



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9th Floor
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
586.469.5125 ~ Fax: 586.469.5993
www.macombBOC.com

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Commissioner James Carabelli**
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes dated April 21 and May 5, 2016 **(previously distributed)**
7. Presentation of Proclamation to the Cousino High School Girl's Basketball Team and Staff for Winning the 2016 MHSAA Championship **(attached)** **(page 1)**
8. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson related only to issues contained on the agenda)
9. Correspondence from Executive **(none)**
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a) Infrastructure/Economic Development, May 10 **(no report)**
 - b) Finance, May 11 **(page 3)** **(attached)**

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair
District 4

Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair
District 11

Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms
District 10

Andrey Duzyj – District 1
Don Brown – District 7

Marvin Sauger – District 2
Kathy Vosburg – District 8

Veronica Klinefelt – District 3
Fred Miller – District 9

Robert Mijac - District 5
Bob Smith – District 12

James Carabelli – District 6
Joe Sabatini – District 13

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FINAL AGENDA
MAY 11, 2016**

PAGE 2

11. Board Chair's Report (page 18) **(attached)**
12. Approve Request from Commissioner Kathy Vosburg to be Excused from Absences for 5-10-16 Infrastructure/Economic Development and 5-11-16 Finance and Full Board Meetings (attending a Community Mental Health Conference)
13. New Business
14. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)
15. Roll Call
16. Adjournment

Presentation of Proclamation:
Honoring the 2016 Paul K. Cousino High School Girls Basketball Team
on their Championship Season

1. Introduction – BOC Chair Dave Flynn

2. Welcoming Remarks
 - a. Commissioner Marv Sauger
 - b. Dr Sharon Irvine, WCS Chief Human Resources Officer and Acting Superintendent
 - c. Paul K. Cousino High School Principal Bradley Perkins

3. Congratulatory Remarks
 - a. Sheriff Anthony Wickersham
 - b. County Executive Mark Hackel
 - c. County Treasurer Derek Miller
 - d. Commissioner Kathy Tocco

4. Presentation of Proclamation – Joe Cochran (Warren TV)
 1. Athletic Director Aaron Setlak
 2. Head Coach Mike Lee
 3. Assistant Coach Mike Rocheleau
 4. Assistant Coach Gary Boehmer
 5. Assistant Coach Scott Freckelton
 6. Assistant Coach Dan Rocheleau
 7. Team Manager Sydney Vojtush
 8. Rachel Hayes
 9. Kierra Fletcher
 10. Kendall Homic
 11. Aubrey Fetzer
 12. Mackenzie Cook
 13. Kennedy Gasowski
 14. Meredith Hinz
 15. Mackenzie Anderson
 16. Aubrey Holman
 17. Hana Grebovic
 18. Sophie Moore
 19. Erin McArthur
 20. Kate McArthur

Official Proclamation of the Board of Commissioners
Macomb County, Michigan

**A Proclamation Honoring the 2016 Cousino High School
Girls Basketball Team on their
Championship Season**

Commissioner Marv Sauger
On Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offers the Following Proclamation:

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners congratulates the **2016 Cousino High School Girls Basketball Team** for their achievement of MAC Red Division Co-Champions for the first time in school history; and

Whereas, the **2016 Patriots Girls Basketball Team's** roster includes players: Erin McArthur, Rachel Hayes, Kierra Fletcher, Kendall Homic, Aubrey Fetzer, Mackenzie Cook, Kennedy Gasowski, Meredith Hinz, Mackenzie Anderson, Aubrey Holman, Hana Grebovic, Kate McArthur and Sophie Moore. The team is led by Head Coach Mike Lee with support from Assistant Coaches Gary Boehmer, Mike Rocheleau, Scott Freckleton and Dan Rocheleau; Athletic Trainer Jacki Dufour; Team Manager Sydney Vojtush and Athletic Director Aaron Setlak; and

Whereas, with an outstanding 23-4 record, the **2016 Patriots Girls Basketball Team** earned their way to the State Final Game for the first time in school history, finishing on top as the MHSAA Class A State Champions; and

Whereas, the **2016 Cousino High School Girls Basketball Team** was named the Macomb County Team of the Year, with coach Mike Lee also being named the Macomb County Coach of the Year; and

Whereas, the **2016 Patriots Girls Basketball Team** received many other accolades including: District Champions, Regional Champions, Quarterfinalists, State Semi-Finalists and All State Honors; and

Whereas, the **2016 Cousino High School Girls Basketball Team** also received the following collection of individual honors: All Conference in MAC Red 1st Team: Kierra Fletcher & Kate McArthur; All Conference MAC Red Honorable Mention: Mackenzie Anderson, Mackenzie Cook, Rachel Hayes and Aubrey Fetzer; MAC Red MVP: Kierra Fletcher; All County Honors: Kierra Fletcher - 1st Team Tier 1, First Team Overall, Mackenzie Anderson – 3rd Team Tier 1, 2nd Team Overall, Kate McArthur – 3rd Team Tier 1; Macomb County Player of the Year: Kierra Fletcher; 1st Team All State – BCAM: Kierra Fletcher; Detroit News Dream Team (All State): Kierra Fletcher; Detroit Free Press Dream Team (All State): Kierra Fletcher; Detroit News Honorable Mention (All State): Mackenzie Anderson; Detroit Free Press Honorable Mention (All State): Kate McArthur; All State Coach of the Year (Free Press and News): Mike Lee; Detroit News Dream Team Coach of the Year: Mike Lee; and Detroit Free Press Dream Team Coach of the Year: Mike Lee .

Now, Therefore Be it Proclaimed By the Board of Commissioners, Speaking For And On Behalf of All County Citizens As Follows:

I

That By These Presents, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners hereby publicly honors and congratulates all members of the **2016 Cousino High School Patriots Girls Basketball Team** on their spectacular season, including team and individuals accolades.

II

Be it Further Resolved that a suitable copy of this Proclamation be presented to Mike Lee, coach of the **2016 Cousino High School Patriots Girls Basketball Team** in testimony of the pride the Macomb County Board of Commissioners holds for this team.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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May 11, 2016

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FROM: FRED MILLER, CHAIR, FINANCE COMMITTEE

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING OF 5-11-16

At a meeting of the Finance Committee, held Wednesday, May 11, 2016, the following recommendations were made and are being forwarded to the May 11, 2016 Full Board meeting for approval:

1. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Mijac, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve MDOT contract for preventative maintenance work on Mound from I-696 to Rinke; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Smith, supported by Marino, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the cost share agreement between the Department of Roads and Clinton Township for the resurfacing of Cimarron and Bayham; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Flynn, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve an increase in Macomb Community Action's fiscal year program by \$67,145 for the Community Services Block Grant Program; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair	Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair	Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms		
Andrey Duzyj – District 1	Marvin Sauger – District 2	Veronica Klinefelt – District 3	Robert Mijac - District 5	James Carabelli – District 6
Don Brown – District 7	Kathy Vosburg – District 8	Fred Miller – District 9	Bob Smith – District 12	Joe Sabatini – District 13

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Flynn, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve an increase in Macomb Community Action's fiscal year grant fund by \$613,338 due to an increase in federal funding for Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership. The increase in funding also requires an additional non-federal share contribution of \$22,371; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Flynn, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve an increase in Macomb Community Action's fiscal year program revenue and expenditure budget by \$58,750 for the Family Resource Center; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

6. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Flynn, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve an increase in Macomb Community Action's fiscal year program by \$12,500 for the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP); further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

7. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Flynn, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve an increase in Macomb Community Action's fiscal year program by \$424,327 for the Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP); further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

8. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Klinefelt, supported by Sabatini, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve an increase in the FY 2016 Community Corrections fiscal grant fund by \$100,000 to be utilized for additional contract services; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

9. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Sauger, supported by Duzyj, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve Paul Thurman to purchase 36 months of military service time in the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System under State Law MCLA 46.12a(14); further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

10. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Marino, supported by Sauger, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the amended meeting schedule; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

**A MOTION TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE REPORT WAS MADE BY CHAIR MILLER,
SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR BROWN.**



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

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RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve MDOT Contract for preventative maintenance work on Mound from I-696 to Rinke.

Introduced By:

Commissioners James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

This project is budgeted in the 2016 Road Construction budget.

Committee	Meeting Date
Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee	05/10/2016
Finance	5-11-16
Full Board	5-11-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve the Cost Share Agreement between the Department of Roads and Clinton Township for the resurfacing of Cimarron and Bayham.

Introduced By:

Commissioners James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

Committee	Meeting Date
Infrastructure/Economic Development	05/10/2016
Finance	5-11-16
Full Board	5-11-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Increase Macomb Community Action fiscal year program by \$67,145

*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately.

*(This language was added by Health and Human Services Committee Chair Duzyj.)

Introduced By:

Andrey Duzyj, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

The Community Services Block Grant 2015/2016 allocation has been increased from \$1,086,104 to \$1,153,249

*WAIVED TO FINANCE BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR.

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance*	5-11-16
Full Board	5-11-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Resolution to increase Macomb Community Action's fiscal year grant fund by \$613,338 due to an increase in federal funding for Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership. The increase in funding also requires an additional non-federal share contribution of \$22,371.

*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately.

*(This language was added by Health and Human Services Committee Chair Duzyj.)

Introduced By:

Andrey Duzyj, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

Federal	
<u>\$ 3,140,670</u>	03.01.2015-08.31.2016 Federal Award
(620,628)	FY 2014/2015 (Fund 301) Expenditures
<u>\$ 2,520,042</u>	Balance of Funds
(1,926,075)	FY 2015/2016 (Fund 302) Current Budget
<u>\$ 593,967</u>	FY 2015/2016 (Fund 302) Budget Adjustment
=====	

In-Kind	
<u>\$ 195,129</u>	03.01.2015-08.31.2016 Non-Federal Share
0	FY 2014/2015 (Fund 301) Expenditures
<u>195,129</u>	Balance of Required Non-Federal Share
(172,758)	FY 2015/2016 (Fund 302) Current Budget
<u>\$ 22,371</u>	FY 2015/2016 (Fund 302) Budget Adjustment
=====	

*WAIVED TO FINANCE BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR.

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance*	5-11-16
Full Board	5-11-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

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RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

To increase Macomb Community Action Fiscal Year Program Revenue and Expenditure Budget by \$58,750.

*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately.

*(This language was added by Health and Human Services Committee Chair Duzyj.)

Introduced By:

Andrey Duzyj, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

The Family Resource Center has secured rental agreements with three tenants, and the contract rental income for the fiscal year ending 9/30/16 is \$58,750.

*WAIVED TO FINANCE BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee

Meeting Date

Finance*

5-11-16

Full Board

5-11-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Increase Macomb Community Action fiscal year program by \$12,500</p> <p>*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission’s approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County’s Contracting Policy or the County’s Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately.</p> <p>*(This language was added by Health and Human Services Committee Chair Duzyj.)</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Andrey Duzyj, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee Chair</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>Increase in existing grant to provide direct client heating assistance for eligible Macomb County residents.</p> <p>*WAIVED TO FINANCE BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance*	5-11-16
Full Board	5-11-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Increase Macomb Community Action fiscal year program by \$424,327

*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately.

*(This language was added by Health and Human Services Committee Chair Duzyj.)

Introduced By:

Andrey Duzyj, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee Chair

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

This is a new program for Macomb Community Action and will benefit communities served by Great Lakes Water Authority that opt into the program. Assistance will be rendered in the form of bill payment assistance and an array of measures to enhance water use efficiency among recipient customers.

*WAIVED TO FINANCE BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance*	5-11-16
Full Board	5-11-16



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

--	--

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Authorize Paul Thurman to purchase 36 months of military service time in the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System under State Law MCLA 46.12a(14)

Introduced By:

Fred Miller, Chair, Finance Committee

Additional Background Information (if Needed):

See attached letter.

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance	5-11-16
Full Board	5-11-16



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 Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
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May 10, 2016

TO: Honorable Commissioners

FROM: Dave Flynn, Board Chairman *DF*

RE: Proposed Budget Cycle; Meetings Changes

CC: Mark Deldin, Deputy Executive; Steve Smiegal, Finance Director

As mentioned during the Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee meeting, I am proposing for your consideration: 1) a change to this year's budget cycle timeline, and 2) a modified committee meetings schedule. My reasons for proposing the changes are as follows:

1. A more accurate picture will be given with firm numbers for the 2017 budget, for 10 year projections and amounts of anticipated surplus or deficit
2. The 5-year Capital Improvement Plan will be included and incorporated
3. Mitigate workload for BOC staff during time of transition
4. Meeting space logistics

Budget Cycle Proposal

June 1	BOC submits memo language, performance-based budget expectations to Finance
June 14	Budget packages, including BOC-requested information, distributed to departments
July 15	Department budget packages due to Finance
July 19	Finance submits BOC-required budget documents from all departments to BOC
September 1	Recommended Budget, 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, 10-year Forecast including up-to-date General Fund surplus for current fiscal year, submitted in total to BOC
September 6	Budget Intro (Finance presentation) at Full Board before Government Operations Committee meeting
September 14	Finance Committee Meeting: Vote on 90-day Budget Continuation for Sept. 30 YE Funds
September 15	Full Board: Vote on Budget Continuation for Sept. 30 YE Funds
Sept-Nov.	Departmental Reviews, see pages 2 and 3 for current and proposed modified meeting schedules
December 1	Public Hearing on Recommended Budget; Finance Committee Meeting: Amend/Vote on Recommended Budget; Full Board: Amend/Vote on Recommended Budget
December 15	Full Board: Potential Overrides

Cont'd pg. 2

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Page 2 – Budget Cycle/Meetings Changes – May 10, 2016**CURRENT, Approved Meeting Schedule: June - December 2016***(below is the current schedule, as it stands, with no changes)*

June 7	Gov Ops
June 8	JPS, HHS
June 9	Finance, Full Board
June 14	Infra/ED
June 15	Finance
June 16	7pm Full Board
July 12	Full Board, Gov Ops
July 13	HHS
July 14	Finance, Full Board
July 18	JPS
July 19	Infra/ED
July 20	Finance
July 21	7pm Full Board
Aug. 1	12pm HHS
Aug. 2	Gov Ops
Aug. 3	JPS
Aug. 4	Finance, Full Board
Aug. 18	5pm Infra/ED, 7pm Full Board
Aug. 23	Finance
Sept. 6	Gov Ops - Budget Intro
Sept. 7	JPS, HHS
Sept. 8	Finance, Full Board
Sept. 13	Infra/ED
Sept. 14	Finance
Sept. 15	7pm Full Board
Sept. 22	Reserve Full Board
Sept. 29	Reserve Full Board
Oct. 4	Gov Ops
Oct. 5	JPS, HHS
Oct. 6	Finance/Full Board
Oct. 11	Infra/ED
Oct. 12	Finance
Oct. 13	7pm Full Board
Nov. 1	Gov Ops, Infra/ED
Nov. 2	JPS, HHS
Nov. 3	Finance, Full Board
Dec. 6	Gov Ops
Dec. 7	JPS/HHS
Dec. 8	Finance, Full Board
Dec. 13	Infra/ED
Dec. 14	Finance
Dec. 15	7pm Full Board

Proposed:**MODIFY** the dates on the current Approved MeetingSchedule:

July 12	Full Board , Gov Ops (Cancel Full Board only)
July 13	HHS, add JPS
July 18	JPS move to July 13
Aug. 1	HHS move to Aug. 4
Aug. 2	Gov Ops move to Aug. 4
Aug. 3	JPS , move to Aug. 4
Aug. 4	HHS, JPS, Gov Ops, Finance, Full Board (add HHS, JPS & Gov Ops before Finance/FB)
Aug. 23	Finance (Cancel)
Sept. 29	7pm Reserve Full Board (Cancel)

*See page 3 for list with proposed modifications included

Proposed:**ADD** the following **ADDITIONAL MEETINGS:**

Nov. 29	Finance (amendments)
Nov. 30	Finance (amendments)
Dec. 1	Public Hearing; Finance; Full Board

*See page 3 for list with proposed added meetings included

Page 3 – Budget Cycle/Meetings Changes – May 10, 2016PROPOSED, Modified Meeting Schedule: June - December 2016

(All proposed changes to current schedule are in red; strikethrough indicates cancellation)

June 7	Gov Ops
June 8	JPS, HHS
June 9	Finance, Full Board
June 14	Infra/ED
June 15	Finance
June 16	7pm Full Board
July 12	Full Board , Gov Ops
July 13	HHS, JPS
July 14	Finance, Full Board
July 18	JPS
July 19	Infra/ED
July 20	Finance
July 21	7pm Full Board
Aug. 1	12pm HHS
Aug. 2	Gov Ops
Aug. 3	JPS
Aug. 4	HHS, JPS, Gov Ops, Finance, Full Board
Aug. 18	5pm Infra/ED, 7pm Full Board
Aug. 23	Finance
Sept. 6	Full Board (budget intro), Gov Ops
Sept. 7	JPS, HHS
Sept. 8	Finance, Full Board
Sept. 13	Infra/ED
Sept. 14	Finance
Sept. 15	7pm Full Board
Sept. 22	Reserve Full Board
Sept. 29	Reserve Full Board
Oct. 4	Gov Ops
Oct. 5	JPS, HHS
Oct. 6	Finance, Full Board
Oct. 11	Infra/ED
Oct. 12	Finance
Oct. 13	7pm Full Board
Nov. 1	Gov Ops, Infra/ED
Nov. 2	JPS, HHS
Nov. 3	Finance, Full Board
Nov. 29	Finance (amendments)
Nov. 30	Finance (amendments)
Dec. 1	Public Hearing; Finance; Full Board
Dec. 6	Gov Ops
Dec. 7	JPS/HHS
Dec. 8	Finance/Full Board
Dec. 13	Infra/ED
Dec. 14	Finance
Dec. 15	7pm Full Board

###

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO: receive and file report from Board Chair for May 2016

INTRODUCED BY: Dave Flynn, Full Board

- The following is a report on activities within the Board Office which do not usually appear on committee agendas.

Current Issues

- Transit
- MTB
- Veterans
- Zoo

Office

- Communications Coordinator, Karin Armbruster, will start May 23rd
- Three intern candidates have been interviewed for the Summer 2016 Intern Program
- BOC Automated Agenda Management System Project – A panel with representation from the BOC, IT and Clerk's Office has selected a system, implementation activities to begin immediately.

Upcoming Items

- Yoga At The Hill is on Saturday, June 4th! This is a BOC outreach activity, coordinated by staff and volunteers, which satisfies several BOC goals as outlined in 2015 budget review. Commissioners should plan to attend, details are on the attached flyer, on the BOC website and Facebook page. Flyers/handouts are available; see staff.
- Check the BOC Facebook page for regular updates on 9th floor renovation activities

Regional

- RTA: Public Workshop on Gratiot Express Bus Service, TODAY (05-11-16) at 11am, Roseville Public Library
- Open house for Melanie Davis, who is assuming Wayne Oehmke's role as President/CEO of Sterling Chamber is tomorrow, (05-12-16) at the Chamber on Hall Road from 1-4pm
- Mackinac Policy Conference: May 31 – June 3
- DIA Director's Cuts: Talk at Italian American Cultural Center at 7pm

Correspondence:

- Casual Day Program letters of thanks
- Resolutions shared by other counties

Media:

- See attached articles.

BOC – Independent Counsel: Expenditures for Outside Legal Counsel Professional Services

Invoice Totals:	Month	Invoice Totals	CS – Legal \$120,400	%Utilized
	January	\$ 3,828.70	\$116,571.30	
	February	<u>5,684.00</u>	\$110,887.30	
		\$ 9,512.70		.079
	March	<u>4,887.00</u>	\$106,000.30	
		\$14,399.70		.119

COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE

Full Board 05-11-16



1000 Harrington Boulevard
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043

tel (586) 741 4330
fax (586) 741 4340

mclaren.org/macomb

April 25, 2016

Mr. David J. Flynn, Board Chairman
Macomb County Board of Commissioners
1 South Main Street, 9th Floor
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043

Dear Mr. Flynn,

I would like to thank you for your contribution of \$1052.75 to the McLaren Macomb Healthcare Foundation. Your generous donation, collected during the February 2016 Casual Day, allows McLaren Macomb to continue to provide state-of-the-art healthcare to the many patients who are cared for and treated in our Ted B. Wahby Cancer Center.

The McLaren Macomb Healthcare Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which has generated funds to benefit McLaren Macomb for 28 years. We are honored to be the recipient of your donation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Louise'.

Louise Rallis
Director

Iron County Board of Commissioners

2 South Sixth Street, Suite 7 Crystal Falls, MI 49920
Ph. 906-875-3301 Fax 906-875-0655

Board Chair
Tim Aho
Vice Chair
Jim Brennan
Finance Chair
Patti Peretto
Commissioners
Ray Coates
Sharon Leonoff

Board of Commissioners Office

County Administrator
Sue K. Clisch

Administrative Assistant
FOIA Coordinator
Mary S. Dalpra

Iron County Board of Commissioners RESOLUTION URGING STATE TRANSPARENCY

At the April 12, 2016 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Iron, Commissioner, Patti Peretto introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Center of Public Integrity and Global Integrity conducted a national study of state ethics and transparency laws and safeguard, in which the State of Michigan was ranked last; and

WHEREAS, some of the reasons cited for the State's poor ranking was weak public records laws and the absence of laws requiring personal financial disclosures by lawmakers and top state officials; and,

WHEREAS, another glaring issue cited was the exemption of the governor and the legislature from state open records laws; and

WHEREAS, the State has required transparency from local municipalities through EVIP and CIP, yet the State has chosen to not take the opportunity to lead by example; and

WHEREAS, the Board feels it is time that State lawmakers and top officials stop exempting themselves from the laws that they expect others to follow; now

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iron County Board of Commissioners urges State lawmakers and top officials to stop the hypocrisy of exempting themselves from the laws that they enact for the governance of the State of Michigan, of which they are included; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to all Michigan counties, Senator Tom Casperson, Representative John Kivela, Representative Scott Dianda, Representative Ed McBroom, the Michigan Association of Counties and Governor Rick Snyder.

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Commissioner Jim Brennan offered support for the motion and the Resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Iron held on April 12, 2016.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Aho, Brennan, Coates, Peretto, Leonoff

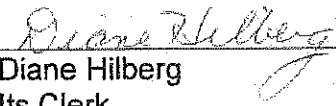
NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Resolution Declared Adopted:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF IRON**

By: 
Timothy P. Aho
Its Chair

By: 
Diane Hilberg
Its Clerk

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners, held at the Wexford County Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan on the twentieth day of April, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael MacCready, Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Gideon Mitchell, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill;

ABSENT: Commissioner Mark Howie

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Taylor and supported by Commissioner Theobald.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-16
EPA AND ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS IMPLEMENTATION FOR REGULATION
FOR DEFINED WATERS OF THE US UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT

WHEREAS, in August 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) implemented a regulation for the Definition of Waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act, which has since been temporarily halted by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, both agencies are seeking a rule change to give the federal government more authority by expanding the definition of "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the rule change would subject almost all physical areas with a connection to downstream navigable waters, including features such as ditches, natural or man-made ponds and flood plains, to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, that under the rule change, Michigan's Wetlands Law will be in violation of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, if Michigan loses delegated authority and must work directly with the Corps, the agency can take months or years to answer a permit application, and can even deny permits with impunity; and

WHEREAS, the change will cause significant harm to local farmers, stall the development of businesses, take control of land used for sustainable food production out of our local providers' hands, and negatively impact county-owned and maintained infrastructure such as roadside ditches and county drains; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has robust programs to protect water quality in our state; and

WHEREAS, the rule change would bring enormous costs to our farms, municipalities and taxpayers.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Wexford County, Michigan wholly supports preventing the furtherance of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed rule expanding the definition of "Waters of the United States" and requiring these agencies to work with state and local governments on rule development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be provided to all Michigan counties, Gov. Rick Snyder, the Michigan Association of Counties and representative members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

RECEIVED

APR 29 2016

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Wexford County Board of Commissioners, held at the Wexford County Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan on the twentieth day of April, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael MacCready, Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Gideon Mitchell, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill;

ABSENT: Commissioner Mark Howie

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Commissioner Taylor and supported by Commissioner Theobald.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-17

OPPOSING HB 5016 REGULATION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS REQUIRING ONE YEAR NOTICE FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT/MDOT TO LICENSEES UNDER MTA

WHEREAS, HB 5016 would amend Section 13 of Public act 368 of 1925, which regulates the use of public right of ways along roads by requiring local governments and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to give a one year notice to entities licensed under the Michigan Telecommunications Act (MTA) of any plan to relocate any in ground or above ground utilities or transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, these licensed entities already benefit from the free use of public right of ways that would cost them significant amount of money if they were required to purchase use of said public right of ways; and

WHEREAS, requiring local governments and MDOT to notify the entities one year in advance of any relocation of utilities or transmission lines is unnecessary, burdensome potentially costly, and punitive to the extent that it levies a fine in the form of paying for relocation costs for failure to timely notify the entities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wexford County Board of Commissioners firmly opposes HB 5016 and respectfully asks the support of Senator Booher and Representative Potvin in our opposition; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Michigan counties, Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan Association of Counties and representative members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: MacCready, Housler, Hilty, Mitchell, Theobald, Taylor, Fuscone, and Goodwill;

NAYS: None

RECEIVED

APR 29 2016

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Long-Term Talent Supply May Threaten Demand for Most Jobs in Michigan

Michigan's top economic leaders today issued a series of findings that show the state is generally prepared to meet the demand for high-paying jobs with educated and skilled workers over the next three years, however, the ability to meet demand over the long-term is less certain.

BY JOHN S. SCHULTZ



Michigan's top economic leaders today issued a series of findings that show the state is generally prepared to meet the demand for high-paying jobs with educated and skilled workers over the next three years, however, the ability to meet demand over the long-term is less certain.

"High-paying jobs — the ones that require more education and training — are going to continue growing in Michigan in the near term while low-skill, low-wage jobs are expected to contract," says Doug Rothwell, president and CEO of Detroit-based Business Leaders for Michigan. "However, most of the jobs in Michigan are still low-skill and low-wage."

Rothwell says annual openings for low-skill occupations currently outpace openings for high-skill jobs.

"This is going to change soon, however, as jobs requiring only a high school diploma are expected to drop by more than 19,000," Rothwell says. "Conversely, jobs requiring an Associate's degree or higher are expected to grow by 21,000 — the beginning of a trend that is going to grow exponentially in the years ahead."

He says this ground shift in workforce needs will be accelerated by demographic trends, including an aging workforce, a shrinking talent pipeline, and low educational attainment.

"Michigan residents are 10th oldest in the nation," Rothwell says. "Coupled with a declining population of K-12 students, a low percentage of 25-34 year olds, and continuing low educational attainment, we face a significant talent gap over the

long term.”

Other key findings in the recent report include:

- In 2015, there were more than 4.5 million jobs in the state spread over 724 different occupations.
- Two-thirds of these jobs required a high school education or less and paid an average hourly wage of \$17.68 – 19 percent below the statewide average.
- The average hourly wage for jobs requiring an Associate's degree or higher paid an average hourly wage of \$34.27, which was 58 percent more than the state average and nearly double the wage for jobs requiring a high school diploma or less.
- For high school graduates, the key to higher earnings is more training — the more you learn, the more you earn. Only 19 percent of openings that require no, short, moderate, or long-term training pay above the statewide average hourly wage. In contrast, 66 percent of openings that call for an apprenticeship exceed the state average.

Supply shortages over the next few years span all levels of education and training and both STEM and non-STEM disciplines.

Rothwell says many of his organization's initiatives are aimed at addressing this projected shortfall.

“We are eager to continue partnering with state and local leaders to help implement the Building a New Michigan Plan,” Rothwell says. “The future success of each and every Michigan worker is dependent upon our efforts to compete, invest and grow in ways that make sense.”

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

Business Leaders for Michigan is composed exclusively of the chairpersons, CEOs or most senior executives of state's largest companies and universities.

Good Public Transportation Most Important Attribute

For Businesses, More Stats From New Kresge Report

By Ardelia Lee -

Apr 26, 2016

<http://www.dailydetroit.com/2016/04/26/22532/>

Ever wanted to know what national business leaders think about Detroit since its emergence from bankruptcy? Here's your chance. The Kresge Foundation has released its findings from its Detroit Reinvestment Index, a survey of 307 business leaders regarding Detroit.

Their definition of "business leaders" included senior leaders at mid- to large-size companies with influence over their companies' global, high-level decisions. They work for a company with at least 250 employees, and are involved in contracting, purchasing, sales, or related functions.

Overall, 98 percent of business leaders believe it's possible for cities to overcome and recover from significant challenges.

When discussing Detroit, 84 percent of those surveyed believe that Detroit can once again be a great city and 71 percent say the city is a good place to invest for their business.

As far as putting their money where their mouths are, business leaders do pretty well – 45 percent of them have had business operations and investments in Detroit. Furthermore, 91 percent have a connection to Detroit and 62 percent have been to the city of Detroit.

According to the report, business leaders view Detroit favorably because of its rich cultural history, effective local government, low taxes, low cost of living, and its racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity.

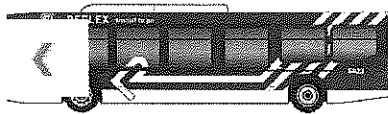
An interesting statistic is around good public transportation. Good public transportation was ranked number one as a desired housing, infrastructure, & community feature/attribute, followed by a low crime rate and a rich cultural history.



DAVID SANDS, MODESHIFT | THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

Regional transit: DDOT, SMART join forces on express bus service

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*Rendering of the new reflex
express bus service line.*

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A decade ago, the idea of Detroit's DDOT bus service and the suburban SMART system working together on a project would have sounded pretty ludicrous. The two bus agencies haven't exactly enjoyed the rosier of relationships over the years, with funding and operational jurisdiction being sources of tension.

With the prodding of Southeast Michigan's Regional Transit Authority (RTA), however, the

prospect of a jointly operated transit venture is on its way to becoming a reality. DDOT and SMART are now pooling their energies to create a new express bus service that could launch as early as this summer.

The new express line, *refleX*, will feature 13 stops on each of two corridors connecting Motown with its suburban neighbors, one along Woodward Avenue, and another on Gratiot Avenue. Both will start off at Fort Street and Brush Street in Detroit's Bricktown neighborhood. The Woodward route, which will extend to Somerset Mall in Troy, will be run by DDOT and carry passengers in and out of Oakland County. As for the Gratiot route, it'll be operated by SMART and travel between Detroit and Macomb County, stretching out to the North River Park and Ride in Mt. Clemens.

As an express service, *refleX* would have fewer stops and forego the need for transfers in order to facilitate faster travel.

The *refleX* name is a merger of the words "regional," "flexibility" and "express." The new line will feature its own distinctively branded buses and special sheltered bus stops.

The origins of *refleX* date back to last fall, when RTA chief Michael Ford asked SMART to restore all-day bus service into Detroit along the two corridors. Later DDOT came to the table, and a deal was hashed out for a jointly operated line.

Southeast Michigan's RTA board approved the project at a March 17 meeting. Under the current plan, *refleX* buses will run every 45 minutes, seven days a week, during scheduled hours; the service will be active 5 a.m. to midnight on weekdays, 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays, and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

As it currently stands, the *refleX* service would cost \$5.6 million a year to operate. The three-year pilot project will be funded with state transportation money and bus fare revenue.

In a statement, the RTA praised SMART and DDOT for working together to make the *refleX* line happen:

"These leaders have been forward thinking and have had visions of transit that aligns with the vision and mission of the RTA. This first step lays the groundwork for transit between communities. It opens the door to solving the larger issue, regional rapid transit for all of southeast Michigan."

The RTA is also in the process of developing an even faster Bus Rapid Transit line along Woodward Ave. and is expected to put a funding proposal before voters on this November's ballot.

Asked for her thoughts on the project, Ruth Johnson, assistant director of Transportation Riders United, a transit advocacy group, was cautiously optimistic.

"I think it's great for DDOT and SMART, with the encouragement of the RTA, to better coordinate current and future bus service on the two corridors," she said. "I think it would be better, rather than just look at those two corridors independently, to look at it through the [vantage point of the] four-county planning process to make sure we are allocating resources properly."

Over the last year, the RTA has been developing a four-county master plan to coordinate regional transit.

Noting that details on the new service weren't readily available on DDOT, SMART or RTA websites, though, Johnson added that she'd like access to more information in order to make a proper evaluation.

Ered Westbrook, President of Almagamated Transit Union Local 26, which represents DDOT drivers, isn't a fan of reflex.

He believes if there's going to be a new express line at all, it should be run by DDOT, so Detroit's bus agency can benefit from suburban fare revenue. The union leader thinks that's only fair considering SMART already operates in Detroit and has had millions in dollars of funding shifted over to it from DDOT in recent years.

That said, Westbrook doesn't think the reflex service is really needed.

"You already have SMART on Gratiot and Woodward that does an express service [during] peak hours," he says. "And then you have [DDOT] on Gratiot and Woodward that runs every 10-12 minutes... An express service is not needed."

The ATU local president believes money on the new bus service would be better directed towards expanding SMART's service in the suburbs and increasing DDOT's frequency in underserved areas of Detroit.

This article originally appeared in Modeshift.

□

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MACOMB COUNTY, OAKLAND COUNTY, TRANSIT, WOODWARD AVENUE

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

TACOM's formal change of command calls for pomp and ceremony

Wednesday, April 27, 2016



Generals come and generals go but not without a proper sendoff.

The U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command in Warren will conduct a formal change of command ceremony Monday. Maj. General Clark LeMasters, Jr. succeeds Maj. General Gwen Bingham, who has been the TACOM LCMC commanding general since June of 2014.

The traditional military ceremony will be officiated by U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) Commander Gen. Dennis Via.

LeMasters comes to TACOM from the U.S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama where he served as chief of staff for logistics and operations.

A global interest -- TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's 19,000 military and civilian acquisition, logistics and technology professionals research, develop, procure, field, maintain, upgrade, modernize and sustain approximately 65 percent of the equipment an Army Brigade Combat Team uses. It's also the only active-duty U.S. Army installation in the Michigan, Ohio and Indiana region.

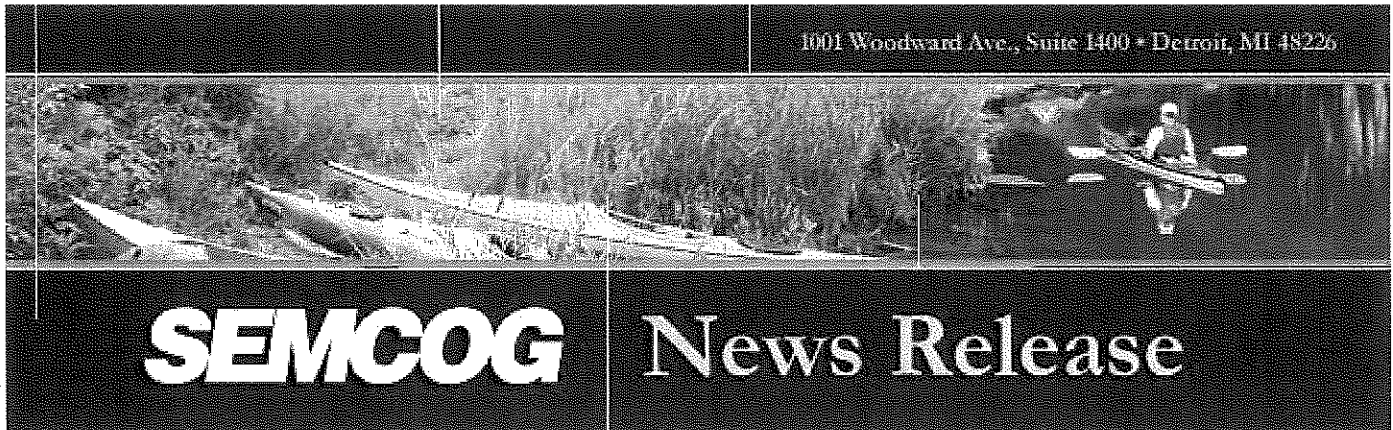
Its team awarded in excess of \$6 billion in contracts in Fiscal Year 2015, with \$1.5 billion awarded to Michigan companies. Its 7,500 Michigan-based employees contribute significantly to Michigan's economy, wielding nearly \$3 billion in personal spending power each year.

-- Gina Joseph, Macomb Daily Staff Writer

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/business/20160427/tacoms-formal-change-of-command-calls-for-pomp-and-ceremony>

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For Immediate Release

April 28, 2016

Contact: [Sue Stetler](#), 313-324-3428 or [Iris Steinberg](#) (313-324-3402)

Commuter Challenge 2016:

Try a greener commute. Your miles make the difference.

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, announces that [Commuter Challenge 2016](#) runs through the entire month of May. The “challenge” is for single-passenger drivers to try a new mode of travel to work (carpool, bus, vanpool, bike, walk, or work from home).

The Commuter Challenge is working to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from commuting trips by 130,000 pounds in the month of May. For instance, an individual commuter who carpools 20 miles instead of driving alone reduces overall CO2 emissions by 11.5 pounds. Participants can see their contribution to clean air as individual reductions are calculated on the Commuter Challenge website. By reducing the miles we drive alone, we reduce air pollution in Southeast Michigan.

There are several incentives for trying something new:

- Improved air quality for our region,
- Reduced driving stressors such as the dangers of a pothole-riddled road network,
- Reduced personal driving expenses ([calculate savings here](#)) such as gas, flat tires, and fender benders, and
- Added fitness benefits from incorporating cycling or walking into your commute.

Commuter Challenge participants are eligible for several prizes. Participants who sign up before May 1 have a chance of winning a \$50 Amazon gift card!

“The goal of the Commuter Challenge is to alleviate drive-alone traffic by introducing drivers to different kinds of transportation, such as carpooling and vanpooling, public transportation, walking and biking, and making use of flextime and telecommute options. When compared to a drive-alone commute, all of these choices improve our air quality by reducing pollutants,” said Kathleen Lomako, Executive Director, SEMCOG.

May opportunities

- **May 4** - [Bike to School Day](#), an annual Safe Routes to Schools event, is a chance for children to start developing healthy commuting habits early.
- **May 6** - Southeast Michigan will be competing against Lansing and Grand Rapids for the most commuter participation on Casual Commute Day. Commuters [who sign up](#) will be eligible for great prizes.
- **May 20** - [On Bike to Work Day](#), organized rides coming from the north, east, and west will meet in Downtown Detroit at Capitol Park from 7 to 9 a.m.
- **Every day** this May is an opportunity for participants to log their roundtrip commute (one per day) at the [Commuter Challenge website](#) and submit entries into the big prize drawing. The more days you log a commute, the more chances you have to win great prizes, including an iPad, Tigers tickets, Marriot hotel

stay, Visa and Amazon gift cards, dinner at Andiamo, and more!

DETROIT Commuter CHALLENGE

Social media

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The 2016 Commuter Challenge partners include the [Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan \(RTA\)](#), the [Detroit Department of Transportation \(DDOT\)](#), Detroit Transportation Corporation ([Detroit People Mover](#)), [SEMCOG](#), the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation ([SMART](#)), [Transportation Riders United](#), and [MichiVan](#).

—##—

SEMCOG is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to solve regional challenges and enhance the quality of life.

To learn more about what SEMCOG does, click [here](#).

 Send to a friend

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ROSEVILLE

Transit authority unveils Gratiot plans

Final plans, proposed millage to be publicly released May 31

By Kevin Bunch

13

4

Posted May 3, 2016

ROSEVILLE — The Regional Transit Authority presented its proposed transit plans for the Gratiot, Woodward and Michigan Avenue corridors at Roseville's City Council meeting April 26. The plans would connect Ann Arbor, Mount Clemens and Pontiac to downtown Detroit — along with the communities in between — using specialized buses.

Project Manager Sarah Binkowski said bus rapid transit, or BRT, involves light commuter rail trains that run on tires and pavement instead of tracks, capable of carrying about 60 people at a time.

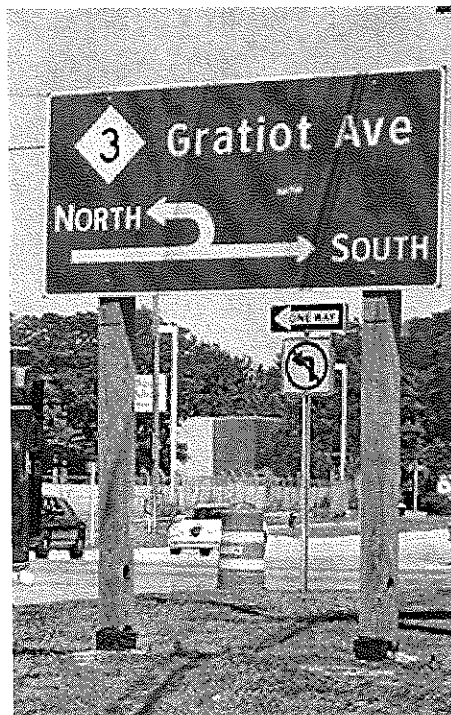
The buses would only stop at specialized, enclosed stations, where riders could purchase fare cards from vending machines and use them to ride the BRT, similar to public transit systems in Chicago or New York.

Binkowski said the new proposed Gratiot route would see 19 stops, down from the

originally proposed 26. Those stops would take riders from downtown Mount Clemens to downtown Detroit at a speed comparable to driving without heavy traffic.

"We want to keep it fast, so we'll have stations every mile, mile and a half," Binkowski said. "Service would be every 10 minutes during peak hours — the morning and (every) evening rush hours — and 15 minutes on off-peak hours. The service hours we're proposing are between 5 a.m. and midnight; one comment we're seeing is they'd like to see service later in the evening, especially if there are events going on in downtown Detroit."

Cognizant of local communities wanting to preserve the median — as well as traffic



(File photo)

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realities -- Binkowski said that for Gratiot, the RTA is proposing having buses drive in dedicated lanes next to the median, with dedicated, enclosed stations located within the median itself. The buses, she explained, would pull off the road into the stations and would return to running adjacent to the median on their way to the next station.

The BRT lanes would be newly created ones north of Eight Mile, built by digging into the median area, but Binkowski said this would preserve as much of the median as possible without causing problems for motorists trying to make right turns, as another proposal that had the buses run in the right lane would have. Within Detroit itself, the leftmost lane would be repurposed as a dedicated BRT lane.

Normal traffic using Michigan lefts would likely need to cross over into the BRT lane, Binkowski said, though in practice that would be no different than checking for a vehicle before changing lanes.

The current proposal has no parking space impacts for Roseville or Eastpointe, she said, though a large number of informal street parking spots in Detroit would be lost to make room for the BRT system. Plans have not yet been finalized for the Gratiot split in Mount Clemens, and Binkowski said that if they decide to run it along Main Street, that city would lose some of its street spaces near the courthouse; the RTA is still taking local comments for that area.

Additionally, since the proposal puts the BRT system in the right of way, Binkowski said there should not be any negative building impact along the route. Binkowski added that in similar systems in other cities -- like Eugene, Oregon, and Cleveland -- there is a return on economic development along the route.

"For every dollar spent, we get \$4-\$5 in return," she said.

The RTA is estimating capital costs of \$255 million for the full BRT system, including the Woodward and Michigan Avenue routes. Binkowski said that breaks down to about \$10 million-\$11 million per mile, which is on par with BRT projects in other cities. For comparison, she said, building a single new freeway interchange costs about \$80 million-\$100 million. Those costs include lane and station construction, bus purchases and hiring security for the BRT system.

The RTA does not yet have a finalized millage proposal to put on the November ballot. However, Binkowski said that they also want to use millage funds to improve local public transit service, such as buses traveling east-west. She expects that information to be finalized and available May 31.

The RTA also has not finalized what the BRT vehicles would run on, though RTA CEO Michael Ford said they could go with a "clean diesel hybrid." The important thing is if it can move a lot of people quickly.

Ford also confirmed to the Roseville council that everyone would pay the same millage rate, regardless of what community they live in. Mayor Robert Taylor asked Ford why they could not simply remove stops from the current system to make it faster, but Ford said the bigger problem is that the current system is not robust enough.

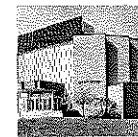
"We're building on top of the current system, and what we've found is that there isn't enough service. People can't get to work. They can't get to medical appointments. People can't negotiate to get where they go. We only invest \$67 per capita here, versus other places," Ford said. "We're just underfunded, and we need to do more. Service is

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Ford added that a more robust transit system would be beneficial to people aging in place and would help retain millennials in the metro Detroit area. Going with BRT also allows the RTA to adjust transit frequency as needed, though they anticipate ridership of 13,500 people a day.

Under the proposal, the Michigan Avenue BRT would run from downtown Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti, with a second BRT going from downtown Detroit to Detroit Metropolitan Airport; a commuter rail line would run from Ann Arbor to the New Center, where it would then connect with the independent Detroit streetcar currently under construction.

The Woodward line would go from downtown Detroit to Pontiac, though Binkowski said that with the streetcar running from the New Center to downtown, the RTA is considering having it split off onto Cass or John R for that stretch instead.

Regardless of whether or not the millage passes in November, Binkowski said the RTA is moving forward with its unified fare card system for all transit options in the metro area.

Once the final plan is unveiled May 31, Ford said he plans on being available in communities throughout the metro area to explain everything.

Roseville Downtown Development Authority Vice Chairman Brian Shishakly said during public comments that the BRT would be "hugely important" to the area and its economic development, and asked the council to champion the effort.

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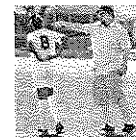


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Kevin Bunch covers the communities of Eastpointe and Roseville, as well as Roseville Community Schools and East Detroit Public Schools. He has worked at C&G Newspapers since 2013, and is a graduate of Wayne State University and Henry Ford Community College. Kevin is also a 2015 Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting alumni.

Full bio and more articles by this reporter

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Roseville - Eastpointe Eastsider

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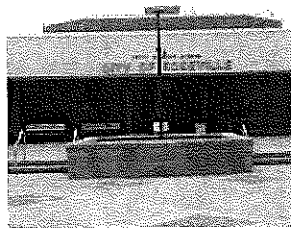
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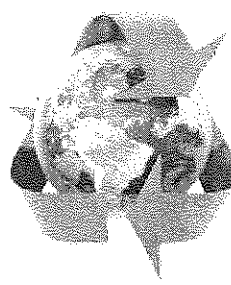
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Warren mulls new restrictions on kennels

Thursday, May 5, 2016



The price of providing shelter for man's best friend may go up soon in Warren.

Kennel operators face new restrictions and a higher fee under changes in regulations being considered by city officials.

Warren charges a licensing fee of \$10 for kennels that keep 10 or fewer dogs and \$25 for commercial boarding facilities with at least 11 canines. As part of proposed changes to a city ordinance mulled by the City Council, that fee will jump to \$30.

"Going from \$10 to \$30 I don't think is exorbitant and can be justified in covering our expenses," Councilman Keith Sadowski said.

Officials also plan to be more restrictive to potential kennel operators hoping to open shop in Warren. The proposed changes to the current ordinance on kennels would prohibit any new ones from opening next to any property zoned for residential use, whether it's single-family houses, condominiums or apartments.

That restriction would not impact existing licensed kennels in town, which would be grandfathered under the current rules. However, any current kennels open in Warren would lose that "non-conforming" status if a facility is expanded, acting City Attorney Mary Michaels said.

"I wanted to make sure we weren't creating an ordinance to put them out of business," Sadowski said.

Warren defines kennels as any property where three or more dogs are confined and kept for sale, or for charging costs for boarding and breeding. In neighboring Eastpointe, any similar facilities sheltering four or more dogs for a fee are deemed a kennel.

Making the changes within Warren's ordinance dealing with animals instead of the city's zoning laws would enable the Police Department's animal control officers to enforce the ordinance by writing violations, Michaels said.

Council members preliminarily approved the ordinance changes recently. The revised law would take effect if officials approve the second of two "readings" of it, possibly as early as May 10.

Several years ago, officials set new limits on the number of dogs and cats that residents can keep, after reports that some were hoarded in homes. In one instance, 82 cats were taken from a house.

Currently, no more than five dogs or cats — or any combination thereof — can be kept at any home or

business with the exception of veterinary clinics, pet shops and kennels.

--*Staff Writer Norb Franz*



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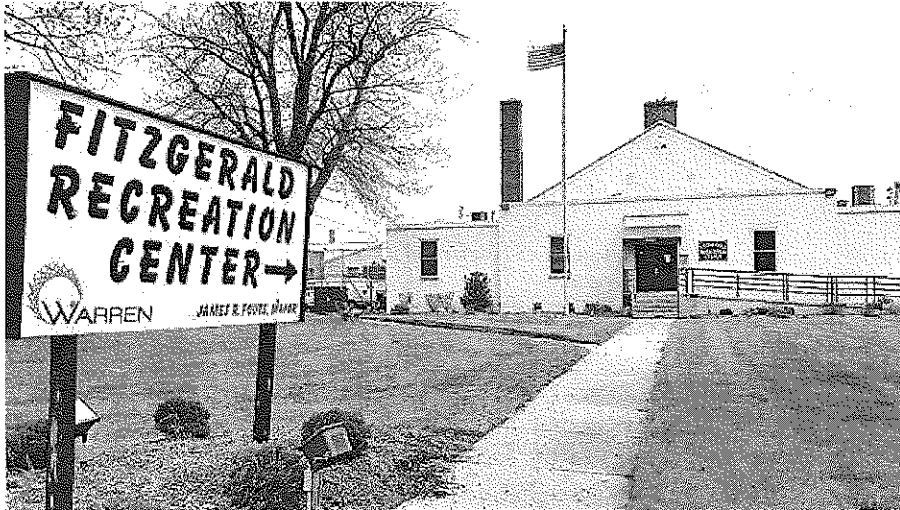
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WARREN

City to place marker at historic USO building

By Brian Louwers



The Warren Historical Commission will unveil a plaque commemorating the USO's ties to the Fitzgerald Recreation Center. (Photo by Brian Louwers)

© Posted May 4, 2016

WARREN — This fall, the city of Warren will celebrate its ties to the United Service Organizations and a building once used by the group to host events for members of the armed forces and their families.

The Warren Historical Commission will host a historical plaque dedication on Oct. 1 at the Fitzgerald Recreation Center on Nine Mile, east of Ryan, which members believe is one of the few remaining World War II-era structures once utilized by the USO.

“In 2006, we tried to get recognition for the Fitzgerald USO. I called the USO organization and they said they had no records at all about the Fitzgerald building, that a lot of their records had been destroyed,” said Dolly Slicker, vice chair of the Warren Historical Commission. “Everything was put on hold and we talked about it. It was like everybody knew it and there was no proof.”

Commission members said the proof they needed eventually emerged from local sources that tied the building to the USO, which, ironically, is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

“In 2016, Sandy Stilwell came in and she had newspapers to prove it was used as a USO,”

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Slicker said.

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"We also had information that we found in some of the newspaper clippings, and Eleanor Bates (the ex-wife of the late former Warren Mayor Ted Bates) had pictures," said Sue Keffer, the Historical Commission's chair.

She said the commission was eventually able to recover information about three USO facilities in the Warren and Center Line area, including the building that is now the Fitzgerald Recreation Center.

The Van Dyke USO building was across the street from Lincoln High School, near Warren's Fire Station 1, east of Van Dyke. The Center Line USO facility used to be where the city's library is now on Weingartz, west of Van Dyke and north of 10 Mile Road.

The Fitzgerald Recreation Center is located at 4355 E. Nine Mile Road.

"In my understanding, there are very few former USO buildings still in existence. We are very lucky to have one," Keffer said.

The commission is inviting residents who may have attended dances or other events at the USO buildings to share their memories ahead of the program.

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through 2016.

The building had been ordered closed by former Mayor Mark Steenbergh in 2004 as part of a series of budget cuts that also grounded the city's police helicopter and shuttered the former pool at Veterans Park.

Fouts made restoring programs at the Fitzgerald Recreation Center a campaign promise during his run for mayor in 2007. Two years later, the city spent \$100,000 in grants and other available funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to improve the building prior to its reopening.

Anyone wishing to share information about USO events in Warren, including those hosted at the Fitzgerald Recreation Center, can leave a message with the Warren Historical Commission at (586) 258-2056.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Brian Louwers covers the cities of Warren and Center Line. He has worked for C & G Newspapers since 1998 and is a graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In his free time, he participates in the Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program and conducts interviews with military veterans for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress.

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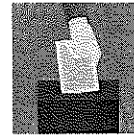
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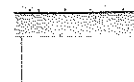
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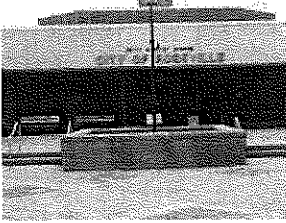


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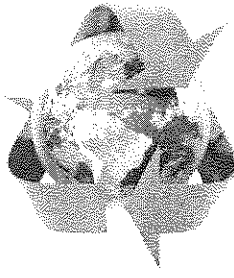
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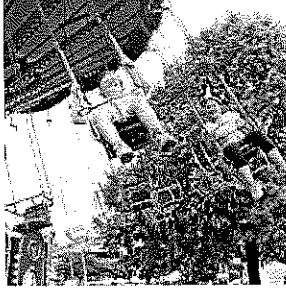
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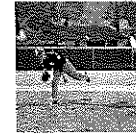
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STERLING HEIGHTS

Music, festivities to mark another Freedom Hill summer

By Eric Czarnik

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The 10th annual Stars and Stripes Festival will take place from June 30 to July 3 at Freedom Hill. (Photo by Erin Sanchez)

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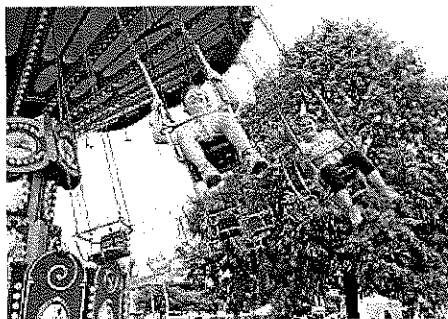
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STERLING HEIGHTS — A Macomb County park that hosts Sterling Heights' largest musical venue plans to sustain its reputation for entertainment over the next few months.

Freedom Hill Amphitheatre, located at Freedom Hill County Park in Sterling Heights, has announced a host of performances as part of its 2016 schedule. The amphitheater — which is run through a recently minted agreement between Palace Sports & Entertainment and Luna Entertainment — holds an audience capacity of around 7,200 people, according to the venue's website.

In the wake of the transition, the amphitheater is continuing to promise a



(Photo by Erin Sanchez)

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summer schedule filled with well-known musical acts. PS&E has announced a list of upcoming touring acts that includes bands and artists like 311, Kool & the Gang, Goo Goo Dolls, The Beach Boys, The Four



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was possible due in part to his company's strong relationship with Live Nation Entertainment.

"So we're working together to bring some of the biggest touring names that are on tour for the summer of 2016," he said.

According to Joe Nieporte, president of Funfest Events, his company is still involved with Freedom Hill's 10th annual Stars and Stripes Festival June 30-July 3 and the June 11 Harley Fest.

Having full run of the grounds during the Stars and Stripes weekend, Nieporte said the festival's organizers plan to impress once again.

"It's our 10th anniversary, so it's a special year for us, and we've stepped up the entertainment. We've spent more money on the talent than we ever have."

Nieporte said the event will feature plenty of bands, and promised musical acts include Styx, Uncle Kracker and Seether.

In addition, the event is getting "a much bigger carnival" and amusement rides from a partnership with Wade Shows Inc., Nieporte said.

"We change stuff around all the time with the different attractions," he explained. "It's always important to not do the same things every year."

He added that they plan to bring back a BMX stunt show after a hiatus, and they plan to bring back pig racing. A Sunday night fireworks show is also scheduled to return.

Besides Stars and Stripes, the park will host the annual Harley Fest motorcycle event June 11, which is sponsored by Wolverine Harley-Davidson in Clinton Township and is presented by 106.7 The D.

The Italian American Cultural Society plans to present its annual Festa Italiana event July 15-17, though Funfest is not involved with that event, Nieporte said.

Freedom Hill Amphitheatre is located at 14900 Metropolitan Parkway in Sterling Heights. Find out more about the amphitheater's summer schedule by visiting www.freedomhill.net. Learn about the 10th annual Stars and Stripes Festival by visiting www.starsandstripesfest.com or by calling (586) 493-4344. For more about Harley Fest, visit www.harleyfest.net.

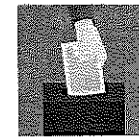
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Eric Czarnik reports on Sterling Heights and Utica Community Schools, and he writes a weekly auto column. He is a Wayne State University graduate who has been employed at C & G Newspapers since 2007.

Full bio and more articles by this reporter

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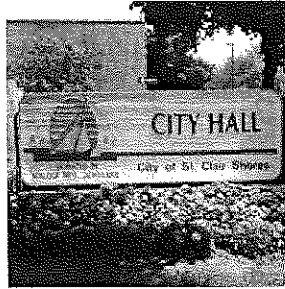
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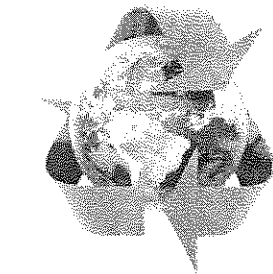
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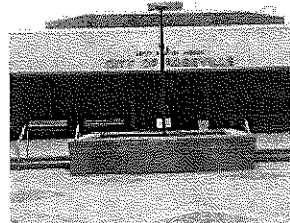
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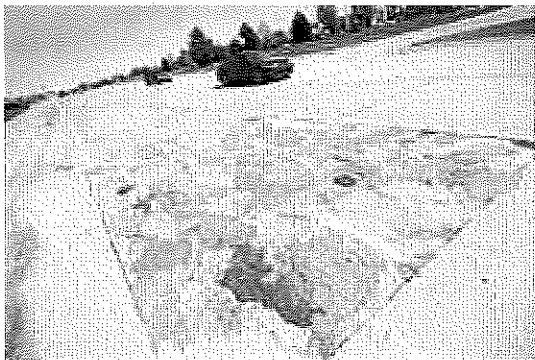
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Mild winter saves road agency money

Road projects will make for complicated commutes this summer

By Norb Franz, *The Macomb Daily*

Saturday, May 7, 2016



To the naked eye, you might say partial concrete repairs and years of patched potholes are a road definition of 50 shades of gray.

The mild winter – the sixth-mildest on record in metropolitan Detroit – still took a toll on Macomb County roads but enabled local governments to save money.

“We didn’t get a lot of snow, but there were quite a large number of (weather) events,” said department director Robert Hoepfner, noting rain frequently froze overnight, causing

officials to dispatch salt crews.

The Department of Roads is responsible for 1,800 miles of primary and local roads such as the “mile” roads and state trunk lines like M-53, M-59 and M-3 (Gratiot Avenue). In townships, all roads and streets are under the county agency’s jurisdiction.

Fewer snowfalls enabled the Macomb County Department of Roads to spend less on overtime to plow streets, and to save on maintenance and equipment costs.

County officials budgeted \$4.7 million for winter road operations last season. While it’s not immediately known how far under budget spending fell, the savings is a welcome one to taxpayers. Road crew savings was significantly due to the lack of major snowstorms this past winter that could have kept plow drivers busy for two or more consecutive days. Those account for significant overtime costs.

The county road department used 44,109 tons of road salt last season. That’s an average usage amount, Hoepfner said.

But officials were prepared for much worse.

The county’s five salt storage domes currently contain a total of 26,884 tons of salt.

“That’s more than we normally have at the end,” Hoepfner said.

It won’t go to waste, and will mean the county, which regularly takes delivery of road salt from selected suppliers, can purchase less in advance of next winter.

Two years ago amid frequent snowfalls, the county road department’s salt inventory dwindled considerably by spring. The agency stopped selling salt to small communities, about a half-dozen school

districts and Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township.

“We were hanging on by our fingernails at the end of the season. We needed to ensure that he had adequate supplies for our needs. That was primary,” Hoepfner said.

In Oakland County, the Road Commission budgeted for 90,000 tons of salt for last winter. It used 63,000 tons, which is about their seasonal average, Road Commission spokesman Craig Bryson said.

Summer is six weeks away, but local governments already are gearing up for next winter. Through a cooperative purchasing effort with the city of Farmington Hills, Warren will spend \$633,000 for road salt. Meantime, Center Line officials voted to spend a total of \$27,400 for 450 tons of salt for use in the 1.5-square-mile city.

By the numbers

Snowfall averages 41 inches a winter in Detroit. Flint gets an average of 47 inches of snow, and White Lake Township in Oakland County receives more than 50 inches on average, according to the National Weather Service. Macomb County does not have an official NWS measuring station. Although the depth of snow that falls in one area can vary greatly to locations within the same or neighboring county, Macomb’s snow figures are tied to Detroit’s measurements.

Detroit had 35 inches of snow this past winter. Flint had 69 inches, and White Lake Township had 67.3 inches.

The mercury also told the story of the milder winter. According to the National Weather Service, the average temperature in December 2015 was 41.1 degrees. That’s 11 degrees above normal, making it the warmest December on record in Detroit, dating to 1880.

“That’s a substantial difference,” said Steve Considine, meteorologist at the weather agency’s office in White Lake. “Anytime there’s seven (degrees), eight or above for a departure, that’s quite a bit.”

The New Year started with an average temperature of 28.1 degrees during January – 2.5 degrees above normal. In February, the thermometer averaged 31.2 degrees (3.1 above normal). The three months combined to make last winter the sixth-mildest since numbers were kept starting in 1880.

Mother Nature and Old Man Winter often pack a punch even though the calendar officially says spring. The 2016 warm trend continued in March, averaging 43.1 degrees – 5.9 degrees above normal – due largely to the 71 degrees reached on March 8 and March 9.

But the season didn’t give roads a break.

“They’re deteriorating faster than what we can keep up,” Hoepfner said.

Macomb County received a \$6.5 million share of a special appropriation by the state for road maintenance earlier this year. The money from the Legislature’s revamped road funding plan approved last year won’t begin to kick in until 2017, with the lion’s share not expected into local coffers until 2021.

Still, local motorists are already seeing orange barrels and more are expected. The Macomb County Department of Roads’ biggest project in 2016 will be the widening of North Avenue, from M-59 to 21 Mile Road, in Macomb Township. Road officials plan to hold one more public hearing before soliciting bids from road construction firms then work could begin by October.

Meantime, the county department plans to award approximately \$2.5 million in concrete pavement replacement of neighborhood streets. Bids are due May 24, and the individual locations are expected to be completed by autumn.

In Warren, city officials recently approved the resurfacing of another portion of Chicago Road, this time west of Hoover Road, with asphalt.

Work is expected to begin in late May, said City Engineer James VanHavermaat, at a cost to not exceed \$551,000. A stretch of Chicago Road, from Mound Road to Dequindre, was resurfaced last year when a new sewer was installed.

Pointing to planned construction of 12 Mile Road, between Mound and Ryan Road, City Councilman Patrick Green said: "We all want to get our roads better, but unless we're all getting helicopters to fly over it all, I don't know what we're going to do.

"It's going to be a pain."

Hoepfner, the county roads department chief, said road workers often hear the frustration of passing drivers and nearby property owners, firsthand.

"We're the scapegoat," said the director, noting that lack of adequate funding is to blame for the continued poor condition of roads. "It's unfair that maintenance employees bear the brunt."

--Digital First Media reporter Charles Crumm contributed to this report.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/special-news-reports/20160507/mild-winter-saves-road-agency-money>

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Sanitary sewage illegally discharged into Chesterfield ditch

Notification to county health department was five days late

By Mitch Hotts, The Macomb Daily

and Norb Franz, The Macomb Daily

Thursday, March 17, 2016



Up to 30,000 gallons of raw sanitary sewage was illegally discharged into a Chesterfield Township drainage ditch this month, and the county department responsible for the incident failed to promptly notify government health officials and the public.

The sanitary sewer overflow flowed into a drainage ditch along Foster Road the afternoon of March 1, just south of 24 Mile Road and yards from Interstate 94. The discharge continued until the Macomb County Department of Public Works shut down the North Gratiot Pump Station 1 hour, 50 minutes after the overflow began, and about 20 minutes after a passerby first spotted it.

Public Works officials blame the overflow on an air relief valve they say stuck open, causing human excrement to spew from a hatch onto the ground.

The impact of the untreated sewage to the environment is not known but the ditch flows into the Crandall Drain, which feeds Fish Creek, the Salt River and eventually Lake St. Clair.

State law requires notification of sewage overflows — within 24 hours -- to a state environmental agency, the local health department and to the general public via the media.

A Macomb Public Works representative notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality less than 19 hours after the pump station, which serves Chesterfield Township, New Haven and Lenox Township, was shut down, according to the official discharge report.

However, the Macomb County Health Department and The Macomb Daily — the designated media outlet — were not contacted until March 7, according to the same MDEQ document.

That failure of timely notification raised the ire of Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel.

“I’m very unhappy the health director wasn’t notified right away. That’s unacceptable,” Hackel said when reached for comment. “We hear all these concerns about the water quality and this time you’d think people would follow through on the process.

“I have a hard time believing that it wasn’t intentional,” he said of the late notifications by Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco’s office. “It’s really troubling to me.”

Charles Hill, an MDEQ spokesman, said timely alerts are important amid environmental spills.

“The law states if there is a discharge, the responsible person must immediately make a notification. That means not more than 24 hours after the event took place,” Hill said.

“Obviously, it is important. That’s the basis for the law requiring notification of the public,” he said.

The Department of Public Works won’t face fines or other penalties for the spill and lack of timely notification. MDEQ officials said they plan to remind Public Works representatives about their obligations. If another instance occurs, a formal violation notice will be submitted and sanctions could follow, according to the state agency.

Jason Matteo, chief engineer of wastewater services at the county public works office, took the blame for the notification failures.

He gave this account of the sewage instance:

A passerby noticed the sewage overflow and contacted a Chesterfield Township government department. The township then notified Macomb Public Works, which had crews assess the complaint.

“We shut it down within a half-hour,” Matteo said.

The chief engineer said he phoned MDEQ’s Warren office on the morning of March 2.

“They said, ‘You’re now in our system, you’ve essentially reported it and you’re now in our system. They said somebody will be in contact,’” Matteo said.

Later on March 2, a DEQ representative said the county should complete an incident report explaining the sanitary discharge and the county’s findings to MDEQ and that a state district engineer will contact the county.

That engineer followed up with Macomb Public Works officials on March 7.

“This is not something that I am blaming the DEQ,” Matteo emphasized when reached by The Macomb Daily. “There was obvious miscommunication. It was ultimately my responsibility.”

“We don’t typically have this type of discharge,” he said. “This was an emergency case that caught really everybody by surprise.”

In the wake of the sanitary sewage overflow and the lack of quick notification to the Health Department and the public, Matteo said he has established new in-house procedures to inform the Public Works staff if another overflow occurs.

“We just didn’t have a clear written protocol in place and we do now,” he said. “I don’t want to place any blame on the DEQ.”

According to the sanitary sewage discharge report filed with the DEQ Water Resources Division, after the sanitary sewer overflow, or SSO, the Department of Public Works began cleaning and inspecting the force main that carries the sanitary waste.

“The pump station was shut down for several days while we investigated the problem and replaced the valve. Our staff and field crews were able to do this while ensuring we did not get another spill or cause

upstream basement flooding,” Matteo told the newspaper.

Sewage was diverted into a sewer line that relies on gravity for the waste to flow downstream for eventual treatment.

He said the stuck air relief valve — located in a chamber below ground and positioned several feet from the surface and the hatch at the top of the chamber — has been removed.

“It was replaced within two days and we continue to conduct our maintenance and ensure the valves are flushed and operating properly. We’re still working on (determining) what the mechanical failure of the valve was,” Matteo said.

The cost of cleaning the chamber, replacing the valve and maintenance of other valves, performed by Public Works field staff and contractors, has not been finalized, the chief engineer said.

Hala Baroudi, an environmental engineer at the MDEQ district office, said any future failure by Macomb County Public Works to swiftly provide complete notifications of a raw sewage overflow, likely will trigger a formal violation notice. Baroudi said public works crews sufficiently addressed the March 1 discharge by assigning a cleanup crew and replacing the valve.

While it’s difficult to assess the environmental impact of the discharge, whether 30,000 gallons or less, any release of sewage untreated by chemicals is troubling, she said.

“It’s still illegal,” Baroudi added.

Chesterfield Township officials were not immediately aware of the cause of the sewage discharge but downplayed the severity because no basement flooding was reported.

“How could anybody say that 30,000 gallons of raw, untreated sewage that’s been spilled into the drains, say that it wasn’t urgent? For anyone to dismiss this is unbelievable,” Hackel said. “This is something the public needs to know about. The statute requires it.”

Digital First Media’s Katelyn Larese contributed to this report.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/environment-and-nature/20160317/sanitary-sewage-illegally-discharged-into-chesterfield-ditch>

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GLWA to focus on limiting lead exposure

Charles E. Ramirez, The Detroit News 11:42 a.m. EDT March 18, 2016



(Photo: Detroit News file photo)

Metro Detroit's regional water authority has created a work group focused on water quality and minimizing lead exposure in Metro Detroit communities.

The work group, made up of Great Lakes Water Authority staff and customer community representatives, will provide the public with information on lead and water safety, officials said Wednesday. Officials said the work group's first meeting will likely be held next month.

Its primary focus will be supporting efforts to minimize lead exposure within the communities served by the GLWA system.

"Quality has been, and always will be, the priority goal of the Great Lakes Water Authority," said Sue McCormick, the authority's CEO, in a statement. "We are creating this work group in collaboration with our customer communities so that residents in every GLWA community can be assured that they will continue to be provided safe, reliable and quality water throughout the GLWA system."

Officials said the group will also focus on the heavily scrutinized 25-year-old federal Lead and Copper rule and on new Environmental Protection Agency voluntary guidelines. The EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council is expected to make recommendations on the Lead and Copper rule to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy later this year.

The rule has come under fire most recently because water experts argue its ambiguity led to the failure to protect customers of Flint's water system when it came online with river water in April 2014 without corrosion controls. The lack of that treatment as well as how testing was done has been blamed for allowing high levels lead to spread throughout the municipal water system, poisoning residents.

Flint returned to Detroit's water system, which is run by the GLWA, in October to prevent further damage.

As the GLWA work group becomes more established, information will be released to the public to help educate and inform people how to best protect themselves and their families from potential sources of lead in piping and home plumbing fixtures that predate modern material standards.

"This work group will be comprised of volunteers who share our passion for water quality, applying that passion to embrace the spirit of new voluntary guidelines as they become available, and working to support their application throughout the entire GLWA service area," McCormick said.

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