

### News from Bay County

Tom Hickner [hicknert@baycounty.net]

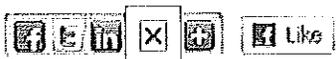
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2012 2:40 PM

To: Debra Russell

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# News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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**Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meetings**

#### Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

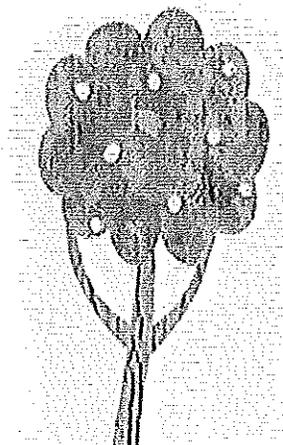
Bay County Executive Tom Hickner has been reappointed to serve on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC). The LGAC provides "valuable advice and recommendations that assist the Agency in developing a stronger partnership with local governments through building state and local capacity to deliver environmental services and programs."

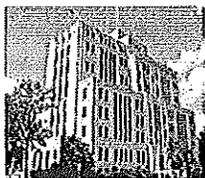


The EPA seeks balanced representation for the committee from local government, national organizations and the general public. Mr. Hickner has served on this committee since his appointment in August 2010.

#### Earth Day

Spring is here, and with that comes the 42nd Annual Earth Day. To mark this occasion Environmental Affairs organized a free electronic recycling drop-off on April 14th. The event was a huge success, drawing over 250 donors with trailers full of old electronics. "The day was more successful than anyone of us imagined," said Laura Ogar, Director of Environmental Affairs and Community Development. "We would have





**Ways & Means  
Committee  
Meeting**

May 1st

**Board of  
Commissioners  
Meeting**

May 8th

**Personnel  
Judicial  
&  
Human  
Services  
Committee  
Meetings**

May 15th

\*\*\*\*\*

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

been happy with 70 or 80 cars, but we had cars in line waiting to drop off their obsolete electronic items." The 53-foot semi-trailer was so full at the end of the day that, unfortunately, some potential donors had to be turned away.

A group of young volunteers also played an important role, helping sort and carry items. "It was fun watching the high school kids see some of the items come through. They asked me what all the foil was about on the television antennas, I told them it was like a 'dish' television." Ogar joked.

In all, the Environmental Affairs staff and their wonderful volunteers did a tremendous job organizing this event. It should be noted that of all those old computers and televisions they collected, not one will see its way to a landfill. Rather, all the plastic, copper, aluminum, and other components will be stripped and recycled.

For more information about these and other events, please visit the Environmental Affairs website at: <http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/EACD/>

**Michigan Severe Weather Awareness**

As April marked the beginning of Michigan's peak "tornado season," it is important to recap Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 15-21. "Severe Weather Awareness Week was a good time for families, businesses and schools to develop their own severe weather plans," says Chris Izworks, Bay County Emergency Management Coordinator.



A tornado watch is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes. Usually issued for four to eight hours, it is important to take this time to review your tornado safety plans and prepare to move to a safe place should conditions worsen

A tornado warning is issued when a tornado has been detected by Doppler radar or sighted by storm spotters. If a tornado warning is issued for your area, it is important to immediately seek safe shelter. During this time the county wide system of warning sirens will sound. These warnings usually last for thirty minutes, and during this you should



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**Featured Article**

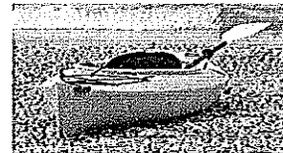
2012 Bay County Equalization Report is now available on our Website

continue to pay attention to weather updates on your radio or local television stations. The division of Emergency Management would also like to remind everyone that residents of Bay County can receive National Weather Service watch and warning information on their cell phone simply by signing up for BAY Alerts. To register for this free service simply text the words "BAY Alerts" to 69310 or log onto their website.

For more information regarding how to keep safe in any disaster please visit the Bay County Emergency Management website.

**Kayak Rental**

Beginning this summer, kayaks will be available for rent at Pinconning Park. The program comes after the leadership of local residents Bob and Ellen Charlebois of Pinconning. Their proposal was approved by the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday April 10th, and the County hopes to have these kayaks available for use by Memorial Day.



While many of the details are still being finalized, there is already some hope that this proposal might draw increased attraction to the park. Pinconning Park is located along the beautiful shores of the Saginaw Bay, at 3041 East Pinconning Rd, in Pinconning. The park is also home to fifty modern campsites and six log cabins. If you have any questions about Pinconning Park, please see their website at the Bay County Department of Recreation and Administrative Services.

**Bay County Golf Course Fee Increase**

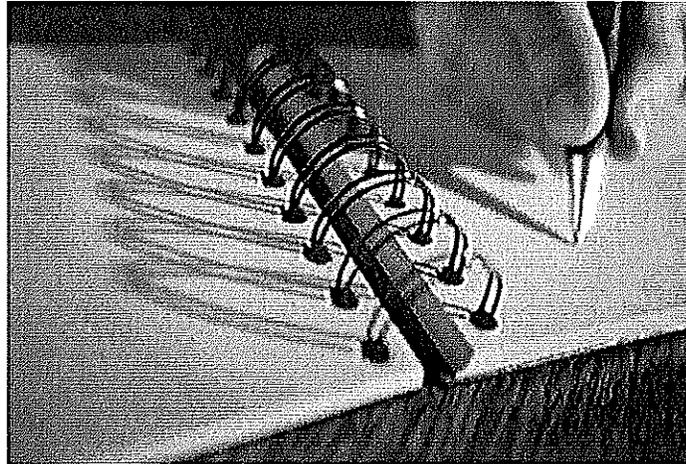
A business plan for the Bay County Golf Course has been drafted and is under review by administration. In order to allow for the reinstatement of seasonal positions at the Golf Course without a negative impact on the budget, the Board of Commissioners has approved an increase in the fee structure as follows:



	<u>Current Fee:</u>	<u>Approved Fee:</u>
9 hole weekday fee:	\$13.00	\$14.00
18 hole weekday fee:	\$22.00	\$23.00

Spring/Fall 9 hole cart:	\$ 4.00	\$ 5.00
Spring/Fall 18 hole cart:	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.00

Mike Gray, Assistant County Executive for Recreation & Administrative Services said: "Brent Goik determined these are appropriate adjustments to help keep the golf course operating revenue in line with what we need to operate."



## Freedom of Information Act Requests - (FOIA)

The Bay County Department of Corporation Counsel & Risk Management has been designated by the County Executive as FOIA Coordinator for Bay County. In that capacity, the Department handles all requests for Bay County submitted under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. The Act was created by the Michigan Legislature to provide greater access to the public and hold public entities more accountable for their conduct.

Generally, FOIA covers all public records except those specifically cited as exceptions. Once a written request is made, a search is conducted for the documents, very often requiring coordination between County offices and departments. When an existing record is located, it is assembled and reviewed for any exemption. A written response is then prepared. There is a charge proportionate to the actual costs of producing records.

An example of records requested from Bay County include: Bay County Sheriff incident reports, Animal Control reports, requests for 911 recordings of dispatch records, etc. Every effort is made to provide a prompt response to written requests for information. For additional information on the Michigan Freedom of Information Act: MCL 15.231.

## 2012 Equalization Report



The 2012 County Equalization Report has been completed, and will be available online within the coming weeks. Those interested will be able to see the total equalized and taxable value of property throughout the county. The numbers have been broken down by township and city, as well as property class. Additionally, readers will be able to see the change in value as a percentage compared to last year's report.

The taxable value for 2012 is listed as \$2,901,225,684. This value is a change of 0.53% down from last year's value of \$2,916,647,488. The county did see an increase in the taxable value of personal property by 7.95%. The Townships of Garfield and Williams both saw the largest increase from last year, 12.42% and 13.76% respectfully. However, Hampton (15.38%), Bangor (15.02%), and Monitor (12.44%) Townships combined with Bay City (19.44%) account for the majority of taxable value in the county.

For more information regarding equalization reports, please see the Equalization Department's website at [http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/Equalization/EQUAL\\_TXBL\\_2012.pdf](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/Equalization/EQUAL_TXBL_2012.pdf)

There you can also find more information about taxable property values, as well as reports from past years.

**Sincerely,**

**Tom Hickner  
Bay County**

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