



News from the Administrator

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

MARCH, 2016



“When saving for retirement, be sure to put away a few pleasant thoughts.”

~Unknown~

Administrator’s Message

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Greetings, everyone!

It is with very mixed emotions that I write this, my last newsletter as your Washtenaw County Administrator. Over a year ago, I gave the Board of Commissioners notification that I wished to retire and begin to enjoy more free time with my friends and family, lots of travel, and yes, sleep! Well, the time has finally come, but, as you are aware, the process of finding your next Administrator has been delayed — yet again. On February 8, the Board of Commissioners wisely decided to appoint Greg Dill as your interim County Administrator. Greg has been my interim, co-deputy for over a year and is very well suited to jump in and assume all of my responsibilities, effective immediately.

Greg brings a wealth of knowledge to the office of the Administrator. A native of Flint and a proud graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Greg has been a resident of Washtenaw

County for 34 years, the Director of the Office of Infrastructure Management for 4 years, and an employee for 10. Greg is highly regarded by those he works with and is looking forward to serving you and the citizens of this county to the very best of his ability. Please be sure to offer your unconditional support, because after all, his success is a win for all of Washtenaw County.

I have every confidence that Greg’s outstanding leadership will lead this great organization through the days, weeks, and perhaps, even months ahead. I know you will find Greg fair, insightful, fiscally responsible, organized and most importantly, an effective leader. I’m hopeful he will utilize the ‘Getting to Know’ space in his April edition to share a little more about himself.

Although I have shared many fond memories, well wishes and kind thoughts with you throughout my prolonged retirement

process, I do wish to take this, my last opportunity, to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to public service, your unyielding dedication, your positive outlook, your willingness to work collaboratively, your ingenuity, your patience, and most importantly, your friendship. Washtenaw County has been the core of my very existence for the past 34 years, I’ve cried with you during our struggles and I’ve cheered as I’ve watched you succeed. We’ve had bumps in the road, and we’ve all learned how to become better people as a result. I am proud to call the employees, retirees and citizens of this great county my friends and my family. I will miss each and every one of you! I may be retired, but I can’t wait to see what exciting new things you have in store for this awesome organization.

My very, very best~

~ Verna

United Way Update



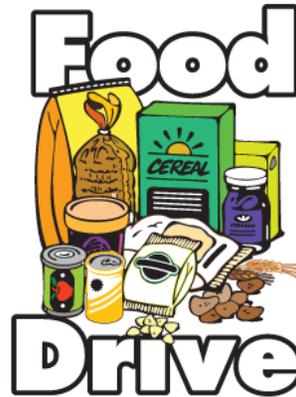
Volunteer Center goes Mobile!



United Way of Washtenaw County's online Volunteer Center can help match your interests with local agencies in need, plus, it has just been upgraded to be mobile-friendly, check it out:
www.VolunteerWashtenaw.org



United Way Annual Campaign



The 2016 United Way Annual Food Drive is March 1st—April 1st. There will be an additional opportunity to bring a bag to the Group of 180 on May 2nd. This is a very important event in our community. The food drive helps to restock the shelves for Food Gatherers of Washtenaw County. In Washtenaw County there are more than 43, 900 people, which includes more than 14,000 children and 6,500 seniors, who receive food through Food Gatherers. Please consider donating.

Needed items are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Tuna or other canned meat | Beef stew, meat soups |
| Hearty soups | Canned spaghetti or pasta |
| Chili | Beans (kidney, pinto, green, yellow, refried or black) |
| Baby food or formula | Ensure or other nutritional supplement drinks |
| Rice | Dry beans |
| Noodles, macaroni | Powdered milk |
| Pancake or baking mixes | Cereal/oatmeal |
| Granola bars | Peanut butter |
| Jelly in plastic jars | Diapers, toothpaste/toothbrushes, soap, shampoo |
| | Disposable Razors |

2016 United Way Campaign Calendar: Overall Goal \$65,000

| 2016 Events: | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------|
| EVENT | DATE | GOAL | OUTCOME |
| Food Drive | March 1-April 1 | \$4,000 | |
| Day of Action | June | 20 Volunteers | |
| Stuff the Bus | August | \$12,500 | |
| Family Kickball | September 15 | \$250 | |
| Annual Campaign | September—November | \$40,000 | |
| Annual Online Auction | September—November | \$4,000 | |
| Washtenaw Cares | November—December | \$4,000 | |

Click [HERE](#) to Like Your United Way Committee on Facebook!

Verna, a Grateful Organization Bids You a Fond Farewell!

Verna, as a way to congratulate you on your long awaited and well-deserved retirement. Some of your employees and community partners wanted to offer words of advice, thanks or congratulations. Please find below, the sentiment of so many who have the privilege to work with you over the years:

While working on my Master's and a personal project assisting young women, Verna took time out of her very busy schedule to meet with me several times, to answer questions, to mentor, or just plain listen; not many county executives are willing to do this. I wish her all the best and a very happy retirement.

~Cindra M. James, MPA,
Public Health

Integrity, compassion, role-model, all around excellent person with a tremendous spirit. Verna, I appreciate and respect how quietly and confidently you led our organization through some turbulent times. You helped position Washtenaw County for success now and into the future. Now it is up to us to continue that work. Here's to a glorious future for you and Tim.

~Sheriff Jerry Clayton

Verna, I will always think of your poise and grace. No matter what crazy is tossed your way — you acknowledge it and move forward without missing a step. Cheers to you in your retirement.

~Jennifer Brassow, Public Health

Verna, it has been my distinct privilege to work with you. Your poise, grace and tact have served you well — and we've all been the beneficiaries of your outstanding leadership. Your steady presence will be missed, but now you can enjoy travel, fun and relaxation. Enjoy! You've certainly earned it.

-Lisa Moutinho

All of us at GCSI are honored to be part of the incredible team at Washtenaw County, assembled under the leadership of Verna. To be sure, the treatment of local and county government by state policy makers has not been easy under Verna's tenure; but with her decisive and compassionate leadership in these challenging times, our region continues to enjoy the best quality of life that Michigan has to offer. You are a special lady, who has led with class and dignity — we wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement!!!

WCSCO Deputies Save Eleven Lives Utilizing Naloxone

"We must reduce the stigma for those suffering from this disorder."

*~Marlene Radzik,
WCSCO Police
Services Commander*

In the less than five months since Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office deputies began carrying Naloxone, they have saved 11 lives. This number does not reflect the lives saved where WCSCO deputies were on the scene but HVA or EMT-trained firefighter personnel administered the Naloxone. That is more than two lives per month saved because WCSCO deputies who were first on the scene carried Naloxone and had it immediately available when encountering a suspected heroin overdose.

"Equipping our deputies with Naloxone provides a valuable tool to deal with the opioid and heroin epidemic" according to WCSCO Police Services Commander Marlene Radzik. "The faces of those suffering from substance use disorder are growing. They are our sons and daughters and many are afraid to ask for help once they have realized they are in trouble. We must reduce the stigma for those suffering from this disorder. We must stop treating this as a moral failing and treat it as the chronic illness that it is. The deputies that have saved 11 lives thus far have given these people suffering from addiction another chance at life. They have given their families another day with their loved one and I'm proud of all of them. The next steps for a better life are up to the individual suffering from substance use disorder but at least they have an opportunity for that "next step," thanks to our deputies."

The first Naloxone save by a Washtenaw County deputy was by WCSCO Deputy Shane Bynum who described his experience. "The man's brother broke into tears. He said thank you at least a hundred times." "For me, it's just another day. I don't feel like a hero. I just feel like I'm serving the community." Bynum said he was "glad to have the training and be equipped with Naloxone". Bynum had arrived about five minutes before medical responders, a length of time that could be the difference between life and death. "It's sad to see for a loved one that's standing there saying, 'Why aren't you doing anything?'" "Now that we have a tool to help, we could actually save an individual's life."

Deputy Holly Farmer, was the 5th Deputy to save a life using Naloxone on 10/24/2015 in Scio Township. "All I can say is that I am happy to help anyone and we have been given an opportunity to potentially save lives with Naloxone. Naloxone is a great tool in our bag....if it saves someone and it gives them a chance to re-evaluate their life to make a change then that's great." On 11/24/15 in Salem Township John Gorney was the 8th deputy to save a life using Naloxone. "I'm sure the other Deputies would concur that having the right tools at the right time is a great benefit. With the growing epidemic of heroin use in today's society I can only see Naloxone as an asset with our department and others across the country."

On 12/31/15 Corporal Brian Kittle used Naloxone to save the 9th life, that of a young woman in Ypsilanti Township. "I was a little skeptical of this program to begin with but am thankful for the opportunity to give a young lady a second chance. I can only hope that she takes this opportunity and someday can make a difference in someone else's life." On 1/8/16 in Superior Township Deputy Richard Traskos, a new addition to WCSCO Police Services, helped save the 11th life. Later he reflected on carrying Naloxone and having the capacity to save lives. "Today, I was OIC for a death investigation that appears to have been an overdose. I was thinking on scene, that it is amazing that a small vial of fluid, carried in our duty bags, has the ability to give someone a second chance. A chance at life that just months ago, without the Sheriff's Office training, would not have been an option for them."



Getting to Know: Prosecuting Attorney's Child Support Division



“Listen to each other for better and more efficient ways to provide excellent customer service.”

It is my distinct privilege to introduce you to our Prosecuting Attorney's Child Support Division — this team of just 6 employees personify Customer Service in Washtenaw County, and as such, are the recipients of our 2015 Citizen/Customer Service Award. They work together, communicate and keep their customers as their primary focus—doing whatever it takes to achieve excellence. A simple, yet highly effective approach to conducting any business.

Congratulations on being nominated for and winning the 2015 Citizen/Customer Service Award! That's quite a testament to each of you and the work that you do. For those who weren't able to attend the Group of 180, can you share a little about yourselves?

Rachel Cahill, Elizabeth Hiller, Brian Hibbitt, Ernest Milligan Jr and Anne Lerini have been working together in the child support division for more than 15 years. LeAnn Belkonen started in our division in 2014 and worked with the county for 15 years prior to joining child support.

How long have you been with Washtenaw County – maybe a collective 'years of service' from the group? The Prosecutor's



office child support division has a collective total of over 100 years of service with the county.

What does your job entail?

We establish paternity and/or child support for any county resident. We receive referrals from the Office of Child Support when a person is receiving benefits from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. However, anyone can use our services, you do not need to receive benefits from the state to pursue paternity and/or child support.

You are highly regarded by your co-workers and those you serve, what would you say is the secret of your success?

We listen to each other. We are cross-trained. This is essential to keep the office running smoothly. We are able to collaborate about cases for an optimal outcome. We work well as a team. We focus on customer service to our clients and other agencies.

As with any job, I'm sure there are challenges and rewards. What would you say is the most difficult and the most satisfying about what you do?

The most difficult part of what we do is when parents can't work together and make each other's lives more complicated than what they need to be when raising a child. The most satisfying part about

what we do is helping our youngest citizens have a better life. Establishing paternity and/or child support has legal benefits, emotional benefits and financial benefits.

What's your favorite part of your job?

When parents are able to work cooperatively together for their child.

If you could share just one bit of advice to help others be successful in their role within Washtenaw County, what would that be?

Listen to each other for better and more efficient ways to provide excellent customer service.

Thanks so much to this exceptional team, for the work they do and for approaching each day with a purpose - to focus solely on their customers and ensuring positive outcomes. Our Prosecutor, Brian Mackie should be commended for his insight and his leadership—he has put together an amazingly cohesive team that fully understands the importance of teamwork, and the results speak for themselves, through the success of this phenomenal department.

Keep up the good work!

~Verna