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News From County Executive Tom Hickner

In This Issue

[Board of
Commissioners
Information](#)

[Shoe Years Day
Hike](#)

[The Award Goes
To...](#)

[Bay County Website](#)

[2014 Budget is
Approved](#)

[Wellness Center](#)

[Attention Bay
County
Homeowners!](#)

[Disabled Veterans
Exemption](#)

[Chair Yoga](#)

[Elder Abuse
Prevention](#)

[Bacterial Meningitis](#)

[Home and Garden
Show](#)

[Personnel
Announcements](#)

**Upcoming
Board of
Commissioners
Meetings**

Bay County FY 2014 Budget is Approved

The Bay County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the FY 2014 budget for Bay County at the Tuesday, December 10, 2013 Board of Commission meeting.

The adopted budget of approximately \$127,000,000, includes a General Operating Fund of \$34,209,118.



Highlights of the FY 2014 budget include:

- No employee lay-offs.
- No reduction in services, including continued funding for Sheriff's Road Patrol and the Bay County Prosecuting Attorney and Court system.
- A Wellness Center which should reduce the occurrence of chronic diseases while, at the same time, reduce costs for employees and the County.
- A healthy "rainy day" fund
- The first raise for employees since 2008: 3% total added to base wages during the next three years.



"It is only through the cooperative efforts of Bay County's Elected Officials, Department Directors and staff that we were successful in achieving a balanced budget," said Bay County Executive Tom Hickner, after the budget was adopted.

Board Chairman Ernie Krygier echoed that statement and said, "The 2014 Bay County budget provides funding that enables the County to provide services to the residents of Bay County in the most professional, efficient and cost-effective manner possible. The efforts of all involved in the budget process to include Elected Officials, the Courts, Department and Division heads, the unions, Finance Department staff and especially, the Board's Financial Analyst, are all to be



Organizational Meeting

January 6

Ways & Means Committee Meeting

January 7

Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 14

Personnel Judicial & Human Services Committee Meetings

December 17

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 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

commended."

Bay County Wellness Center



Bay County is moving forward with the release of a bid to have access to a local medical practice, which currently has three established locations; Bay City, Auburn and Midland. Employees will be able to access the Wellness Center without having to pay the standard co-pay as they would be required to pay when they visit their own primary care physician. With the increases in co-pays and deductibles in 2014, this will be a significant savings for most people. There will also be no cost to the employee for various generic prescriptions and labs.

The Wellness Center is not going to replace the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan; it is simply going to work in conjunction with the existing coverage. As Bay County Executive Tom Hickner stated, "It is a win-win situation that is good for our employees and their families as well as the County."

The overall goal in taking this route is to build a healthier, more productive workforce by the promotion of healthy lifestyle changes. It is not our intention to "tell" people what to do or to monitor their activities; we are here to provide employees and their families with the necessary resources to improve their long term health and to reduce their out-of-pocket health care costs. Studies show that employees who participate in wellness programs enjoy short-term and long-term benefits; they are more productive, take fewer sick days and are generally happier in their jobs.

The Wellness Center uses the Patient Centered Medical Home Model of Care; this approach is designed to better coordinate patient care with an emphasis on the patient's overall wellbeing by providing long term coordination with their own physician and follow-up on medical conditions.

With the combined efforts of the Bay County employees, their families and the Wellness Center this venture will provide long term benefits and be positive to all parties involved.

We expect that the Wellness Center will be open after the first of the year.

For more information please contact, Jeanie Deckert Wellness Coordinator for Bay County at (989)895-4087 or email at deckertj@baycounty.net

Bay County
Building.



Quick Links

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Shoe Years Day Hike



Kick off 2014 on the right foot with a Shoe Years Day Hike at Bay City State Recreation Area on January 1st.

Runners Performance staff will talk about health & fitness tips, do a warm-up activity and lead a hike on the

Attention Bay County Homeowners!

It has come to the attention of the [Bay County Register of Deeds](#) that a company is soliciting property owners with a service to provide homeowners with their deed. These solicitations are received shortly after the purchase of a new home or when a change has been made to a current deed.



The correspondence states that for \$89.00 they will provide you with a certified copy of your deed. This information is available from the Register of Deeds office for \$1.00 per page and a \$3.00 certification fee. Typically a deed is one or two pages in length.

Most homeowners obtain their deed at the time of purchase or when a land contract has been fulfilled. If at any time, you require your deed and are unable to locate it, please contact the Register of Deeds office at (989) 895-4228 who would be happy to assist you.

Disabled Veterans Exemption

Recently, Governor Snyder signed into law P.A. 161 of 2013. The amended Act regarding Veterans Exemptions has 3 requirements, of which only 1 has to be met, to receive the exemption. The requirements are:



1. Has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
2. Has a certificate from the United States Veterans' Administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
3. Has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs as individually unemployable.

The unremarried surviving spouse of the disable veteran is eligible for the exemption based upon the eligibility of their spouse; therefore, the spouse must also be a Michigan resident. The exemption will continue only as long as the surviving spouse remains unremarried.

This exemption will have to be applied for each year (during a period beginning with the tax day for each year and ending at the time of the final adjournment of the local board of

Andersen Nature Trail. Also enjoy healthy snacks, hot beverages and learn about summer Fresh Air Fit programs offered at the park.

Meet at the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center at 10 a.m. Call the park at (989) 684-3020 for details.

review). An Affidavit along with the above mention paperwork (from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Veterans' Administration) must be filed with the local unit Assessor to receive the exemption.

Visit the [Bay County Equalization webpage](#) for more information

Chair Yoga- With Beth Trahan

Division on Aging, in cooperation with the Bay County Community Center, offers another new class with Bay County Recreation Assistant Beth Trahan.



Chair Yoga
Community Center Small Gym
800 J.F. Kennedy Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706

Fridays, January 10-January 31
11:30 am-12 Noon

Chair Yoga is especially geared to the 60+ age group w/emphasis on gentle movement and proper breathing. This seated Yoga Class is designed to relax, restore, and renew the body, the mind, and the spirit.

For more information please call 989-895-4100 or toll free 1-877-229-9960.

Visit the [Bay County Division on Aging webpage](#) for more events and programs.

The Award Goes To...



Bay County Commissioner Vaughn Begick is the recipient of the Volunteer Award for the 2013 Orlen J. Johnson, MD Excellence in Health Care Awards.

Commissioner Begick is a Physician Assistant in Saginaw for Dr. LaFleur.

The awards were

Elder Abuse Prevention Project Survey Results

In the summer of 2013, a survey titled "Abuse in Later Life" was conducted. The purpose of the survey was to gather data from people age 50 and older in Bay County to provide a picture of the types of abuse that occur in the community. It also identified services needed by older victims to help them become independent from their abusers.



Top 3 Types of Abuse in Bay County:

- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Financial Abuse

Services Needed by Older Victims Identified by the Survey:

distributed on December 7, 2013 at the McLaren Bay Region Auxiliary's Charity Ball.

These awards are named after Orlen J.

Johnson, MD, a physician who served the health needs of Bay Area residents for over 40 years. Dr. Johnson was a general practitioner and surgeon who participated in the development of quality health care locally and statewide for over 50 years.

- Affordable Legal help
- Case Management
- Safe Housing
- Traditional Housing

The information from this survey has already been used by the Bay County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Team. With this information and funding from multiple organizations and departments, the CCR Team can now effectively determine the need for new and expanded services in Bay County for people age 50 and older.

If you have any questions about this grant or program, call Division on Aging at 989-895-4100 or toll-free at 1-877-229-9960.

[Visit the Bay County Division on Aging webpage](#)

FYI - Bacterial Meningitis

A recent case of Meningitis was reported in Bay County.

Meningitis is a disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, usually caused by infection.



Transmission:

The germs that cause bacterial meningitis can be contagious. Some bacteria can spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions (kissing or sharing a drink). Fortunately, most of the bacteria that cause meningitis are not as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu. Also, the bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.

Symptoms:

Meningitis infection may show up in a person by a sudden onset of fever, headache, and stiff neck. It will often have other symptoms, such as

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Increased sensitivity to light (photophobia)
- Altered mental status (confusion)

Treatment:

Bacterial meningitis can be treated effectively with antibiotics. The antibiotics should be started as soon as possible.

For more information you can:

- Visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#)
- Contact the [Bay County Health Department](#) at 895-4009
- Or contact your personal doctor.

Information taken from the CDC website

Home and Garden Lifestyles



The Bay County Civic Arena will host the Home and Garden Lifestyles Show, February 22-23, 2014. This is being presented by the Bay County Home Builders Association.

This event provides consumers with information for building and remodeling, financing, landscaping, decorating, travel, health and wellness, energy saving ideas and more!

Vendor, sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. Rental space is starting at \$200.

For more information call Kelly Duhaime, Show Manager (989) 233-2115 or kduhaime@charter.net or Harlan Holsing, Executive Director, (989)684-3560.

Visit the [Bay County Home Builders Association](#) webpage to learn more.

Visit the [Bay County Civic Arena](#) webpage to see what other exciting things are going on at this facility.

Personnel Announcements- Jon Morse

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jon Morse to the position of Building and Grounds Supervisor with the Building and Grounds Division.

Jon has worked for Bay County as the Mechanical Contractor since 2001. He is currently attending Delta College/Northwood University's 3-in-1 program working towards his bachelors' degree in Business



Administration.

Jon is a life-long resident of Bay County and enjoys purchasing and restoring homes in his free time. He is also the proud parent of his son, Adam, who attends Michigan Tech.

Congratulations, Jon!

Norine Weiler

There is a new face on the 7th floor and I am pleased to announce the appointment of Norine Weiler to the position of Account Clerk IV in the Accounts Payable Division of the Finance Department.



Norine has been employed with Bay County as a Court Clerk in Circuit Court since 2004. She lives in Fairgrove with her beautiful daughter Gabrielle and enjoys spending time with her family in her very limited free time.

Congratulations, Norine!

Nick Percy

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Nick Percy to the position of Business Process Analyst with the Information Systems Division of the Finance Department.



Nick has worked for the Information Systems Division as a Hardware/Software Technician since 2011. He is scheduled to graduate from Davenport University this month.

He lives in Caro with his wife Angela, their daughter, Maggie and newborn son, Oliver.

Congratulations, Nick!

Sincerely,

**Tom Hickner
Bay County**

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