



NEWS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

November, 2017

Gregory Dill, Washtenaw County Administrator

Administrator's Message

Hello everyone,

I can't believe it, but this month marks my first 'official' year as your Administrator. We've been through so much, some of the days have been long, but overall, the time seems to have flown by!

As I reflect this first year, I can't help but be proud of all we've accomplished. We've faced some significant challenges and pulled together as a team to achieve some amazing things. I have all of you to thank for everything you do, each and every day, to keep this organization moving in the right direction to improve the lives of our residents.

United Way—Annual Campaign

Speaking of improving the lives of our residents, there's another way you can help: As our annual [United Way](#) campaign enters its second and final month, I just want to remind and encourage you to consider donating to this outstanding agency. It's easy to do, simply click the 'Donate Now' button on EZ when you enter your timesheet information. Your dollars can be dedicated to a variety of charities and they will stay local, helping your friends and neighbors right here in Washtenaw County.

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*"No one has ever
become poor from
giving."*

~Unknown



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Summer Town Hall Series Update

Your opinion matters!

Over the course of the summer, I met with over 100 employees at various county locations, and received some incredibly valuable feedback. I learned of some challenges we're facing and heard some great ideas to help the county be a more efficient, effective and fiscally responsible community partner.

At the beginning of each Town Hall, I opened with 4 main topics:

1. Upcoming countywide millage—with the groups collectively asking some very thoughtful questions and confirming the need for additional resources in our CMH and Sheriff's offices.
2. Update on administrative restructure—the staff present was energized by the changes in our leadership structure. With congratulatory wishes for those whose roles have changed, and those who have recently joined our team.
3. Update on network security — suggestions on providing training, updates on eCentral were offered.
4. Update on Munis rollout — overall, Munis has been warmly received by the organization, training has been excellent and incredible appreciation for the communication and adherence to timelines.

After the initial conversation, the floor was opened for attendees, and this is where we had some really good dialogue and got some great ideas:

- When is the Leadership Development program starting (Stay tuned to eCentral, it's soon!)
- Parking is a challenge in my department (Yes, I know, we're working on it — it's on the top of the list for 2018)
- The Wellness Committee is awesome, thank you for the work they do! (Duly noted and shared!)
- Annual evaluations are not consistent throughout the organization. (You're right, they're not — we're working on this)

As you can see, participants put a lot of thought into their comments and suggestions, and I have a lot to consider when planning for 2018. Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and receive the feedback that will make this organization a better place to work and Washtenaw County a better place to live by improving the services we provide.



Ann Arbor Public Schools Partner with Washtenaw County

I recently had the privilege of getting to know some Skyline High School students who are participating in a special magnet program, [Communication Media & Public Policy](#). Through our conversations, they've agreed to evaluate two challenging issues faced by the county today, and create Public Service Announcements on our Equity Initiative and Environmental Sustainability.

Following that meeting, they provided the Board of Commissioners with a presentation about their work, you may find that [here](#).

I'm so proud to work with these bright, motivated young people. If their passion for their community and their motivation to help change our world are any indication of what our future holds, I am confident we are in very capable hands!



Contact Us

Have an idea for a story?
Like more information?
Tell us how we're doing!

Contact my assistant,

Lisa Moutinho at:

moutinh1@ewashtenaw.org

or

222-6731

Happening in the Boardroom in November:

I've been telling you about our budget reaffirmation for two months now, and while it may seem I'm being duplicitous, I simply want to recognize the hard work that goes into this process. On November 15, our Budget and Finance team will join the Board of Commissioners and provide the important financial information that we'll all need to guide our departmental decisions for the next fiscal year. I'm proud of their dedication and work, and I know the Board will be as well.

Then, at their November 1 meeting, the Board of Commissioners is set to receive the annual report of the Roads Funding Subcommittee, to learn about the road improvement projects that were funded from the voter approved millage and maybe even some insight into what next year's projects might hold.

Also, they'll be considering making the Kramer-Kuebler-Adler Farmstead in Freedom Township a Historic District—it's always exciting when we can preserve some of our rural history for the enjoyment of future generations. If approved, this Farmstead will join 13 others within the boundaries of Washtenaw County.

Board agendas (with corresponding materials) can be found [here](#).

News from the Administrator Continued.....

Recent Events

I'd like to update you on some of the events that took place in October:

Update on CMH/Public Safety Preservation Millage

Please don't forget to get out there and vote on November 7. You may find the ballot language [here](#).

Flu Shots

We don't want you at work if you're sick, so I hope you didn't miss your opportunity to get a flu shot at one of our employee clinics this year, but if you did, it's not too late! As a reminder, you can see your primary care physician or go to a local pharmacy to be vaccinated. Your county issued insurance will cover the cost.

Rosie the Riveter World Record

On Saturday, October 14, 3,755 Rosie the Riveters gathered at Eastern Michigan's Convocation Center in an attempt to bring a world record home. I'm so pleased to report, they did it with nearly 1,500 participants to spare! Congratulations to everyone who worked to make this happen, and kudos to those who participated. What a great way to show Michigan support to such a memorable part of our history!

Upcoming Events

New Voting Devices in Washtenaw County

When you vote on November 7th, you're going to see we received some new voting devices. Our Clerk's office is excited to have equipment that is user friendly while containing some robust security features that protect both our voters and the results of their ballots. You can find more information on this new equipment by clicking [here](#).

Veteran's Tribute Concert

On Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 p.m., the [Saline New Horizons Band](#) will hold their 13th annual Veteran's Tribute Concert at Saline Middle School. If you've never been to this moving event, I highly recommend going.

In Closing:

My first year as your Administrator was a whirlwind of projects, meetings and decisions! I want to thank each and every one of you, for welcoming me into my new role with open arms. Our employees, our community partners and our citizens all helped in some capacity to make sure I was provided the information needed to help make the lives of our citizens better. So many of you have worked to help me learn about what you do, and to impress upon me the value of the services you provide, and I can't express my appreciation nearly enough.

As I look forward to the next year, I have to say, your enthusiasm for the work you do provides me the energy I need to keep our momentum going.

For the moment though, let's take a step back and enjoy the remaining days of 2017, reflect on the moments that defined us as well as those times that may have provided a learning opportunity and a chance for us to get better at what we do. Let's plan for the holiday season and be sure to dedicate some time with our family and friends, too.

Have a great November, everyone!

Greg

Getting to Know: Lisa Kuebler



This month, I'd like to introduce you to one of our 2016 Employees of the Year, Lisa Kuebler. Lisa has been with Washtenaw County for most of her professional career, and is highly regarded by her co-workers and the citizens she serves. Lisa has an incredible amount of energy and never sits still for too long! Always willing to help and quick with positive feedback, Lisa values everyone equally, and her goal at work (and in life) is to give people the information, tools and resources they need to be successful. Please read on to learn more about Lisa Kuebler:

Would you mind sharing a little about yourself?

I'm 57 years old, married for 25 years to my husband, Jeff, we live in Scio Township, Ann Arbor, and I grew up in Dexter. My mother and my three brothers and their families all live and work nearby. Before I began working for Washtenaw County, I had spent 15 years working in our family's John Deere Dealership in Dexter. My family owned the business for 30 years and it was a truly wonderful way to grow up.

How long have you been with Washtenaw County?

I began working for the County in December of 1990, as a temp for CMH/Multi-Service Center on Stadium Boulevard, and then 555 Towner in Ypsilanti for a total of 5 months. I have worked for Washtenaw County fulltime since then, for 27 and a half years

Have you always worked for the Trial Court?

I have worked many places during my years of service. I worked for Community Mental Health/Multi-Service Center, in the Circuit Court for Judge Ross W. Campbell, and after his retirement I worked for Judge William F. Ager. After Judge Ager's retirement I moved to the 14A District Court and worked in all of their locations (4) in their Clerk's office, and eventually I was the Judicial Coordinator for Judge Kirk W. Tabbey for a total of 7 years. I returned to Circuit Court in 2002, where I am today working in the office of Chief Judge David Swartz.

Can you tell us a little bit about what your job entails?

Working in a judge's office is broad, diversified and definitely never the same. I am the "frontline" person when you enter the office, I answer the phones, I process orders, and I assess nearly everything that comes to our office to determine who is best to assist with what task is at hand. Judge Swartz's docket includes felony criminal cases and civil cases, and also being the Chief Judge's office, this adds an entirely different dimen-

sion of work. The range of duties are endless and ever-changing.

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

Years of experience is first and foremost in doing our jobs effectively, however, patience, kindness and the art of listening to people, really listening to them; and taking the time to do that little extra for them, even when you really feel you do not have that time to give, it can make a world of difference. Working in this environment every day for years and years, we sometimes have a tendency to forget this is very overwhelming, confusing and sometimes frightening for the people who come to us, or call us for assistance. Our interactions with the public have increased tremendously over the years.

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

Working in the judicial system can be very stressful. Most everything that comes into our building has negative consequences. It's very difficult for all involved, and it's difficult for the employees who work within this environment. However, occasionally someone has a criminal case expunged from their record, marriages are performed, adoptions are finalized, or you've taken the time to listen to someone, or given them that extra minute that meant so much.

If you could share just one bit of advice to help others be successful in their role at any job, what would that be?

No matter what position we hold, they are all important in the cycle of what our department, or our entire buildings do on behalf of Washtenaw County, it's consumers and it's citizens. Care about the quality of your work product and how it may affect others. If your work is incorrect, half completed, or of just poor quality, negative effects can have very serious consequences on people's lives.

Wow! Thank you, Lisa, for all you do. Although you are incredibly humble about your contributions, I feel I should add your involvement with the Honor Flight program as well — how amazing is it that you volunteer your time to offer our World War II veterans the opportunity for closure via a trip to Washington DC so they can visit the memorials that are dedicated to their service and sacrifices. Lisa, your actions at work and beyond help to reinforce what makes our county such a great place to live and work. Thank you for your continued contributions — you are making a difference!

Greg