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News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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**Upcoming
Board of
Commissioners
Meetings**



MAC Appointment

Tom Hickner has been appointed to the Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Committee of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). He was recently appointed to a two-year term as a voting member of the Committee.



The Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Committee provides recommendations to the MAC Board on current issues, legislative activity, and statutes affecting Michigan counties.

"I am pleased to serve on this important MAC Committee and welcome the opportunity to provide input on current issues Michigan communities are presently facing and prepare for those which may arise in the future." -Tom Hickner

Elder Abuse Grant

The Bay County Human Services Collaborative Council, the State endorsed Community Collaborative Body for Bay County announced the Bay County Elder Abuse Task Force as the winner of their 2012 Outstanding Collaboration Award on January 16, 2013. Ron Lemmon, Chairperson of the Bay County Elder Abuse Task Force, accepted the award on behalf of the partnership.



Mr. Lemmon expressed his gratitude to the collaborative partners, including the Bay County Executive, Division on Aging, and the Health Department, among many others. [For more information.](#)

Please Join Us

Human Services Practice Session
Elder Abuse Training for Law Enforcement

Wednesday 27, 2013

**Ways & Means
Committee
Meeting**

March 4th

**Board of
Commissioners
Meeting**

February 12th

**Personnel
Judicial
&
Human
Services
Committee
Meetings**

February 19th

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.



8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Region VII Area Agency on Aging
1615 S. Euclid Ave.
Bay City, MI, 48706

Call 895-4100 to make your reservation. Seating is limited.

For more information contact Julie Chamberlain at chamberlainj@baycounty.net

SVSU to Study Saginaw Bay

Saginaw Valley State University is making a commitment to our community to increase the study of the Saginaw Bay Watershed through its establishment of their Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute in 2013. The institute will be located on SVSU's main campus.



SVSU will be investing at least \$100,000 in start-up funds to purchase field equipment, laboratory equipment, and a research boat. The institute has been budgeted \$80,000 annually by the university, for supplies, grants, outreach, and an annual symposium.

The institute will absorb and consolidate SVSU's current projects, including freshwater research activities, which are in partnership with the Bay County Health Department. This program monitors water quality near public beaches.

This is a great opportunity for our area, and will provide benefits for years to come.

Appointments for Senior Tax Credit Program

Senior citizens can qualify for tax rebates available through the State of Michigan. There are two locations offering assistance for senior citizens to schedule an appointment in preparation of their tax return.



To schedule an appointment, you may call United Way at 893-7508 ext 18 or Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency at 894-9060. **Appointment are REQUIRED**-neither program will honor walk-ins. The program runs February 18 through April 11.

This program is free to Bay County seniors who need assistance with simple federal tax returns based upon income and state forms and/or state tax credits, which include Home

Quick Links

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Evergreen Seedlings



The Bay County Soil Conservation District is taking orders for it's spring tree sale through April 1st.

A variety of species are available as seedlings in quantities of 50, 100, 500, or 1,0000. Trees must be ordered in multiples of fives.

Fruit trees will also be available.

For more information and to place an order call 989-684-1040

Heating Credit Claims (MI-1040CR-9) and Homestead Property Tax Credit Claims (MI-1040CR-7).

Seniors must bring:

- Photo Identification
- Copy of last year's 2011 State, Federal, or tax credit return (if you filed)
- Proof of all income for 2012. Includes all 2012 interest earned
- Any other income (Pensions, IRA's, stocks, 1099 forms, lottery or gambling winnings, etc.)
- Supplemental health care, Medicare Part D, and any nursing home fees paid in 2012
- Property Tax statements
- Heating bill with year-to-date amount for 2012
- Social Security Statement, Social Security Card, dates of birth for everyone in the household
- Jan. through Dec. 2012 rent receipts and landlords name and address
- Bank routing number and your account number for direct deposit
- Information on amount and coverage for automobile insurance.

If you are a homebound senior and have difficulty getting around, contact Division on Aging at 989-895-4100 or toll free at 1-877-299-9960 for information about our homebound service.

GLRI Grant

The Bay County Drain Commissioner has accepted a grant for \$995,005 for water quality improvements for the Kawkawlin River. The project is a cooperative effort involving a number of partners including agricultural interests, government, property owners, conservation organizations and universities. It is the first implementation grant the river will receive after completing a watershed management plan.



The project funded will focus on agricultural best management practices including erosion control projects such as placing vegetated filter strips along drains and incorporating herbeous wind breaks. Additionally, direct livestock access to river will be managed and barriers constructed. Information and education activities will include the promotion of conservation tillage techniques and the development of nutrient management practices for smaller hobby farms.

Another aspect of the project is the acquisition of permanent

conservation easements. A goal of obtaining 100 acres of high value land has been established. Continued work to identify and eliminate failed septic systems leaching into the river system is also part of the grant. Finally, critical erosion sites will be identified and repaired utilizing latest available methods.

The grant funding is aimed at reducing the project phosphorus load by 30%. When all components are implemented it is project the annual phosphorus load will be reduced by 15,491 lbs annually. The overall sediment load reduction should be 10,921 tons each year.

Seniors and the Flu



As you age, your immune system weakens. This weakening makes seniors-adults age 65 years and older-more susceptible to the flu. For seniors, the seasonal flu can be very serious, even deadly. Ninety percent of flu-related deaths and more than half of flu-related hospitalizations occur in people age 65 and older.

It is important that all seniors get the flu vaccine, as soon as it is available in your area. These are two options for vaccination: the regular dose flu shot and the high-dose shot that result in a strong immune response. Talk with your health care provider to decide which one is right for you. Getting the flu vaccine protects you and prevents you from spreading the flu to your spouse, children, or grandchildren. Medicare **will** cover the flu vaccine once every flu season.

If you have flu-like symptoms, contact your health care provider immediately. Since seniors are at high risk for flu-related complications, your doctor may prescribe antiviral medications if you get the flu.

Because you are at an increased risk of getting pneumonia, a complication of the flu, talk to your health care provider about the pneumococcal vaccine will protect you about pneumonia.

Bay City State Park Winter Fest

The Bay City State Park will be hosting their 20th annual Winter Fest on February 16th. It starts at 9 A.M. with a Youth Ice Fishing Clinic. This is a very informative and hands-on clinic, providing tips, safety session, and construction of a fishing pole and rigging it.



This event is for people of all ages. In addition to the Youth Ice Fishing Clinic, there will be a "snowball" tournament, bird feeding workshop, bird

hikes, ice crystal treasure dig, and live wildlife presentation among other activities. Prizes and trophies will be awarded throughout the day.

The Bay City State Recreation Area is located at 3582 State Park Drive in Bay City. For more information stop by or call 989-667-0717.

A Look Into the Future

Corning Glass - The end of the computers as we know it.

If you wonder why leading computer manufacturers believe the end of the computer as we know it is near. It's not the iPad that has them concerned about the future. It is developments like these that Corning is working on.



[Click here to watch the video](#)

Pinconning Park Award



Pinconning Park received an award from the Pinconning/Linwood Chamber of Commerce in the category of Economic Development, due to the visitors and tourists it brings to the community.

Congratulations to Pinconning Park.

For Your Information: 2-1-1

The 2-1-1 service is a free, easy-to-remember phone number that connects people in need with people who can help. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Through this service, community members can gain access to

the following types of services:

- Basic Human Needs
- Physical and Mental Health
- Employment Support
- Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities
- Support for Children, Youth, and Families
- Crisis Calls

This is not for emergency purposes. 2-1-1 is for health and human services in their community.

<http://www.211nemichigan.org/>

Sincerely,

Tom Hickner
Bay County

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