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# News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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## Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meetings



**Ways & Means  
Committee  
Meeting**  
March 6th

## County Executive Tom Hickner Delivers State of the County Address

During the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce's State of the Community Luncheon on Wednesday, February 15th, Tom Hickner delivered his State of the County address.



Highlights of the speech include:

- 19 years of balanced budgets with no increase in taxes.
- Since taking office in 1993, the fund balance of the General Fund has grown to over 10.3 million. Our General Fund is budgeted at 32.9 million in 2012.
- Administration has made significant spending reductions in order to balance the budget in these difficult economic times.
- The employee pension system is overfunded and a VEBA was created for retiree health care costs.

Key efforts for 2012 were also outlined to include:

- Intergovernmental cooperation and consolidation of services.
- Promotion of job opportunities and private investment in our community.
- Support of the work of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance.
- Establishment of a web portal to meet the needs of businesses looking to expand or locate in our area.
- Development of a Community Strategic Plan.
- Support of various economic growth efforts including investment in downtowns, neighborhood redevelopment, support of business corridors and continued investment in civic projects.

For more detailed information, you may view the complete text of Tom Hickner's [State of the County Speech](#) or read the [Bay City Times Article](#) on the State of the Community Luncheon.

**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
March 13th

**Personnel Judicial & Human Services Committee Meetings**  
March 20th

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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 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](#)

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## 2012 Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show at the Bay County Civic Arena on February 24th - 26th

The Bay County Home Builders Association is hosting the 2012 Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show at the [Bay County Civic Arena](#), 4231 Shrestha Drive, Bay City, on February 24th - 26th.

Admission is \$3.00 or receive a complimentary admission by donating 3 cans/non-perishable food items to benefit the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Children 16 and under are free.

Show times are:

- Friday, February 24th - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- Saturday, February 25th - 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Sunday, February 26th - 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Bring the kids!** Bob the Builder will be at the Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show from 1:30 - 3:30 on Saturday for the Kids Construction Korner.



Other special events include:

- Have Your Trophy Rack Measured - Saturday Only
- Meet Tim Roller from Wild Addiction - Saturday Only
- Meet Dixie Dave ~ The Guru of Game - Sunday from 11:00 - 2:00
- WSGW's Listen to the Mrs. with Art and Sue - Sunday during the live show from 10:10 - 11:00

For more information and a list of exhibitors, please see the [Bay County Home Builders Association](#) website.



## The Michigan Green School Initiative

In May 2006 Governor Jennifer Granholm signed the "Michigan Green School Act" into law. This act grants "Michigan Green School" designation to any public or private school in Michigan meeting certain criteria.

The [Bay County Environmental Affairs and Community Development Department](#) is serving as the clearinghouse for all schools in Bay County and will handle the specific details pertaining to implementation of this bill.

The [Michigan Green Schools](#)



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**Bay Future, Inc.  
7th Annual  
Meeting ~ Friday,  
March 9th**



The Bay Future, Inc. Board of Directors are hosting their [7th Annual Meeting](#) on Friday, March 9th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Bay City Riverfront.

The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Thomas Lane, Vice-President of Instruction and Learning Services at Delta College.

Registration begins at 11:30 AM with the program running from 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM.

For more information, please see the [event flyer](#) or contact Bay Future at 989-892-4100 or [info@bayfuture.com](mailto:info@bayfuture.com).

**Michigan Primary  
February 28th**



The Presidential

website provides information on becoming an official Michigan Green School along with the formal application which has 25 criteria for environmental and energy-saving choices. Schools that achieve 10 of these points in an academic year will be designated as an official Michigan Green School.

Previously designated "Green Schools" in Bay County are:

- Bangor West Elementary School
- Christa McAuliffe Middle School
- Lincoln Elementary
- Pinconning High and Middle Schools.

I would like to urge the schools in our community to consider becoming involved in this project.

Contact [Alicia Wallace](#) at (989) 895-4195 for further information.

## Bay County Mosquito Control's 2011 Annual Report

Bay County Mosquito Control is pleased to present their [2011 Annual Report](#).

The annual report summarizes the program's efforts to monitor mosquito populations, conduct disease surveillance for several mosquito-borne diseases including West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and St. Louis Encephalitis, and control both immature mosquito stages in aquatic habitats and adult mosquitoes.



Furthermore, the report includes data regarding scrap tire drives designed to collect and recycle tires in order to reduce breeding sources; it also discusses public education programs that provide information about mosquitoes including backyard homeowner mosquito control tips. Efficacy studies on new materials and susceptibility studies on adult mosquitoes are also included.

## Response To The BCATS Transportation Summit and The Public's Awareness of Road Construction Projects

The Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS) hosted a Transportation Summit



Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012.

For information on candidates, polling locations, to view a sample ballot, or watch an informational video, please see the [Bay County Clerk's Presidential Primary webpage](#).

on January 30th for public input on prioritizing transportation infrastructure improvements within the Bay City Urbanized Area.

A few questions arose during the summit regarding the public's awareness of road construction projects. In response to those questions, you will find a list of information sources below:

- [BayAlerts](#) is Bay County's new emergency mass notification system. Updates on road closures, accidents, emergencies, and other critical situations are delivered via land-line telephones, cell phones and/or through email.
- The [Bay County Road Commission](#) has a free email notification of the latest road closings, Spring weight restrictions, and other pertinent information.
- The [Michigan Department of Transportation](#) has a number of notification systems and traffic alerts in place, such as:
  - [MiDrive](#)
  - [Facebook](#)
  - [Twitter](#)
  - [Email Alerts](#)

For any additional information on BCATS or where to stay informed on road construction projects, please contact the [Bay County Transportation Planning Division](#) at 989-895-4064.

## **Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Approved for 2012**

At their February Board meeting, Commissioners approved the continuation of the [Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Project](#) which began in 2011.



The [Gypsy Moth Suppression Program](#) began the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Treatment Project by treating 2566 ash trees to protect them from EAB which causes serious tree mortality wherever it is found and the dead trees become a serious safety hazard. The trees treated in 2011 will not need to be treated again until 2013, however, there are over 800 additional ash trees that still meet the criterion for treatment by our program and would benefit from the treatment. These trees are all on 'publically owned lands' which, for the purpose of this project, include those that are owned by a public entity and are areas actively maintained as parklands, cemeteries and include urban street trees and the Bay County Golf Course; it does not include woodlots or those properties that are not maintained for public access purposes.

The Ash Tree Inventory was updated last fall to determine the efficacy of the 2011 EAB Treatment Project and to locate and evaluate the health of ash trees on each publicly held property in the county. The Inventory resulted in the determination that more than 800 of the nearly 3800 ash trees located in developed areas of publicly owned lands throughout the County would benefit from treatment to control EAB in the spring of 2012. The Program will use a competitive bidding process to select Qualified Bidders in March for treatment that must be conducted between May 1, 2012 and June 15, 2012 for optimum effect. Treatment will be done using the Arborjet treatment system with the product TREE-age since this is the treatment recommended by the state as the only product with proven multiple years efficacy.

Any questions concerning this project or EAB can be directed to [Alicia Wallace](#), Program Coordinator, at (989) 895-4195.

**Sincerely,**

**Tom Hickner  
Bay County**

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