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News From County Executive Tom Hickner

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**Upcoming
Board of
Commissioners
Meetings**

We need your input for Parks and Recreation in Bay County!

The communities of Bay County are drafting an update to the five year parks and recreation master plan. We need your input to help us plan for the future of parks and recreation in Bay County. Please [click here](#) to take the survey. If you'd like to take it on your smart phone, you can scan the QR code below.



Feel free to forward this information to anyone that may be interested in taking the survey. We'd like information from as many residents as possible, even those that may not be regular park users.



Bond Rating

The Bay County Department of Water and Sewer broke ground on October 3, 2013 on their \$64 million water system project.

Bay County issued the bonds for this project on behalf of the project and its partners, which include Bay City, City of Essexville, City of Pinconning, along with the townships of Bangor, Beaver, Frankenlust, Fraser, Hampton, Kawkawlin, Merritt, Monitor, Pinconning, Portsmouth and Williams. Standard and Poor's Ratings Services assigned a long term rating of AA/Stable for these bonds.

"In our opinion, the county has maintained a strong financial position due to good management practices and policies. We understand that management has balanced recent budgets





**Ways & Means
Committee
Meeting**
November 5

**Board of
Commissioners
Meeting**
November 12
**Personnel
Judicial
&
Human
Services
Committee
Meetings**
October 15

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.

by cutting expenditures and by sharing services with neighboring municipalities, including police, central dispatch, and mosquito control."

[Click here to view Standard & Poor's Report](#)

Bay County/DNR Public Workshop

What would you like to see or do at the [Bay City State Recreation Area](#)? Here is your chance to be heard.



Bay County and the DNR, Parks and Recreation Division are working together to evaluate the lakefront and beach access at Bay City State Recreation Area to improve the park's regional appeal. The study will explore avenues by which the park can support the economic vitality of the Bay region, while protecting and preserving the natural and cultural features of the park.

Monday, October 21st
4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Riverfront
The Davidson Room
1 Wenonah Park Place
Bay City, MI 48708

Even if you cannot make the meeting you can give your input. Everyone is invited to complete a 5-10 minute online survey. [Click here to take the survey](#). Your input is important and will help inform the Planning Team during the evaluation process.

Click here to visit the [project website](#) to learn more.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Susie Roble at susie@clearzoning.com or 248-423-1776 x15.

Dashboard and Transparency

The 2013-2014 Bay County Dashboard and Transparency documents are available to view on the Bay County Webpage.



In accordance with Michigan's Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP), issued under authority of 2013 Public Act 59, Bay County has created a [Dashboard, a Citizen's Guide, a Projected Budget, and a Debt Services Report](#). These documents are required by the program for Bay County to qualify for revenue sharing with the State of Michigan.

These documents are great for citizens and tourists of Bay



Quick Links

[Bay County Website](#)

[View Bay 3 TV Videos](#)

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

[Sign up for BAY Alerts!](#)

Eye Opener



Laura Ogar, Bay County Environmental Affairs and Community Development Director, will be the November 5th speaker at the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Eye Opener Breakfast.

The topic of discussion will be based around Water Quality Improvements in

County, who would like to know more about this region and its government. It is important to note, that this information is a compilation of all the involved parties in that subject matter in Bay County. For example: The Public Safety Dashboard is based on all law enforcement agencies in the region, not just the County Sheriff.

There are six (6) Dashboards, each with a specific subject area regarding Bay County.

- [Budget and Finances](#)
- [Quality of Life](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- [Shared Services](#)
- [Health and Education](#)
- [Green Initiatives](#)

This information is updated when new information becomes available. Other EVIP submissions are also available on our webpage.

Michigan Emergency Management Association

Our beautiful community was recently highlighted as the location for the [Michigan Emergency Management Association Fall Conference](#). Emergency Managers from around the State gathered at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Bay City for an event featuring professionals from a variety of disciplines with a focus on emergency preparedness, coordination, legislation and recovery.

County Executive Tom Hickner presented opening remarks to the group and congratulated them on their continued efforts in pro-active planning aimed at keeping our communities safe. "As municipalities, we face the same problems. Bringing these professionals together can only benefit each of our communities."



Ryan Manz, Bay County's Emergency Manager, and a member of the conference planning committee was enthusiastic about all aspects of the event and felt those in attendance gathered knowledge from experts in the field of emergency management. Manz said: "Each year, the MEMA Conference is a fantastic learning experience. This year, the conference focused on the recovery stage of the Emergency Management cycle. As we were able to bring speakers in from disaster-impacted areas around the country, I believe that each attendee took back to their communities valuable lessons learned."

Euclid Linear Park Lease

The Bay County Board of Commission has



the Saginaw River and Bay.

Most people only hear about water quality conditions in the Saginaw River after it rains and the newspaper's report a 'combined sewage overflow'. It was reasonable to think that the river was in terrible condition however there have been significant upgrades made over the past 10 years on how water is treated before it gets to the river - and we are seeing very good results. The Saginaw River itself is tested every week in the summertime and these good water quality sampling results don't make the news, but will be discussed here.

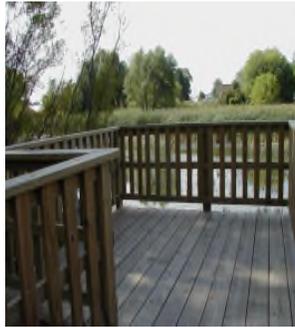
Bay Valley Resort & Conference Center
2470 Old Bridge Road
Bay City, MI
48706

For more information [click here](#)

**Under The Radar-
Bay City**

authorized the lease of Euclid Linear Park to the [Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy \(SBLC\)](#). The SBLC will be re-branding this property and using it as a nature preserve.

This is an important and exciting time for the park, as it will go through numerous changes, including updated signage and purposed with events and educational visits.



The Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy has had a great deal of success in promoting conservancy and bringing exciting change to Bay County. Most recently with the [Saginaw Bay Birding Trail](#).

The SBLC has been awarded host status for the Midwest Birding Symposium in September 2015, and will be taking place in Bay City. This event will bring in conference attendees from the birding industry and bird conservation. This is a great opportunity for the region and for the conservation movement.



Pension Valuation Report

The Bay County Retirement Board was presented with the 2012 Bay County Employees' Retirement System Actuarial Valuation Report. This report is available on the Bay County Finance Department's webpage.

This report highlights that Bay County Retirement system is overfunded by 105%.

To view the entire report [click here](#).



Annual Halloween Party

The Bay County Division on Aging is hosting their Annual Halloween Party Thursday, October 31, 2013.



The program, *Under The Radar Michigan* aired an episode that highlighted Bay City. It is wonderful to see our area getting recognition and publicity like this.

Click the link below to view the video.

[Under The Radar Michigan Episode 210](#)



Come and enjoy a fun-filled day of games and snacks and a special performance by Bob Barcalow, who will entertain us with his "easy listening" musical style, singing and playing many of your favorite tunes. Dress in your Halloween costume and be in the drawing for a fruit basket. Following our noon meal there will be shuffleboard in the small gym. if you haven't played in a while give it a try and meet new friends.

Riverside Dining Center
800 J.F.Kennedy Drive
Bay City, MI 48706

60 years and better- \$2.50 Suggested Donation
59 years and under- \$4.75 Fee

Call Sandy for any transportation requests and reservations at 893-7070 or main office at 895-4100 or toll free 1-877-299-9960. Visit our web page at www.baycounty-mi.gov/Aging/.

Sincerely,

**Tom Hickner
Bay County**

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