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News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meetings

Personnel Announcement

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Joel Strasz to the position of Health Director with the Bay County Health Department effective July 31, 2013.



Joel has served as Bay County's Public Health Services Manager since 2005 and has over seventeen years of experience in public health, including extensive work in community organization, data analysis and evaluation, environmental health issues and public health operations. He holds a B.A. from Michigan State University and an M.P.A. from the University of Michigan-Flint.

Mr. Strasz lives in Bay City with his wife Michelle and their 2 children, James and Daniel. In his spare time, Joel enjoys reading, running and coaching baseball.

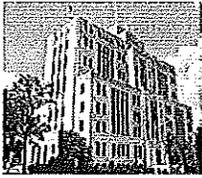
Joel's office will remain at the Health Department and he may be reached at (989) 895-2018 or via email at: straszj@baycounty.net.

Please join me in wishing Joel the best with his new position.

Storm Recognition

Register today for **BAY ALERTS** emergency messaging notification system
www.baycounty-mi.gov

On July 19th, at approximately 2:30 pm, severe



**Ways & Means
Committee
Meeting**

September 3

**Board of
Commissioners
Meeting**

September 10

**Personnel
Judicial
&
Human
Services
Committee
Meetings**

August 20

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.

thunderstorms swept through Bay County. The storm lasted a short 15 minutes, but the response to the storm lasted for days.

The storm knocked out power to thousands of residents in Bay City as well as residents in several Bay County Townships. 9-1-1 Central Dispatch also lost power for a short time and during the outage 9-1-1 operated on generator power.

Within moments after the storm hit, the 9-1-1 lines lit up. The 9-1-1 phones rang steady for hours. During the first 90 minutes, the 9-1-1 staff members answered approximately 350 emergency calls on 6 CAMA trunk lines. Several dispatchers responded to a request for additional staffing. The calls then continued into the evening and overnight.

Dispatchers answered 3583 9-1-1 calls between 2pm and 9pm on July 19th. This does not count the thousands of administrative incoming calls, nor does it count outgoing calls. Each dispatcher averaged 716 9-1-1 calls during those hours with an average of within 12 seconds. Veteran supervisor Sally McCaffrey stated it was the busiest she has ever seen it. That sentiment was echoed by two other veterans, Sue Rhoderick and Michelle Katt.

In response to the storm, the City of Bay City requested the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Bay County Emergency Management fulfilled their request. The EOC's charge was to coordinate the response efforts in Bay City. Within a few hours after the storm, Bay City Staff and Bay County Staff were collaborating in the EOC in response to the Storm. EOC Staff consisted of Bay County Emergency Management, Bay County 9-1-1, Bay County Public Information, Bay City Public Safety, Bay City Public Works and Bay City Light and Power. The EOC served to coordinate response efforts, ensuring that there was not duplication of services, which is important due to the limited resources available.

MAC Steering Committee

Bay County Executive, Tom Hickner recently accepted a position on the Michigan Green Communities (MGC) Steering Committee.

The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Steering Committee is the governing entity of MGC. The MGC is a network of local government staff and officials from diverse government types





Quick Links

[Bay County Website](#)

[View Bay 3 TV Videos](#)

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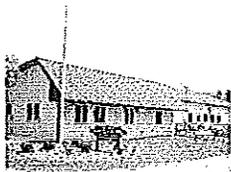
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and community sizes from across the state.

Committee members are charged with responsibilities that include:

- Providing leadership, strategic planning and organizational direction
- Ensuring the organization operates in a fiscally responsible manner
- Assist with outreach and public relations
- Serve on workgroups and assist with special projects as needed
- Govern the Steering Committee
- Recruit, support, supervise and evaluate MGC staff, if applicable
- Serve as a liaison between MGC and their agency or organization
- Maintain good standing
- Contributing to at least one substantive MGC project, meeting, workshop, or product on an annual basis

Problems with Skunks?



Did you know that Bay County Animal Control loans out traps for property owners interested in trapping skunks.

The trap is cylindrical in shape and doesn't permit the skunk to lift its tail to spray. Animal Control offers the following suggestions to trappers:

West Nile in Bay County

The West Nile Virus has been detected in Bay County and surrounding areas. Bay County Mosquito Control has some tips on how to protect yourself and your families against mosquitos.



- Apply insect repellents.
- Empty standing water from containers or plastic wading pools or store them upside down.
- Mosquito-proof your home by installing screens.
- Keep ditches, drains, and culverts clear of weeds and trash for proper drainage
- Change bird bath water weekly.
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed so adult mosquitoes will not rest there for harborage during the day.
- Use fine mesh screen on the top of rain barrels to prevent female adults from reaching the water surface to lay eggs.

For more information:
[Bay County Mosquito Control](#)

Managing Fatal Force Encounters

Bay County Emergency Management Coordinator, Ryan Manz, has provided training sessions to Bay County Staff in



- * put a small blanket over the trap;
- * handle it gently;
- * do not transport in an enclosed vehicle in case of an "accident"
- * speak quietly so as to not panic the skunk
- * make no quick movements which are visible to the skunk
- * only release in a wooded or rural area

To deter skunks, remember to treat for grubs (which is their favorite delicacy) and keep lids on garbage containers, etc..

Fire Truck Pull



The United Way of Bay City is hosting "Pull for United Way," September 6th, from 3-5pm.

Teams will attempt to pull a fire truck for charity. The cost is \$10 per person, includes food from local vendors and

managing fatal force encounters.



Over 90 staff members throughout the county have attended these sessions. The trainings highlighted two procedures for staff to follow should they be faced with either a fatal force encounter or the need to secure the building. The focus of both of these procedures is on life safety of both our staff members and citizens conducting business with the county.

This is the first of several steps that are being taken to increase staff safety.

Get Fit in 30 Minutes

Fit in 30 Classes are back on schedule with Beth Trahan. As in the past they are open to men and women. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:15-12:45pm at the Bay County Community Center. These classes are intended to be low impact and consist of:



- Stretching
- Weights
- Core Conditioning

Mats and some weights are available but if you have your own hand weights you may want to bring them. The locker rooms will be accessible for anyone needing to change or shower. These classes are FREE for Bay County employees and \$3.00 for others.

If you have any questions about these classes or other wellness opportunities please contact Beth Trahan, (989)894-0671 or Wellness Coordinator Jeanie Deckert, (989)895-4087, deckertj@baycounty.net.

Congratulations! Bay County has the Halub Cup!

The Bay County team has won the Halub Cup for the first time, beating their rival the Bay City Country Club.

The Halub Cup tournament has been played for the last 6 years between teams made up of the best players from the Bay County course and the Bay City Country Club. Bay County captain, Brent Goik, was very happy to bring home the win and finally put the Halub Cup in its rightful place, the clubhouse of the Bay County Golf Course.



[Bay County Golf Course](#)

a t-shirt.

Gather people from your office, round up the family, or get some friends and come out and show off your strength, teamwork, and generosity.

Living united means being a part of the change and with your participation in this event you can start your weekend knowing that you have made a difference.

Contact Jeanie Deckert, Bay County Wellness Coordinator, for more information 989-895-4087

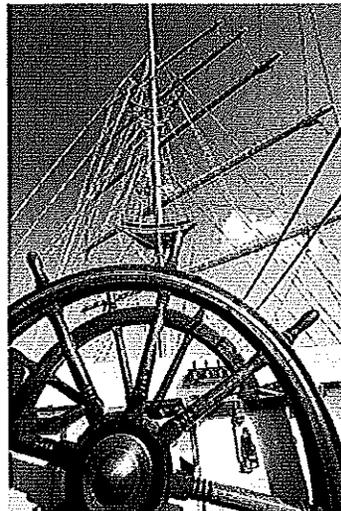
Community Outreach Sails

BaySails is offering trips aboard the Schooner *Appledore IV* to raise awareness of current environmental issues and promote stewardship of the Great Lakes. This opportunity is open to community leaders, educators, boaters, landowners, and other interested parties.

An onboard BaySail Shipboard Educator will talk about how the Saginaw River's industrial past has impacted the ecology of the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Guests will be able to take water and various other samples while on the trip, and will be able to explore them back in port. A BaySail Educator will discuss current environmental issues affecting the Great Lakes, while taking a leisurely sail on the Saginaw Bay in a Tall Ship.

Groups of up to 35 can be accommodated for this 3 hour trip.

Contact Greg Allington, 989-895-5193
program@baysailbaycity.org



Book Sale

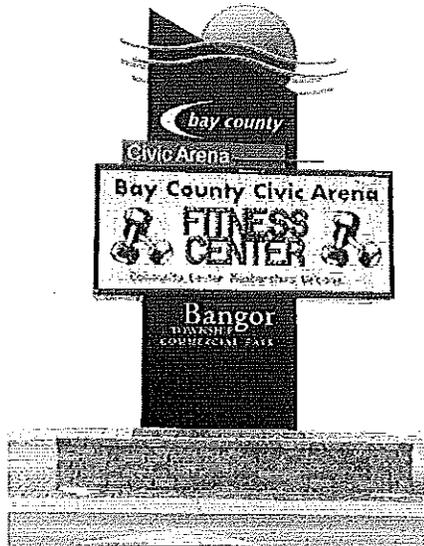
Friends of the Bay County Library held their annual book sale Thursday, August 8 through Saturday, August 10. Retired books, magazines, CD's, and DVD's of the Bay County Library system, along with some donated materials were sold to help fund library programs throughout the year.



This year, the sale was held at the Bay County Civic Arena. Tables of books sprawled from one end of the ice rink to the other. The sale started with about 2,500 boxes of books and approximately 85% were sold. When doors opened on Thursday, a crowd of around 350-400 people had lined up to get in. An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 people attended this sale throughout the weekend.

"We are very excited to be able offer a new home to this long running event. It is an outstanding opportunity to provide

another service and introduce the Civic Arena to a new portion of the community." - Bob Metcalfe, Bay County Civic Arena Manager.



For rental of the Civic Arena facilities, please contact Tara Chaffin at 989-671-1000.

Chili Cook-Off



On August 6th, the Bay County Firefighters Association, hosted Chili Cook-Off at the National Night Out, at the Bay County Community Center.

Members of the Bay County Firefighters Association competed for the title of "Area's Best Chili."

Attendees received 20 samples of chili and vote for their favorite to determine the "People's Choice" winner! All proceeds of this event went to benefit Camp Fish Tales in Pinconning and the Bay County Firefighters Association.

Bangor Fire Department won First Place after a "second helping tie-breaker" with Portsmouth Fire Department. Portsmouth went on to win the "People's Choice," followed by Monitor, and Bangor Departments.

Bay County Central Dispatch entered an Argentine Chili (very meaty, sweet potatoes, no beans) with a chimichurri sauce. Dessert consisted of



candied, chili-spiced bacon.



Plans are already in the works for next year's Cook-Off. Bay County Central Dispatch will be holding an internal competition to determine the best recipe and will bring that to the Cook-Off competition. After being "robbed" of the title the last two years, they are getting serious.



Sincerely,

**Tom Hickner
Bay County**

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