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# News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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## EPA Local Government Advisory Committee

[Bay County Executive](#), Tom Hickner, has been reappointed to the Local Government Advisory Committee. This is a committee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The term of the position will run from March 2014 to March 2016.



"It is an honor to be asked to serve on this board. The topics that it undertakes are important to Bay County and our region, and I am excited to add my voice and experience to these issues."  
-Tom Hickner

## Personnel Announcement- Amber Johnson

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Amber Davis-Johnson to the position of Assistant Corporation Counsel.



Amber comes to Bay County from Zolton Law Offices in Saginaw. She is a Juris Doctor Graduate from the University of Illinois School of Law and also has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science Pre-Law and Political Science from Michigan State University.

Amber is a lifelong resident of Bay County and currently lives in Hampton Township with her husband Daniel, daughter Peyton and twin sons Avery and Trace.

Amber's office is located on the fourth floor of the Bay County Building and her email address is [johnsona@baycounty.net](mailto:johnsona@baycounty.net).

Welcome Amber!

## Personnel Announcement- Julie Coppens

I am happy to announce the appointment of Julie Coppens to the



[Community Outreach](#)

[Denim Day](#)

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**Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meetings**



**Ways & Means Committee Meeting**

May 6

**Board of Commissioners Meeting**

May 13

**Personnel Judicial & Human Services Committee Meetings**

April 15

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Please note: You can find Board Calendars, Agendas and Meeting results on the [Board of Commissioners webpage](#). You also can find links to view the videos of

Information Systems Manager position within the Bay County Finance Department.

Julie comes to Bay County from DICE Corporation where she most recently worked as the Director of Software Development. She has a Masters in Administrative Science and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from SVSU.

Julie lives in Bay City with her husband George and in her spare time she enjoys: reading, running and biking.

Julie will have an office on the 8th Floor of the County Building and her email address will be [coppensi@baycounty.net](mailto:coppensi@baycounty.net).

Welcome Julie!

**Departments On the Move**

The Bay County Building has seen some changes over the last month. People and departments are moving around the building. On your next visit, be sure to check you are on the right floor.



Changes:

- Personnel and Employee Relations has moved from the Ground Floor to the 3rd Floor.
- Payroll and Benefits has moved from the 7th Floor to the 3rd Floor.
- MSU Extension is now on the Ground Floor.
- The Purchasing and Housing Rehabilitation divisions are now on the 7th Floor.

**Spreading the Cheese**

The 31st Annual CheeseTown Challenge Races will be Friday and Saturday, June 13th and 14th. Proceeds for the races will support the Boys & Girls Club, educational grants, youth recreation programs, and community support services.



Schedule of Events:  
Friday, June 13th

- Mac & Cheese Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.
- Family Fun 2 Mile Run/Walk 7:00 P.M.
- Little Meeces Race 7:00 P.M.

each Board meeting, filmed by Bay3TV, on our [video webpage](#).

\*All meetings are held at 4:00 PM in the Chambers on the 4th floor of the Bay County Building.



## Quick Links

[Bay County Website](#)

[View Bay 3 TV Videos](#)

["Like" Bay County on Facebook!](#)

[Sign up for BAY Alerts!](#)

[Sign up for the Bay County Recreation Newsletter](#)

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event



Saturday, June 14th

- CheeseTown Challenge 2 Mile Run/Walk 6:00 P.M.
- CheeseTown Challenge 5 Mile Race 6:30 P.M.
- CheeseTown Challenge Little Meecees Race 7:30 P.M.
- Fireworks Display 10:00 P.M.

For more information visit [CheeseTown Races](#) website.

## RAP Grant

Bay County has been awarded a \$10,000.00 RAP Grant through Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for a Emergency Medical Dispatch project.

The Risk Avoidance Program Grant will assist with implementation of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS). The software will ensure that all 9-1-1 dispatchers respond to each emergency medical call in a standardized method. The software will reduce risk and allow dispatchers to quickly and efficiently gather critical information required for every medical call. The project will include the implementation and certification of Medical Priority Dispatch protocols as well as the supporting quality assurance processes and methodologies.



The Emergency Medical Dispatch system incorporates call prioritization with the ability to recommend appropriate unit response based on the determined incident nature. The Emergency Medical Dispatch software will also will use scripted pre-arrival instructions.

Key elements of the project include:

1. The use of standardized key questions for each emergency medical call that is specific to the caller's chief complaint(s).
2. Use of patient condition codes for categorizing callers according to acuity, mechanism of injury and scene circumstances.
3. The use of alphanumeric patient condition codes provide the ability to determine what resources to send on every emergency medical call.

The benefits of this project will ensure information distribution to field response units, including Police, Fire and Medical responders. This includes obtaining and transmission of information from the scene to the responders specific to scene safety, specifics of the medical complaint and preparation for the arrival of responding units. Additionally, the correct type of assistance (EMT, paramedic, and level of response) can be

The Bay County Health Department will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, April 26th from 9:00 A.M until 1:00 P.M. at the Bay County Fairgrounds. This event is by appointment only.

The free collection is intended for homeowners in Bay County, and not local businesses. Materials that can be disposed of on collection day are household chemicals, oil based paint, and household cleaners. For a complete list visit the [Bay County Health Departments Environmental Health](#) webpage or call 989-895-4006.

Registration for this event ends Thursday, April 24 so make your appointment today!

Discovery Preserve  
at Euclid Park

consistently dispatched as they pertain to the caller's needs. This will improve the use of response units.

## Wellness Center Update

The Bay County Wellness Center has been in operation for 3 months and is going strong.



Employees are utilizing these resources and appointments are continuing to rise.

January:	90 Appointments
February:	139 Appointments
March:	141 Appointments

## Going Once...Going Twice...

The Bay County Auction will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2014. The auction will start, rain or shine, at 3:00 P.M. at the Bay County Fairgrounds.



Some items in the auction:

- Cars
- Bikes
- TV's
- Refrigerators
- Computers
- Office Supplies
- Desks
- Chairs
- And Much More!



For more information visit [Rod Butler Auctions](#).

The [Bay County Fairgrounds](#) is located at 800 Livingston.

## BreitBurn Energy Community Outreach

BreitBurn Energy, as a part of a community outreach project they are





The [Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy](#) has partnered with Bay County to transform the former Euclid Linear Park into a SBLC Nature Preserve. The new name, voted for by residents, is Discovery Preserve at Euclid Park.

SBLC will be working hard all spring and summer to restore native plants, remove invasive species, add nesting boxes and Bay City's first [Chinmey Swift](#) structure. New signage will be installed and the trails and boardwalk will be improved.

Visit Discovery Preserve at Euclid Park at 1701 South Euclid Avenue.

**Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting**

undertaking, is offering to donate equipment to agencies within Bay County to help with response. The equipment donation is designed to help fulfill Bay County's obligations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Three projects have been approved and are moving forward:

- **Outdoor Public Warning Project-** This project will add 4 sirens to the public warning system in Bay County. These sirens would add an outdoor warning system to 3 of the smaller villages in Northern Bay County and address a lack of service to part of Hampton Township.
- **Communications Towers for Fire Paging-** This project will provide 2 new tower sites for the emergency pager system that fire departments use. Since the narrow banding project the signal that is sent to the fire pagers does not have adequate coverage. These two proposed towers would fill the gap.
- **5 Gas, Air Monitors-** This project will provide one 5 gas air monitor for each of the 16 fire departments in Bay County.

## Denim Day



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Bay Area Women's Center is sponsoring Denim Day, Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

Businesses and workplaces in Bay County are encouraged to



The Vietnam Veterans of America Bay Area Chapter #494 is holding a Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting.

Learn about the effects of Agent Orange on Veterans, their children, grandchildren, and future generations.

April 19th, 2014  
at 1:00 P.M.  
Bay County  
Community  
Center  
800 John F.  
Kennedy Rd.

For more  
information  
contact Ray  
Essenmacher at  
(989) 327-4264

allow workers to make a donation to be allowed to wear jeans that day. Proceeds to be donated to the Bay Area Women's Center's *Denim Day Fund*.

## Abuse in Later Life Survey: Results for Bay County

Do you know someone or have you been abused by a spouse/intimate partner, family member, caregiver or trusted individual?



According to 25 percent of the 665 Bay County residents who were surveyed recently about their experiences with abuse at the age of 50 and older the answer was yes. That amounts to one out of every four people living in Bay County who are 50 or older or over 10,500 people.

Table 1.  
Types of abuse known of or experienced by Bay County residents age 50 or greater.

Types	%
Emotional	25
Financial	19
Physical	15.5
Neglect	9
Sexual	6
Multiple types of abuse may occur to one individual.	

Abuse is defined in the Merriam Webster Dictionary as, "misuse of a person, including improper treatment". It usually happens at the hands of a family member or someone the older person trusts such as a spouse, intimate partner, caregiver or other trusted individual, according to the National Center for Abuse in Later Life.

The survey called, Abuse in Later Life, was distributed by the Bay County Division on Aging and supported by a grant from the Department of Justice. The surveys included three areas: personal knowledge and experience with abuse, the best methods for reaching victims and the services needed to help them stop the abuse.

In addition to emotional abuse, individuals also responded they knew someone or had personally experienced the following types of abuse: financial - 19 percent, physical - 15.5 percent, neglect - 9 percent and sexual - 6 percent.

Even though a relative is usually the perpetrator of the abuse, the survey showed that respondents reported they would go to family (67%) and then friends (37%) to be safe or to get help from an abuser if they needed it.

The majority of individuals thought the best way to help victims find services to end the abuse was through their physician (34%), followed by community presentations and newspapers (16%) and other methods. The top three services for older victims of abuse were; affordable legal help (53%), a case manager (34%) who would work with older victims to help them plan how to live without the abuser, and safe housing for someone who is in danger (32%).

Services	%
Affordable Legal Help	53
Case Management	34
Safe Housing	32
Does not total 100 due to separated questions.	

The Bay County Division on Aging also surveyed professionals who work with older Bay County residents in human service agencies. This survey collected information regarding: barriers in serving older victims of abuse and additional training they needed on this topic.

Professionals reported a major barrier that prevented them from helping older victims of abuse was the discomfort and embarrassment that victims feel about disclosing they are being abused (44%). To do a better job of helping victims of abuse, professionals responded they needed: stronger outreach efforts in the community (40%), regular training for staff (34%) and increased opportunities for interagency networking and collaboration to help victims (33.6%).

Survey data has been used by the Bay County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Team (BCEACCR) to develop strategies to help older victims of abuse become safe. The BCEACCR is a group of 25 interagency professionals who collaborate to coordinate services for victims, dedicated to preventing the abuse of older people; and holding offenders accountable.

Surveys and services are supported by a grant awarded to the Bay County Division on Aging by the U.S. Department of

Justice, Office on Violence Against Women for the Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse in Later Life. Grant partners include: The Bay Area Women's Center, Bay County Executive's Office, Division on Aging, Prosecutor's Office, and Sheriff's Office, the Department of Human Services for Bay, Gladwin and Arenac Counties, and Region VII Area Agency on Aging.

If you have questions about this grant, please call the [Bay County Division on Aging](#) at (989) 895-4100.

If you are a victim of abuse or suspect abuse - report it, 24 hours/day, seven days a week at

**1- 855-444-391**

E-mail: [DHS-CPS-CIGroup@michigan.gov](mailto:DHS-CPS-CIGroup@michigan.gov)  
or the  
Bay Area Women's Center 24-hour Hotline at

**800-834-2098**

TTY: (989) 686-0284

Silence only helps the abuser.

**Sincerely,**

**Tom Hickner  
Bay County**

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