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# News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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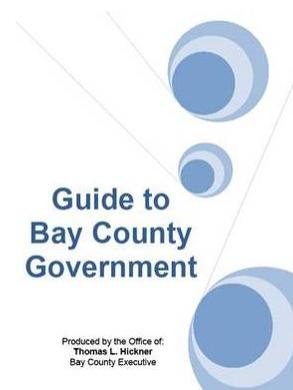


**April Board of Commissioners Meetings**

## Citizens' Guide to Bay County Government

A newly updated Citizens' Guide to Bay County Government is now available on our webpage!

The [Citizens' Guide to Bay County Government](#) was designed to help you easily navigate through the Bay County departments, divisions and programs in order to provide an understanding of the services Bay County offers to its citizens.



As you will see on the webpage, this document is available in PDF as a full document or in four relatively small segments to allow for faster downloads.

## The SBCI Recognized for Coordination Effort and Support of MiGreatBay Website

The [Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative](#) (SBCI) is a collaboration between the counties of Arenac, Bay, Huron, Iosco, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola, and partnering with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and various regional and federal agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive approach to promoting environmentally sound economic development and resource restoration in the Saginaw Bay coastal area. County Executive Tom Hickner and his staff are leading the regional coordinating effort.

In late February, the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative was recognized at the Saginaw Bay Success Celebration for our coordination efforts in the Saginaw Bay Region and for their role as a Sponsor of the [MiGreatBay](#) website. Laura Ogar, Director of [Environmental Affairs & Community Development](#) was honored to accept the plaque on behalf of the SBCI.

MiGreatBay is a website that details all of the great amenities of the Saginaw Bay and River coastal community.

The information focuses on Agricultural, Cultural, Historic and Natural Resources in the coastal region. A map is produced when you click on one of the 'sub-topics' on the MiGreatBay homepage, such as boating, golf, museums, or lighthouses. The icons on the map show the locations where that activity is available and links

**MiGreatBay!**  
WWW.MIGREATBAY.COM



**April 5th**  
Ways & Means  
Committee  
Meeting

**April 12th**  
Board of  
Commissioners  
Meeting

**April 19th**  
Personnel Judicial  
& Human Services  
Committee  
Meetings

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

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

### **Boaters Safety Certification Course Offered**

The Boys & Girls  
Club of Bay  
County and the  
Bay County  
Sheriff's Office  
Marine Division  
will host a Boaters  
Safety Course on  
March 31, 2011.

**Time:** 9:00 AM -  
3:00 PM

take you directly to the websites you are interested in.

MiGreatBay was made possible by [Saginaw Bay WIN](#), the [Bay Area Community Foundation](#) and [Saginaw Bay Resource, Convention & Development](#).

## **45-Foot Public Safety Radio Tower Lifted onto County Building**

In past newsletters, Bay County pledged to keep you continually informed of the progress of the nearly 1 million dollar grant-funded Public Safety Radio Tower Project.



On Saturday, March 12th, the 45-foot Motorola 800-megahertz tower was hoisted onto the top of the Bay County Building. This tower will provide a clearer radio system for first responder (such as police, fire, EMS and dispatch) communication in Bay County.

For more pictures, please see our [Facebook Photo Album](#).

## **National Weather Service ~ Severe Weather Spotter Class**

Tornados, flash floods, hail, windstorms and lightning (thunderstorms) are all natural occurrences over which we have no control. With your help, we can provide the precious time needed to inform the community of severe weather.



[Bay County Emergency Management](#) and the [American Red Cross](#) are hosting the annual [Severe Weather Spotter class](#) scheduled for Tuesday, April 26th from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. The National Weather Service will conduct the course at our local Red Cross Chapter, 228 Washington Ave, Bay City, Michigan.

If you are interested in becoming a Skywarn - Severe Weather Spotter or would like more information, please contact Chris Izworski at 989-895-4112.

## **Report on Compliance with Michigan's Smoke-Free Law in Bay County**

A statewide survey was conducted to determine how many business owners and managers have taken the required measures to comply with Michigan's Smoke-free Air Law, effective in May of 2010.

Across the state, volunteers sampled 964 establishments

**Location:** The Bay City Unit - 300 W. Lafayette

Attendees will receive Certification for the successful completion of the class.

The class is open to all children 12 and older at no cost.

Class size limited and an RSVP is required. For more information or to register, contact your Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay County at (989) 892-6723.

which were randomly selected from local health departments. In Bay County, 13 restaurants, 5 bars and 2 bowling alleys were sampled by these volunteers.

Results indicated smoking was not observed in 90% of the establishments. Also, "No Smoking" signs were posted and ashtrays or smoking paraphernalia were removed in 90% of the establishments.

[View the report here.](#)

As concluded, Bay County residents have a very high level of compliance with the Michigan Smoke-Free Air Law. In addition, managers and owners of the food establishment were found to be in high compliance too with the law.

**Sincerely,**

Tom Hickner  
Bay County

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