

Administrator's Message

- Verna Mc Daniel

It is hard to believe that it is March already! We probably all appreciate the longer days now that daylight savings time is right around the corner. Leaving work in the dark at 5 pm has been a drag and all I felt like doing after work was going home. There is a lot to be said about sunshine and long days.

Ok, so what's going on in the County? The major initiative is Budget Development this year for the 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. Yes, we are recommending the Board of Commissioners take a long term view of the County budget and the commitments for community impact. So what does that mean? We want a four year budget to smooth the financial impact of aligning expenditure with revenues and determine the priorities we need to make to improve our County's overall social and economic health. Take a look at the budget presentation we gave the BOC on February 21st.

Diane Heidt and I have been directed by Board Resolution to begin expedited negotiations with our labor unions. Diane has called upon her Negotiation Team, representing management, to complete labor negotiations by a target date of March 20, 2013. Please bear with us as we go through this expedited process.

I hope all Leadership Academy Members can make it to the Group of 180 on Monday, March 18th, at 8:30am, as we will have Kira Berman from the University of Michigan talk to us about the "Race Exhibit," which is open to the public at the U of M Museum on central campus. This exhibit is in partnership with our own Washtenaw County Public Health Department. Kira will also ask us to participate in an exercise to broaden our knowledge about race and its impact in our own County. Don't miss it!

On this note, I shared a quote which captures the essence of the impact of race on our society.



"Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others'" - John F. Kennedy

News from the -

_ Administrator

Inside This Issue

2 Multi-Year Budgeting

Multi-Year Budget Update

Organ Donor Registry
Sign-up Drive

Did You Know?!!!

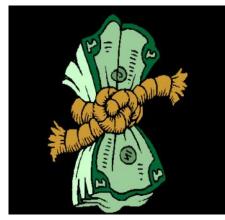
Multi-Year Budgeting

The Budget Planning Process is getting underway, and in an effort to continue reinventing ourselves in the realm of long-term planning, County Administration has introduced the concept of multi-year budgeting to the organization. Our current approach of developing a biennial budget every two years allows us to be more strategic in our management of the organization than many other local units of government. Unfortunately, as wave after wave of bad economic news hit us in recent years, we were thrown into more of a crisis management situation than we would have hoped. Moving to a longer term quadrennial budget cycle would allow



us to smooth some of the peaks and valleys often seen as a government budget runs its course.

Many employees probably remember the development of budget reduction targets as recent planning cycles got underway. A multi-year budget allows us to use long-term projections to develop and meet targets, reaching out further into the future. You may be wondering about the impact of such a change on you as an employee. One of the major opportunities available to the organization by moving to a multi-year budget is the ability to either reduce or eliminate a projected deficit through structural changes made either in the first year, or in smaller amounts through the budget cycle. This will provide you with a clear idea of where we are going four years down the road. Stability, both for the organization and for you as an employee, is our ultimate goal.



As you may have seen as a part of our recent Working Session presentation, we are anticipating a *structural* deficit of \$6.88 million for 2014-17. This number probably looks a lot smaller than some of the projected deficits reported to you in recent planning cycles. The reason is simple. By utilizing a four-year budget, we can make \$6.88 million in permanent changes starting in 2014. This would wipe out the projected deficit in 2015-17, as structural changes are permanent. In this case we would be making structural modifications in the first year of the process to balance the budget for four years. A longer period of budget stability can then be enjoyed by the people we serve and by our employees.

I urge all of you to check out the presentation made to the Board of Commissioners on February 21st. The presentation provides an overview of the anticipated changes needed in 2014 to completely eliminate the projected deficit in 2015-17. My preference in this cycle is to use a variety of means to meet our target, provided they are structural.

Finally, I cannot stress enough how appreciated you have been during these challenging times. Moving to a multi-year budget has the potential to bring additional stability to both the organization and each one of you. Washtenaw County continues to be at the forefront of long-term planning, and we could not do it without our employees.

Don't forget to take a look at the budget process section on eCentral for the most up to date information on the planning process and upcoming engagement opportunities for employees!

Multi-Year Budget Update

Multi-Year Budget Development Update

Departments will begin receiving budget development packets and took-kits late-March through mid-April. Budget development meetings and semi-annual business meetings will be held mid-May through early-June.

Organ Donor Registry Sign-up Drive

GIVE HOPE TO THOSE IN NEED - BECOME AN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR!

Organ Donor Registry Sign-up Drive to be held the week of March 18

As part of a massive statewide initiative to inspire residents to join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, the Washtenaw County Clerk/Register of Deeds office will hold an Organ Donor Registry Sign-up Drive during the week of March 18.

Joining the Donor Registry takes less than a minute, but it could mean years of new life for those needing a transplant.

The County Clerk's office will be encouraging residents and employees of Washtenaw County to become a donor by visiting www.giftoflifemichigan.org/go/washtenaw, calling 800.482.4881 or visiting a Secretary of State branch office. A link and more information can also be found on the County Clerk's page at ewashtenaw.org. An informational kiosk will be set up in the Clerk/

Register's lobby at 200 N. Main St. and staff will have fliers available at the counter to encourage the public to join the Registry.

The Washtenaw County Clerk/Register's office has been challenged by Gift of Life Michigan, the State's organ recovery organization, in coordination with the Michigan Eye-Bank, to help in this effort by signing up 100 potential donors during the upcoming Sign-up Drive. Washtenaw County is one of hundreds of groups statewide that are taking part in on-going donor drive campaigns.



Did You Know?!!!

5th Annual Frozen Leap Raises \$25,000 for SOS Community Services

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Frozen Leap team, the Polar Pigs (Pride, Integrity, Guts) showed up in full force on Saturday, February 16th, 2013. The Frozen Leap took place in the icy waters of Ford Lake where employees of the Sheriff's Office and many other community members took the plunge into the icy waters.

A fundraising goal of \$20,000 was set and surpassed to \$25,000 for SOS Community Services. There were 20 teams, totaling 112 leapers for the cause. The Polar Pigs were the top fundraising team collecting over \$2600 – Way to Go Polar Pigs!! A Polar Pig team member, Nan Spike, also won the bragging rights for the "Best Jump" contest.



The WCSO Dive Team were present and in the water for the entire event to make sure all the jumpers were safe, while the Washtenaw County HazMat Team provided warming tents for the jumpers.

For more information about SOS Community Services please click on the link or go to http://www.soscs.org/.







