



Washtenaw County Update

Upcoming County Board Meetings

September 2, 2009
Board Meeting and
Ways and Means

September 3, 2009
Board Working
Session

September 16,
2009
Board Meeting and
Ways and Means

September 17,
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*

Current News

The new budget deficit projection is \$30 million over the 2010/2011-budget cycle. Discussions around Phase II possible cuts were held at the August 2nd board meeting. A thorough article about the meeting can be found at: <http://annarborchronicle.com/2009/08/07/4-h-fans-others-lobby-county-for-funds/>

Washtenaw County is a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) organization. I attended the annual conference for NACo in July. Spending money for travel right now is a sensitive issue, so I wanted to be sure you knew you got your money's worth.

When I landed at Nashville Airport, I picked up a map of the city with the intent to see a bit of the area in my free time. The map never left my bag, because I never had any free time. I attended meetings and networking events with county officials from around the country for six days straight. If a sponsoring company of the event did not pay for a meal, I paid for it myself. I would have eaten at home anyway, so I did not think taxpayers should pay for my meals.

At NACo, I was personally able to speak to members of President Obama's Cabinet. The President has instructed his cabinet members to connect with local county governments because we are meeting the immediate needs of the jobless and managing millions of recovery dollars.

Some of the Federal Representatives working with us at the conference were:

Gil Kerlikowske, Drug Czar

Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Labor

Ray LaHood, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Housing and Urban
Development

United Way STUFF THE BUS



This year, Washtenaw County Employees will be kicking off our United Way Workplace Campaign with the second annual weeklong “Stuff the Bus” event. For our 2009 “Stuff the Bus” event, we will be collecting school supplies for the Ypsilanti Public School district K-5 and partnering with Target in hopes to engage the community in this initiative as well. The event will take place August 24th-28th. Drop boxes will be located in every building to collect donations for this worthwhile event.

Monday, August 24th – Downtown Ann Arbor County Administration
Tuesday, August 25th – Friday, August 28th
Target - 3749 Carpenter Road, Ypsilanti

Suggested Supplies: Backpacks, Calculator (Scientific), Colored Pencils, Compass, Composition Book, Crayons, Erasers, Folders, Highlighters, Index Cards, Mechanical Pencil, Pencil Sharpener, Pens, Pencils, Protractor, Science Fair Display Boards, Three Ring Binders, Rulers

Possible Tax Increase **Feedback Needed!!**

The 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 the 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.

Free Housing Seminar

Underwater in your home loan? You are not alone!

When situations beyond your control seem to take control of you

When property values decline and you can't refinance

When your Adjustable Rate Mortgage resets

When your mortgage payment increases

When you have lost your job

It is time to learn all you can. The help is free. MSU Extension is a HUD and MSHDA Certified Housing Counseling Agency.

When: Monday, August 24th, 2009

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Where: Ypsilanti District Library

5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Community Input Surveys

Please consider taking time to have your voice heard as decisions about your community are made. The following surveys will just take a few moments.

The Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department

is currently conducting an on-line, anonymous survey to gauge township residents' perspectives on our current park facilities and future park and recreation needs.

If you have a few minutes to spare, please use link below to offer your comments on our township's parks and recreational facilities and your thoughts on what features our township should have. This may include such issues as a more effective network of non-motorized pathways, greater connections between existing sidewalks, more/better trails at our parks, need for more park space, need for a new community center, etc. You may also want to offer suggestions on the variety/quality of recreational programming offered by the township.

Your input is critical in obtaining a diverse representation of opinions so please take some time to complete the survey at:

<http://pittsfieldtwp.org/news/Parks%20and%20Recreation%20Survey%20Now%20Online%20for%20Master%20Plan%20Input>

Washtenaw Success By 6 program works daily to ensure our children in the county are ready for school when they turn 6. Their survey can be found at:

<http://www.washtenawsuccessby6.org/>

National Organization of Counties (NACo)

Part of my desire to become a County Commissioner came from my concerns for public safety. I am honored to announce that I have become a member of the NACo Justice and Public Safety Committee. This committee recommends policy to legislators in Washington that will impact county government and the residents. I hope to supplement the fine work of our judiciary and sheriff's department with this work.

Want to Help the Arts Community in Washtenaw County?

BREAKING NEWS: Be Part of the Challenge!

Who knows if an opportunity like this will come around again?

The Arts Alliance is excited to announce that we are eligible to compete for the Community Foundation Challenge - Arts & Culture program that is providing up to **\$1 million to match general operating gifts** to support participating arts and cultural organizations.

A match of \$1 will be provided for every \$2 contributed online.

These funds will help the Arts Alliance continue to provide the tools and services that help area artists and arts & cultural organizations stay connected, have a presence in the political arena, and obtain the respect and recognition the sector deserves.

What Can You Do Now?

Save the Date & Donate. Tuesday, August 18 - 10a.m. Connect to www.cfsem.org to donate \$25-\$10,000 to the Arts Alliance. This is a race - once the \$1 million matching funds are exhausted, the challenge will be over. (Rumor is this will take place within hours!)

Stay in the know. The Arts Alliance has fun activities planned for the day of August 18. Come to a Challenge Party at 10a.m. in Ann Arbor or Saline. Celebrate arts and culture in Washtenaw County that evening. Details to follow!

Spread the word. This is a grassroots effort. If we all give a little, we can achieve a lot! Be sure to share this unique giving opportunity with your family, friends, and co-workers.

Get Updates: Follow us, watch us, Fan us.

If you don't want to miss a beat, be sure to:

Follow us on [Twitter](#) at TheArtsAlliance!

Watch our [YouTube videos](#)! (The first one is up; you can see how we aren't your average office workers at the Arts Alliance.)

Become our [Fan on Facebook](#)!

Questions: Email Angela or visit the [Community Foundation's website](#)

Washtenaw County of Veteran Affairs

Do you know a veteran in Washtenaw County?

For services, call 734-973-4540 or visit

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/veteran_services/

Lucy Ann Lance Business Insider

I had the privilege of speaking with Lucy Ann Lance in July on her program, The Business Insider. Lucy Ann Covers topics all area residents can find helpful. To hear the show, go to http://lucyannlance.com/?page_id=666. Scroll down to July 10th to hear me as a guest!

Listen live Monday-Friday 9am-12pm and Saturdays from 11am-2pm on WLBY 1290AM.

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>

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>