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News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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**Upcoming
Board of
Commissioners
Meetings**



Bay County Gets Credit Upgrade

Moody's Investors Service on March 1st, 2013, upgraded Bay County's general obligation limited tax debt from A1 to Aa3. This upgrade reflects the county's sound financial operations and management. An Aa3 credit rating is the fourth best possible rating.



"I am happy and proud to see that all of the hard work Bay County has been doing is financially paying off. This is what we've been working for, to provide a sound financial foundation for the county, so we can better serve the citizens of Bay." -Tom Hickner

For more information:

- [Moody's Investors Service Report](#)
- [MLive Article: Bay County's credit rating improves, thanks in part to \\$11 million savings reserve](#)

Congressman Kildee in the Bay County Building

Congressman Dan Kildee will have a regional office in the Bay County Building starting Thursday, March 21st.

The office will serve as a meeting place for the Congressman, staff and constituents when in the area. The office will be open the first Monday and third Thursday of each month.



To learn more about Congressman Kildee, please visit www.dankildee.house.gov or contact his Flint district office at (810) 238-8627.

Restaurant Inspections Information on the Web

Our mission is to protect the health of all foodservice



**Ways & Means
Committee
Meeting**

April 2

**Board of
Commissioners
Meeting**

April 9

**Personnel
&
Human
Services
Committee
Meetings**

March 19

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.

customers. The internet offers an opportunity to share information which may assist you in being a well informed foodservice consumer. A person who wishes to serve food to the public is required by law to first obtain a license from Bay County Health Department. These licenses are issued following a review of facility plans and menu and assuring, by inspection, compliance with food safety standards and practices. Routine inspections during subsequent operation of the food service assess the operator's success in assuring that routine practices are conducted in a safe and sanitary manner.

"Bay County continually strives to make information readily available to the public and we are pleased to provide such a tool to the public for the first time. Consumers want to know their food is safe. By routinely inspecting over 400 food establishments in the County, Bay County Sanitarians are working diligently to protect public health by preventing foodborne illness and injury."-Tom Hickner.

Barbara MacGregor, Bay County Health Director states, "It is important for those looking at online reports to understand that any inspection report is just a snapshot in time. Each individual report shows only the conditions of the facility at the time of the inspection. A single report should not be used to judge a business of food service facility. Looking at a facility's inspection results over a period of time gives a more accurate picture of that facility's commitment to proper and safe food handling."

Environmental health specialists in the Bay County Health Department perform a wide variety of environmental and public health functions which include food facilities, water recreation facilities, public lodging and vector control. You can view inspection reports for food establishments inspected by Bay County Health Department here, [Bay County Health Department Inspection Website](#).



Free Boater's Safety



The Bay County Sheriff's Office-Marine Division and Boys and Girls Clubs of the Great Lakes Bay Region are hosting a Boater's Safety Course and Certification.

This course is open to everyone 11 and older at no cost.

Quick Links

[Bay County Website](#)

[View Bay 3 TV Videos](#)

["Like" Bay County on Facebook!](#)

[Sign up for BAY Alerts!](#)

Restore Our Water International



The Chairman of the Bay County Board of Commission, Ernie Krygier, has one of the eleven Board of Directors seats on Restore Our Water International.

This group advocates for the construction of underwater "speed bumps" in Lake St. Clair to curb low water levels in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Restore our Water International is made up of members from the

Thursday April 4, 2013
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

RSVP by calling the Boys and Girls Clubs at 989-892-6723
Classes held at the Bay City Unit
300 W. Lafayette

At the Boardwalk

The Bay County Board of Commissioners has voted to pursue grant funds to build a 500-foot boardwalk at the Bay City State Park.



This boardwalk's purpose would be to allow people to walk out to the beach, and over the vegetation. This will be funded through grant money offered by MDEQ and through a local match. The Board of Commissioners are seeking this match money through the Bay Community Foundation and the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, without having to use general fund dollars.

Bay County Commission Chairman, Ernie Krygier and many other community leaders hope this will bring people to the beach and restore it to the vacation and recreation spot it was in years past.

A WIN for the Environment

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) has funding opportunities available for organizations and individuals within the region. Investment areas include land use, water resources, agriculture, energy efficiency, wildlife habitat, and regional marketing.

2013 WIN Earthday Facebook Contest

The Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network and The Conservation Fund are holding a contest with the prize of a \$1,000 grant to promote your idea in the areas of:

- Conservation
- Public Access to Natural Resources
- Natural Resource-based Recreation or Education
- Energy Efficiency

[Contest Rules and More Information](#)

Deadline is April 5!



United States and
Canada.

Commissioner
Krygier is highly
dedicated to
improving and
maintaining the
Great Lakes and
Saginaw Bay.

Bay County Housing Rehabilitation Finalizes Grant Submission



Bay County is preparing the final paperwork for a grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority bringing \$300,000 to the Bay County area. These grant dollars will assist income eligible homeowners with repairs to their homes including roof repairs, plumbing and drilling wells.

Benefits for Veterans and Spouses

Arthur Schupback, Bay County Veterans Benefits Coordinator, will speak about Veterans' Benefits and what we need to know on Thursday, March 21, at Riverside Friendship Center.



Learn what services are available and guidelines towards eligibility. Attention will be focused on Veterans' Aid and Attendance Pension Benefits. Questions will be answered.

Registration deadline is March 18. Limited space.

Contact Sandy at 893-7070 for reservations.

Bay County Nature/Historic/Tourism App



Bay County is applying for grant funds through the Coastal Zone Management Program and local foundations, including WIN and the Bay Area Community Foundation for the development of a natural/historic/tourism cell phone app.

The app would include natural features, such as parks and recreation sites, tourism information such as events, and historic sites. This app would be written and available on three separate versions, one for Android phones, one for Apple I phones, and one for Apple I pads and is envisioned as being available for free.

Blueways Trails

Bay County is seeking grant funding from the Michigan Coastal Zone Management for the development of Water Trails, or Blueways Trails. These would be water trails for small water craft such as canoes and kayaks along the shoreline areas.



Within Michigan, there has been a growing movement to promote the Great Lakes Water Trails, and currently there is a gap in the established trails along the Saginaw Bay. Bay County will partner with numerous other entities to create the trail along the Saginaw Bay and river area and populate it with the essential and available amenities.

The trails are mapped showing shoreline amenities between launch areas, such as restroom facilities, parking, natural, and historical features.

Dinner and A Show

Bay City Central High School Drama & Music Department, Bay Metro Transit, and Division on Aging present Anything Goes on Wednesday, March 20.



The evening begins with dinner at 5:30 at Riverside Friendship Center, and the play will begin at 7 p.m. at Central High School. Shuttle service will be provided by Bay Metro.

Registration deadline is March 18, but registration will close early if program fills.

Show and Dinner
60 and Older- \$5.00
Under 60- \$7.00

Show, Dinner, and Transportation
60 and Older- \$8.25
Under 60- \$10.25

For more information please call Division on Aging at 989-895-4100 or toll-free at 1-877-299-9960.

Sincerely,

Tom Hickner
Bay County

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