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News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meetings

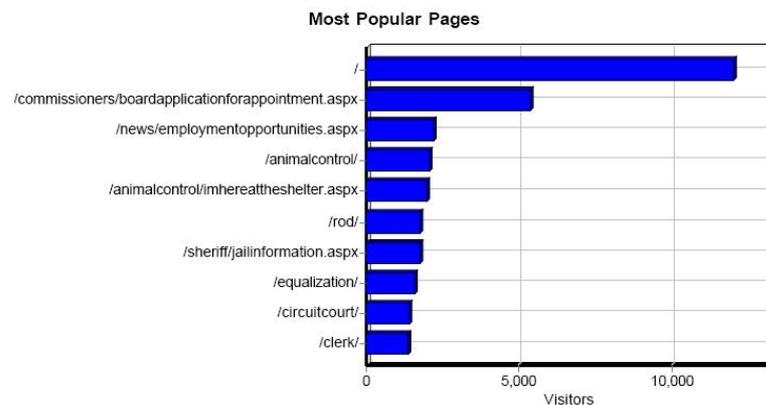


Ways & Means Committee Meeting
August 14

Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 14

Bay County Website

A recent report, focused on the Bay County website, shows the number of visits in one month's time. At a time when people want transparency and access to their government at their fingertips, Bay County is answering that need.



On average, the site receives over two thousand visitors a day. Whether searching for job opportunities, golf course operation hours, or the Board of Commissioners meeting schedule, people are on the site.

Visitors are actively connecting with their county government through the Bay County website. The most visited pages on our site were topped by the Bay County Board Application for Appointment and Employment Opportunities. People are looking to be engaged in their government. Even though the Executive's page is only the 84th most visited page, it still boasted 177 visitors.

The webpage is a vital tool for our county officials and citizens.

Keep visiting the site at www.baycounty-mi.gov/

Elderly Abuse Prevention Grant

Bay County has been awarded a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), for



Personnel Judicial & Human Services Committee Meetings

August 21

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.

the purpose of funding the Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women in Later Life Program. Under this award, this program will receive \$385,000 over three years.

The purpose of this program is to provide specialized training to representatives of the partner agencies on the subject matter of elder abuse and exploitation in the older population.

"There is a concern that our senior residents are vulnerable to those who would exert pressure on an aging individual or relative to sign over their resources to someone in a position of power or trust. We are committed to working together as a community to send a clear message that we will protect the rights of our older residents and they should be able to count on their savings to meet their needs, and not be diverted for another's private gain." -Tom Hickner

Any Michigan Resident who suspects that an older adult may be a victim of abuse or exploitation may make a report by calling:

Adult Protective Services Hotline- 1-800-996-6228

If residents have questions about services that are available to senior citizens in Bay County

Bay County Division on Aging- 989-895-4100 or 1-800-229-9960

Region VII Area Agency Information and Assistance service 1-800-858-1637



Quick Links

[Bay County Website](#)

[View Bay 3 TV Videos](#)

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UNUM Benefits

Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) offer many confidential services to employees and their families besides substance abuse counseling, which is what most people think about when EAP is mentioned. These are some of the other services that are offered:



- Childcare and/or eldercare referrals
- Personal relationship information
- Health information and online tools
- Legal consultations with licensed attorneys
- Financial planning assistance
- Stress management
- Career development

Effective July 16, 2012, Bay County employees have a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, which is provided at no cost.

This EAP is available for employees and their families to reach out to when they have questions, concerns or

All Stars at Center Ridge Arms



The Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) has awarded the Bay County Housing Department/Center Ridge Arms an "All Star" ranking as of June 30, 2012.

The ranking is achieved by having zero deficiencies on the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system. The EIV system encompasses the Identity Verification Report, the Deceased Tenants Report and the Multiple Subsidy Report.

Congratulations to Marie and her team. Thank you for all your hard work!

emotional issues surrounding their personal or work life. They have unlimited access to consultants by telephone, resources and tools online, and face-to-face visits with counselors for help with a short-term problem.

We recognize that when personal issues distract employees, they are not as productive at work. Therefore, we encourage people to utilize these free services that can help them cope with those personal issues.

For more information, please visit the website at www.lifebalance.net

Halub Cup

This annual tournament is played by two teams, the Bay County Team and Bay City Country Club Team.



"Even though we lost, it was a battle right to the end. We were up by 8 points with 2 matches to go. We lost one by 6 so we are up only 2 and lost by 8 on the last one."
-Brent Goik

Also we have our annual County Tournament being held August 4th and 5th. A five flight golf tournament set by your handicap that brings out the best players in the area and your league players as well. Good luck to all of those participating.

Call for your tee time today! (989) 892-2161

Financial Statement



Bay County's 2011 Audit was presented on July 7, 2012, to the Bay County Board of Commissioners by the auditing firm Rehmann Robson of Saginaw.

Bay County received an unqualified opinion on the financial statements which means they were presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. During 2011, Bay County's conservative board, administration, and cooperative unions reduced transfers out and spending. Therefore, Bay County was able to add \$990,265 to the General Fund's fund balance for the year ended December 31, 2011, which will aid in funding other postemployment benefit (OPEB) obligations.

Decreases in taxable values are beginning to stabilize in 2012 while substantial increases in health care costs are expected through 2014. A balanced budget was adopted in 2012 to ensure the county continues to live within the county's financial resources.

The year-ended December 31, 2011, audit is available for viewing on Bay County's website.

<http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Docs/Finance/2011%20audit.pdf>

Just a Quick Reminder



The Primary
Election is August
7, 2012!

Your Poll Location
and Your Sample
Ballot

[Voter Information](#)

Get Out and Vote!

Important! Great Lakes Water Levels

Right now, until August 31, 2012 the International Joint Commission (IJC) is taking public comment on their study of Great Lakes water levels and their decision



not to take any action to remedy the lower/lowering water levels in the Lake Huron-Lake Michigan basin.

Do not let the title of the study or reports mislead you, (i.e. Lake Superior) they do deal directly with our own waterfront along the Saginaw Bay, Lake Huron.

The IJC did 2 studies ...the 1st found that human activity (dredging) at the outlet of Lake Huron in the St. Clair River has contributed to the artificial lowering of water levels in Lake Huron, and the 2nd report titled Lake Superior Regulation recommends that no action be taken to remedy this. Linked below is the summary of the report. Please see **Key Finding #4** page 10.

This Public Comment period will likely be the single opportunity you have for at least the next decade to speak up and go on record if you agree or disagree with the IJC recommendations.

And remember that numbers do matter: In response to the first report the IJC only received 41 written public comments and with that, they concluded:

"Indeed, given the general (high) level of awareness about the report and its findings among all groups, the relative lack of comment suggests at least a minimal level of satisfaction regarding the Study's findings and recommendations."

Send an email now: http://www.ijc.org/iuglsreport/?page_id=39

(Copy logar@baycounty.net or Ernie Krygier erniekrygierservice@hotmail.com or your neighbor around Lake Huron and/or the Saginaw Bay to ensure valid receipt and #'s tracking. So at some later date we can say how many people from this area commented.)

Write a letter:

U. S. Section Secretary

International Joint Commission
2000 L Street, NW
Suite 615
Washington, DC 20440
Fax: 202-631-2007
commission@washington.ijc.org

Canadian Section Secretary

International Joint
Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West
22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6
Fax: 613-993-5583
commission@ottawa.ijc.org

Don't delay.....the public comment period closes August 31, 2012!

For more info, Google:

1) Impacts on Upper Great Lakes Water Levels: St. Clair River,

2) Lake Superior Regulation: Addressing Uncertainty in Upper Great Lakes Water Levels

Read the report here :

http://www.iugls.org/docs/IUGLS_Summary_Report.pdf

Bay Future



Bay Future, Inc. is a non-profit, public-private partnership of local business, community leaders and municipalities, responsible for leading economic development in Bay County, MI. We are dedicated to facilitating strategies that promote and secure opportunities for businesses currently in our county, to help them grow and expand, and to attract new industries that create good paying and quality jobs for the people of our community.

From industries such as agribusiness and advanced manufacturing to food processing and renewable energy, let Bay Future, Inc. know how we can brighten your future.

Contact us at (989) 892-1400 to see how we can help your business grow.

Sincerely,

Tom Hickner
Bay County

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