



District 12

E-NEWS UPDATE

Westland, Inkster, south Livonia

April
2011

Hello Friends:



One of the most pleasant and rewarding responsibilities in my role as your County Commissioner is to award certificates and resolutions or wish congratulations and make presentations. I had the opportunity to do a little of each this past month. Recently I had the opportunity to join Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano at his Hope Foundation Scholarship Awards on Wednesday, April 6. We had 9 senior high school students honored for receiving this scholarship. You can read about these outstanding young adults later in this e-newsletter.

This has also been a busy month working in committee at the county. At the last Committee of the Whole, we viewed the plans for the new Wayne County Jail. This is going to be a \$200 million bonded investment that will create a consolidated new jail with 2,000 beds. It will be more efficient and economical. It will also lower the risk for deputies and the public. The new jail will provide a cost saving because the two new jails downtown will be demolished. For businesses wishing to be considered in the building of this large county project, see **SPOTLIGHT** on page 3.

The Ethics Committee that I Chair, has prioritized our goals and objectives and are now beginning the arduous job of writing the proposed resolution for approval. This will not be an easy task and will probably take several months to come to fruition. We need to do our due diligence in order to produce a valuable and useful document.

Finally, the spring activities are starting to take shape on the calendar. The Marshmallow Drop at Nankin Mills, the Rouge River Rescue at the Rouge River in Inkster and Sheriff Benny Napoleon's Senior Safety Meetings are being planned. Watch our website for further news updates---and a new look too. Our Communications Department and Wayne County's Department of Technology is giving the Commissioners' web pages a new overhaul. We expect the new web pages will be launched shortly. You may access our district 12 webpage at: www.waynecounty.com/comm_districts_12.htm
Hurry spring and Go Tigers!



Joan A. Gebhardt



Congratulations to Our District 12 Hope Scholarship Winners!

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Kathleen Enersen | Westland Christian | Cornerstone University |
| 2. Chelsea Hunt | Westland John Glenn | U of M Dearborn |
| 3. Meghan Lark | Livonia Franklin | U of M Ann Arbor |
| 4. Erica Mirabitor | Livonia Ladywood | U of M Ann Arbor |
| 5. Grace Modes | Livonia Franklin | Michigan State University |
| 6. Connie Qi | Livonia Churchill | U of M Ann Arbor |
| 7. Dennis Root, Jr. | Inkster Robichaud | Henry Ford Community College |
| 8. John Tufnell, Jr. | Westland John Glenn | Oakland University |
| 9. Evan Woody | Westland John Glenn | Michigan State University |

Hope Inspires **Dreams**, *Dreams* Become **Aspirations**, *Aspirations* Become **Reality**

Hopes, Dreams, Aspirations and Reality was the theme of the 2011 Annual Robert Ficano Hope Foundation Scholarship Program Awards Luncheon held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. Nine District 12 high school seniors were honored by being selected to receive the annual scholarships. Commissioner Joan Gebhardt attended the ceremony in order to recognize and congratulate our District 12 constituents. “Education is the key to success,” said Commissioner Gebhardt. “I am so pleased to see the number of scholarship winners in our district increasing. In my first year, there were only a few students who applied. With some encouragement we were able to increase the number to nine well-deserving seniors.”

The Robert Ficano Hope Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Wayne County residents. The Foundation’s mission is to promote educational programs and to raise awareness of activities that assist our youth, families, senior citizens, volunteers, and the community we serve.

The goal is to continue to grow our annual scholarship fund which assists graduating high school students in continuing their education. “Education beyond high school is a necessity, not a luxury, in this global economy,” said Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano. “During these economic times, more than ever, we’re committed to helping as many students as possible in continuing their education.”

Mr. Nader Fakhouri, president of the Hope Foundation Board of Directors stated that “Since 2005, we gave our senior high school students over \$300,000.” At the luncheon he recommended to the students to “...remember those who have supported you to get here---your parents, guardians, teachers...you always stand on someone’s shoulders to help you.”

SPOTLIGHT

New Wayne County Jail

The Charter County of Wayne and the Wayne County Building Authority will soon begin construction on a new jail facility. DAN TEAK, LLC, was retained to provide outreach consulting services to insure diversity and inclusion of targeted businesses (including Wayne County Business, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises). DAN TEAK is providing free services to each interested vendor regarding the development and construction of the new jail facility. To receive information about this project, register your business at: www.danteak.com. If your business needs assistance in registering, or have any questions regarding the process for registering your business, please do not hesitate to contact us at: info@danteak.com or call Phil or Dwaylon at (313) 967-9125. DAN TEAK, LLC., 277 Gratiot Avenue, Ste. 700, Detroit, Michigan 48226, Francine Pegues, President.

Senior Safety Program Luncheon

Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon will be sponsoring his annual senior safety luncheons at the following location, dates and times. Save the date and look for additional information in your senior newsletters. To make reservations call (313)-224-0907.



City of Livonia

**Civic Senior Center
Tuesday, May 3rd at noon**



City of Inkster

**Dozier Recreation Center
Monday, May 23rd at 1pm**



City of Westland

**Friendship Center
Friday, July 8th at 1pm**

Westland MJR Theatre



Ground breaking for the All-New Theatre Complex in Westland was attended by many public officials and Michael Mihalich, MJR Digital Cinemas CEO and President. This means new jobs for the community. The groundbreaking ceremony held was on Thursday, March 24 at 6800 North Wayne Road. The MJR Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16 is scheduled to open on November 4, 2011, featuring 16 screens, five of which will be equipped with 3-D movies, and a total of 3,100 seats in a 65,00 square foot cinema. Additionally, the cinema will have all of the amenities that have made MJR Digital Cinemas a favorite among local moviegoers, including a lobby screen with continuous previews.

Campaign Finance Reports Filed Electronically

The Wayne County Commission has approved an ordinance introduced by Commissioner Laura Cox (R-Livonia) to establish an electronic filing and internet disclosure system for campaign finance reports and statements filed with the Wayne County Clerk.

The measure was approved at the Commission's regular meeting Thursday, March 3.

The ordinance requires political candidate committees to file reports and statements electronically, and enhances transparency in campaign finance reporting by requiring the Wayne County Clerk to provide online access to campaign reports, statements and committee information on the Wayne County website.

At the same meeting, the commission approved a five-year, \$429,000 contract with PCC Technology Group of Connecticut to design and implement the electronic Campaign finance reporting, and disclosure system to be used by the Wayne County Clerk's elections division.

Co-sponsors of Cox's ordinance included commissioners Joan Gebhardt (D-Livonia), Kevin McNamara (D-Canton) and Diane Webb (D-Garden City).

"We cannot diminish the importance of elected officials to be transparent," Cox said. "There is the need to be transparent with political donations and expenditures and this ordinance will allow the citizens of Wayne County to readily access campaign finance reports for elected officials and candidates for office throughout the county."

"Electronic filing is not only a way of providing transparency in campaign finance, but also saves money and trees," Gebhardt said. "As the first commissioner to go paperless, I encourage any 'green' and fiscally responsible measures in county government."

Wayne County Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak praised Cox's ordinance and the county clerk's plans for an electronic campaign finance filing system.

"Commissioner Cox took the lead on proving the necessary legal backup to make the Clerk's new campaign finance software a great tool for voters and candidates alike," Said Woronchak.

"Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett is setting a new standard in campaign finance reporting with this system," Woronchak added. "Commissioner Cox's ordinance requires candidate committees to use the system and the clerk to provide information for public view online."

Woronchak has experience with campaign finance law, having sponsored Public Act 238 of 1999 when he was a state representative. PA 238 requires state-level candidates to file campaign reports electronically, and the Secretary of State to develop the website to display the information online.



COUNTY NEWS

Public urged to participate in redistricting process.

Photo courtesy of the Observer & Eccentric News

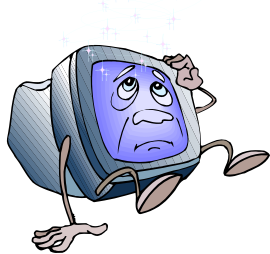
Transparency and openness will be the big push for the collaborative, Kuo said. Joan Gebhardt, a member of the League of Women Voters and county commissioner representing Livonia and Westland, said the league works to educate voters and redistricting was one of those issues. “People don’t realize the importance of the Census,” Gebhardt said, in reference to the Census impact on the new districts.

Gebhardt expects that Livonia will be an interesting district because it is one of Wayne County’s largest cities besides Detroit. She was uncertain as to what that might mean for her district, which includes a southern portion of Livonia, Inkster and the city of Westland.

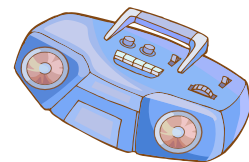
“Detroit lost so much that (the districts) will be pushed out west, north and south,” Gebhardt said. It is possible that districts containing Canton and Northville Township will shrink in size because those communities may have experienced population growth.

“What that means for people in the middle, I don’t know,” Gebhardt said.

Rosemary Doyle, a member of the League of Women Voters, said she attended to learn more about the process. “I wanted to educate myself and be an educated voice,” Doyle said.



Wayne County Electronic Waste Only Disposal Event



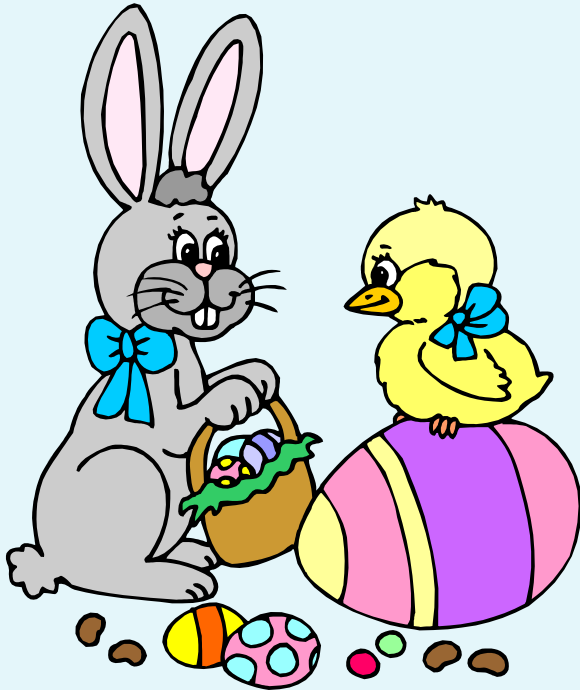
Wayne County will be conducting an Electronic Waste Only Drop-off event on Saturday, April 16th from 8:00am to 1:00pm in Dearborn. The event will be held at the Henry Ford Centennial Library - 16301 Michigan Ave (east of the Southfield Fwy on the south side of Michigan Ave).

Electronic waste to be collected includes computers, monitors, keyboards & mice, printers, games consoles, stereos & speakers, microwave ovens, X-Mas lights, computer parts & miscellaneous cables etc.

For questions contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at 734-326-3936

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Easter Sunday
April 24, 2011**



27th Annual
Wayne County Marshmallow Drop
to be held at Nankin Mills Park
on Good Friday, April 22 at 11am.

**May 6, 2011
9:30am - 2:00pm**



7th Annual Baby Show
and education classes for
New Moms and Moms to be.
Please no children/babies.
Hosted by the
Salvation Army & Warm Hearts
2300 S. Venoy Rd., Westland
RSVP 734-722-3660 x 107.

OFFICE HOURS



Join me on the **3rd Monday** of each month at the following.

10:00 am - YWCA, Michigan Ave. Inkster

12:00 noon - Panera Bread, 35300 Warren Rd. Westland

6:00 pm - Biggby Coffee, 11003 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia