



Washtenaw County Update

Upcoming County Board Meetings

July 8, 2009

Board Meeting and Ways and Means

July 9, 2009

Board Working Session

August 5, 2009

Board Meeting and Ways and Means

August 6, 2009

Board Working Session

All meetings begin at 6:30pm. Watch live on CTN, channel 16, or online at www.ewashtenaw.org

It is a pleasure to serve the residents of Washtenaw County. Please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns at 734-476-6092 or judgek@ewashtenaw.org.

*Sincerely,
Kristin Judge*

Budget Issues

With the county facing a \$26 million deficit for the 2010/2011 budget, difficult decisions need to be made. As I have mentioned to many of you in person, your feedback is important to me when faced with issues concerning your tax dollars. If you have time to write or call me with your opinion to the following questions, I would appreciate it.

1. Should saving county jobs be a priority of the board?
2. Should the board make decisions that make county government smaller?
3. Should the board be asking staff/unions to take cuts in pay and/or pay more for health benefits as a way to save jobs?
4. Should the board prioritize the services that the county is mandated by law to provide over services that are not mandated? For example, the county is mandated to have a jail and court system. The county also gives money to support non-profit agencies that are not mandated.

To review budget documents, visit:

<http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/administrator/budget/2010-2011/index.html>

It is important to me that the Board of Commissioners set an example for the organization by cutting our own budget. I am proud to say that the board passed a resolution to decrease our budget by 11%. I worked hard to help create that proposal and will continue to look for other ways to cut the budget without impacting essential services.

Possible Tax Increase Feedback Needed!!

Washtenaw County Board can levy a tax under the Act 88. This act allows counties to levy tax for economic development. A vote of the people would not be needed, but I would like your feedback prior to voting on a new tax while the people of Michigan are facing financial difficulties. To read the background on Act 88, follow this link:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/boc/agenda/bd/year_2009/2009-06-03bd/2009-06-03bd14.pdf

The tax would cost homeowners approximately \$1.70 for every \$100,000 of home's taxable value. The money raised would be used to pay for the county's contribution to the Ann Arbor Spark organization

<http://www.annarborusa.org/>. Spark is helping bring business to all areas of Washtenaw County and helping many displaced workers connect with jobs. Continuing to fund their much-needed work is important to our future. My question to you is, "Do we use a tax to pay for this economic development?" Email me your thoughts at judgek@ewashtenaw.org or call 734-476-6092.

There will be a public hearing on this item July 8, 2009 at approximately 6:45pm during our regular meeting.

Summer Fun Events

Fireworks

Friday, July 3

Lake Erie Metropark, in Brownstown - 1-800-477-3189 or 734-379-5020

Hudson Mills Metropark, NW of Ann Arbor - (800)-477-3191 or 734-426-8211

Carr Park, Manchester - 734-428-8572 *\$4 vehicle entry permit at Metroparks*

Saturday, July 4

Stony Creek Metropark, near Rochester - 1-800-477-7756 or 586-781-4242

Willow Metropark, near New Boston - 1-800-477-3182 or 734-697-9181

Washtenaw County 2009 4-H Youth Show

July 26-July 31

Website: <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/extension/4-H/ysforms/2009schedule.pdf>

Recovery Act Dollars for Washtenaw County

To learn how recovery dollars are being spent in the state of Michigan, you can click on the state map at the following link:

<http://www.michigan.gov/recovery/0,1607,7-172-53548---,00.html>

Jobs Information

Many Michigan workers are finding themselves unemployed. Congressman John Dingell has created a Displaced Worker Assistance and Training Opportunity Guidebook. This reference guide has contact information for county, state and federal services to assist displaced workers with training, financial counseling, unemployment insurance, benefits and services. For more information on resources visit this guide courtesy of Congressman Dingell's office.

<http://www.house.gov/dingell/pdf/displacedworkerguidebook.pdf>

The Michigan Works program has just been featured on national news highlighting the success of residents who were able to retrain and find employment in a new career. Washtenaw County ETCS department administers the Michigan Works program for the state. For more information visit: <http://michiganworks.org/>

Ann Arbor Chronicle

With the change in the newspaper industry, the local print paper is not following the County Board of Commissioners as closely as in the past. If you are interested in reading news accounts of the board issues, visit the new online paper www.annarborchronicle.com.

Housing Counseling Free Event

Housing Counseling 101

Sponsored by: MSU Extension and
Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office

These are uncertain times for homeowners. It can be confusing sifting through newspaper headlines and community resources for direction and advice.

At MSU Extension we've gathered the information and called in community experts to help us get the information to you.

Please join us for an evening of information and conversation about the recent state and federal legislative initiatives regarding mortgage assistance and foreclosure prevention. We will have a panel of housing counselors, attorneys, loss mitigation experts and real estate professionals on hand to discuss all aspects of the housing crisis. This is a Town Hall style meeting with opportunity to ask questions. If you have ever wondered if you could benefit from meeting with a housing counselor, this is the place to start!

When:

Monday, July 13th

Time:

6:30-8:30 pm

Where:

**Malletts Creek Branch
(Ann Arbor Library)
3090 E. Eisenhower,
Ann Arbor, MI 48108**

Cost: **FREE**

RSVP Required:

734-997-1678

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY SURVIVING ASH TREES?

Researchers at Michigan Tech's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, in cooperation with the Michigan DNR and local urban foresters, are compiling a database of live ash trees within Wayne County, the southern third of Oakland County, and the eastern third of Washtenaw County. The goal of the project is to begin identifying why these ash trees have survived in natural forests and in urban/suburban landscapes where neighboring ash trees have succumbed to emerald ash borer.

Assistance in finding the location of standing, live ash trees is being requested so field technicians can visit each tree and measure canopy structure and various aspects of vigor, along with environmental characteristics.

If you know of a live ash tree within the study area, you are invited to complete and return an on-line form available at www.liveash.org.

Any questions about the project should be directed to:
Jordan M. Marshall, Ph.D.
School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science
Michigan Technological University

Office phone: (810) 844-2701
E-mail: jmmarsha@mtu.edu

From the County Health Department

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/environmental_health/west_nile_virus/

Fact Sheet: West Nile Virus (WNV)

What is West Nile Virus?

WNV is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis or meningitis in humans and other animals. People get West Nile Virus from the bite of a mosquito that is infected with the virus.

How is it spread?

Most often WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected animals. After 10-14 days the mosquitoes can transmit the virus to humans and

animals while biting. Once the virus is in someone's bloodstream, it multiplies and may cause illness. You cannot "catch" the virus from touching or being close to someone with the disease.

What is the risk of illness in humans?

The risk of getting West Nile encephalitis/meningitis is limited to people who are in areas where WNV is present. The chance you will become seriously ill from any one mosquito bite is extremely small. The risk of getting sick is higher for people who are over 50 years of age, or persons with a weakened immune system.

What are the symptoms?

Most people infected with WNV do not have any symptoms of illness, but some (1 in 4) may become ill 3-15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. In a few cases, mostly among the elderly, death may occur.

Mild illness: Slight fever, headache, body aches, and sometimes a skin rash & swollen glands.

Serious illness: High fever, severe headache, stiff neck, mental confusion, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

How is it treated?

There is no specific treatment for West Nile encephalitis/meningitis since antibiotics are not effective against viruses. Hospitalization is usually necessary for supportive care, which may include intravenous fluids, prevention of pneumonia, and breathing assistance, if necessary.

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider or call Washtenaw County Public Health at 734-544-6700.

How is West Nile infection prevented?

There is no vaccine for humans available, but there are

many steps that you can take to reduce your risk of becoming infected:

- Avoid areas where there are large numbers of mosquitoes and at the times when they are most active, typically around sunrise and sunset.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are in areas with lots of mosquitoes.
- Repair and maintain window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of buildings.
- Limit mosquito breeding sites by draining standing water in your yard. Empty water from flower pots/saucers, clogged gutters, wading pools, swimming pool and patio furniture covers, discarded tires, pails and buckets and other items that can collect water. Change the water in birdbaths and horse troughs at least two times a week.
- Cut tall weeds and grass to remove mosquito hiding and resting areas. Apply insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus to exposed skin; spray clothing with repellent because mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Wash repellent off after coming back indoors. **Note:** whenever you use an insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the label directions for safe use.
- **CAUTION: Do not use DEET repellent on children under 2 months of age.**
- Avoid applying repellent to the hands of children because repellents may irritate the eyes and mouth.
- Visit www.aap.org/family/wnv-juno3.htm for more information about using DEET on children.

How do we monitor for the disease?

We map the locations of dead birds, especially crows, ravens, and blue jays. We also monitor and test ill humans and horses for WNV, St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

Can West Nile Virus infect other animals?

Although the vast majority of infections have been identified in birds, the Centers for Disease Control have received reports of WNV in horses, dogs, cats, bats,

chipmunks, skunks, squirrels, domestic rabbits and raccoons.

Need to report a dead bird?

Please call Washtenaw County's

West Nile Virus Hotline at: (734) 544-6750

Visit our website at: <http://publichealth.eWashtenaw.org>

Or the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at: www.cdc.gov

Washtenaw County Public Health

555 Towner

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

revised 5/09