Courthouse, County Commissioners Chambers, 301 North Main Street, Adrian, MI. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

**PROPOSED MILLAGE RATES FOR 2018 BUDGET:**

- County Operating: 5.4000
- Lenawee Medical Care Facility Special: .1896
- Department on Aging Special: .7320
- Veterans Relief: .0000



# Highlights



Check out these things going on around our county:

**BREAK THE CHAIN**  
 Thursday, November 2, 2017  
 6-7:30PM - Doors open at 5:30PM  
 Crowell Opera House  
 129 E. Maumee Street, Adrian, Michigan 49221



County Business Offices will be **CLOSED**  
 Thursday  
 November 23rd  
 &  
 Friday  
 November 24th

What are you *thankful* for?

**Medicare.gov**  
 The Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare

Each year, you have a chance to make changes to your Medicare Advantage or Medicare prescription drug coverage for the following year. There are 2 separate enrollment periods each year.

**LDA LENAWEE**  
 DEPARTMENT ON AGING

**ADULT FLU CLINICS!**

**NEWS**

WHEN: Mondays through December (starting on September 11, 2017)  
 WHERE: Lenawee Co. Health Department  
 1040 S. Winter St. Adrian, MI  
 High Dose Flu available for persons 65 years +

CALL 517-264-5226 FOR AN APPOINTMENT

**Find us on: facebook.**

Lenawee County is Investing in *You*

**4th Annual Stubnitz Family Fall Celebration**  
 November 4, 2017  
 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
 Heritage Park, Adrian

Live animal programs, guided trail hikes, kids' crafts, and refreshments

Please save the date and join us for the Stubnitz Family Fall Celebration for people of all ages.

This FREE event helps us promote environmental education and will acknowledge all the donors of the 2017-18 LEED Stubnitz Environmental Education Program fundraising drive.

For more information, contact Kerry Nieman 517-268-6691 or kerry@lenawee.org

LEED Stubnitz Environmental Education Program need your support!  
 To donate online please visit: [lenawee.org](http://lenawee.org)  
 1001 N. 10th Hwy  
 Adrian, MI 49221

**Investing in Health. Investing in You.**

By providing award winning preventative care, promoting healthy lifestyles, and protecting the public, we are investing in the health of Lenawee County.

VISIT [Lenawee.Mi.us](http://Lenawee.Mi.us) OR CALL (888) 264-5226

LENAWEE COUNTY MICHIGAN

**Adult Mental Health FIRST AID TRAINING**

KNOW THE SIGNS    LEARN THE ACTIONS    BE A LIFELINE

**BLOG**  
[www.lenawee.mi.us/Blog](http://www.lenawee.mi.us/Blog)  
 Check it out!

Have something to share: send your non-profit, community event to

[County.Administrator@lenawee.mi.us](mailto:County.Administrator@lenawee.mi.us)

We believe Lenawee is the greatest county in Michigan. That's why we continue to invest in a wide range of county programs and services to make this the best place to live in Michigan. Investing in our communities. Investing in our citizens. Investing in You.



# Highlights



**Renewal of the tax limitation will retain services like road patrol, 4-H, economic development, recycling, senior services, parks, and more to support our communities and enhance our quality of life. These programs attract employers, investors and new families to our county.**

### What will the proposed impact be on my taxes?

The Countywide impact expected 2018 additional levy on \$100,000 home:

- ½ mill
- \$25 per year without township levy
- For 50% of population \$25 per year
- Others range from \$25 - \$43 per year

**Question:** What County services are mandated and which are non-mandated?

**Answer:** Listed below are most of the mandated and non-mandated services. There are also county departments that exist in support of both mandated and non-mandated functions such as the Maintenance Department, Information Technology and Administration.

### Mandated Functions

- Courts
- Jail
- Constitutional Offices
- Care of children
- Defense of indigent offenders
- Public health
- Equalization
- Veterans Affairs
- Drain Commission
- Medical Examiner

### Non-Mandated Services

- Public Transportation
- Road and Marine Patrol
- MSU Extension and 4-H
- Economic Development
- Senior services
- Parks
- Specialty Courts
- Recycling
- Conservation Service
- Economic Crimes – Loss Recovery

**A YES** vote on this proposal will continue funding for:

- Road & Marine Officer Patrol
- 4-H
- Job growth
- Parks
- Recycling
- Justice for businesses

**A NO** vote on this proposal will mean:

- Reduced officer patrol which impacts citizen safety
- Drastically reduced 4-H funding
- Elimination of job growth funding
- Elimination of parks program
- Elimination of recycling
- Elimination of business justice program

If you have any questions, **PLEASE** contact the Administrator's Office 517-264-4508

***This proposal is supported by***

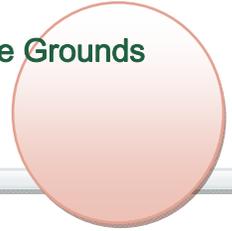
Lenawee County Michigan Township Association Board  
Lenawee County Police Chiefs Association  
Lenawee County Fire Chiefs Association  
One Lenawee





## Lenawee County is Investing in Parks by Maintaining and Enhancing the Grounds

Posted on October 1, 2017 at 5:24 PM by Jennifer Ambrose



Lenawee County is home to a lush landscape that is rich with native wildlife. Residents of all ages can connect with nature and enjoy a variety of recreational activities at our many local parks. According to a recent survey, 98% of

Lenawee County residents have visited at least one of the public parks and 25% of residents reported that they visit the local parks on a weekly basis.

Brian Sills, a resident of Blissfield brings his young children to the Lenawee County parks to enjoy the many family-oriented activities. "We like to come up to the park to walk on the trails or play on the playground. In the winter we like to go sledding," explains Brian. "We would miss having the park if it wasn't available."

The 419 acres of parkland and miles of trails in our parks are maintained by the Lenawee County Parks Department. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life in Lenawee County by providing recreational, social and cultural opportunities for the public. They also play a role in the preservation, conservation, restoration and promotion of the natural, scenic and historical resources in Lenawee County.

### Gerber Hill Park – A Hidden Gem

There is a long history behind Gerber Hill Park. It was formed by glaciers, which left a sand base where the park is now located. With over 40 acres of land, this park provides many family-friendly activities, such as horseshoe pits, soccer and baseball fields, basketball and volleyball courts, playgrounds and a sledding hill for winter months. There is also a pond where visitors can observe local wildlife.

The park has also become a second home to local cross country running teams. Longtime resident Al Navarro has been coming to Gerber Hill Park for years. After complaining that his cross country team at Blissfield Community Schools was unable to compete in hilly areas, he was contacted by Frank Gerber who offered use of the park's rolling landscape for the team to practice. "He offered to cut the grass for us and cut some trails for us," Al recalls. "This park is a hidden gem because unless you are actually from the area you don't know what's out here."

Bob Griffin is the cross country coach for Britton Deerfield Schools. He brings his cross country teams to practice at the park on a regular basis. "It is close to our school and it's close to home," says Bob. "It is very well-maintained and it has the perfect mix of flat areas, rolling hills and steep hills. It is the perfect cross country course."

### Features and Benefits of Local Parks

In addition to Gerber Hill Park, there are many other local parks that residents can enjoy within the county, including Bicentennial, Iron Lake, Medina and Ramsdell. Each park offers its own unique atmosphere. Some parks are more developed, while others are geared toward preserving nature. Most parks offer picnic shelters with grills, playground equipment, sports fields and various recreational activities, such as hiking, fishing, boating and biking.

The parks are open from 8:00 a.m. until dusk from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, unless otherwise noted. During the off-season, the parks are open on weather permitting weekends. There is no entry fee for any of the parks in the county.

### Adequate Funding is Key to Supporting the Parks

A successful parks recreation program usually relies on many sources of funding. The Lenawee County Parks Department relies on general tax dollars, grants, and gifts from citizens. Annual parks revenues in Lenawee County averaged about \$34,000 from 2009 through 2013. Ongoing support through tax revenue is critical to ensuring that the parks remain open and in good condition.

### Investing in Parks, Investing in You

The county parks are a valued resource for all citizens. The Lenawee County Parks Department is committed to maintaining 'green space' for the benefit of our residents and to preserve and protect wildlife in the area. Lenawee County has updated its five-year parks and recreation plan to define its goals and objectives through the year 2019. This plan outlines the existing recreation facilities and programs within the county and describes the desired action to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities in the future.

Ongoing maintenance and upkeep is critical to keeping the parks in excellent condition for the residents of Lenawee County. This will ensure that individuals and families will continue to enjoy the parks for many years to come.

**For more information about how Lenawee County is investing in parks, visit us online or call 1-888-448-1387.**

VISIT [Lenawee.MI.US/Investing](http://Lenawee.MI.US/Investing)  
Or call (888) 448-1387



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