



Washtenaw County Update

Upcoming County Board Meetings

January 6, 2010

Board Organizational Meeting

January 20, 2010

Board Meeting and Ways and Means

January 21, 2010

Board Working Session

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

It is an honor to serve the residents of Washtenaw County. Please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns at 734-646-2088 or judgek@ewashtenaw.org

*Sincerely,
Kristin Judge*

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones from the Judge Family

County Staff Working for You

Trenda Rusher and the team at Washtenaw County Michigan Works (ETCS) worked with SPARK and Pittsfield Township officials to bring Systems in Motion to Pittsfield Township. The project could bring up to 1,200 jobs to the area.

Mary Jo Callan and the Office of Community Development worked with Pittsfield Township to secure Community Development Grant funding to connect sidewalks in the Township.

Anya Dale in the office of Economic Development and Energy has been researching and managing the Re-Imagine Washtenaw Avenue project. If this project moves forward, it will be a collaboration between many local municipalities with benefits for the whole county.

To read more about it visit: [Ann Arbor Region Success Plan](#)

Cyber Security Event a Success

We were honored to have Deputy Director Nicole Dean from the US Department of Homeland Security and Michael Kaiser from the National Cyber Security Alliance come to Washtenaw County during Cyber Security Awareness month. The video of the presentations given will be available shortly on Saline Community Television Network. When that is available, I will send you the link. In the meantime, you can read about the event here: [Cyber Security Article](#)

For detailed safety information visit the Stay Safe Online site at www.staysafeonline.org. The next step will be the creation of the Washtenaw County Area Cyber Security Task Force. More information to come after the 1st of the year.

Washtenaw County Prescription Plan (No income requirements)

If you live in Washtenaw County and have limited or no prescription drug coverage, there is help available. The Washtenaw County Prescription Program gets you discounts on prescription medications, ranging from 15-50% off the retail price (averaging around 32%). **The WCPP, which is a program sponsored by Washtenaw County and the Washtenaw Health Plan, is free to you.** You get a WCPP discount card to use at the pharmacy when you fill your prescriptions.

Applying is easy! You can apply online, by following the links at whp.ewashtenaw.org (look for Washtenaw County Prescription Plan). You can download a print application there as well. You can also apply over the phone, to Jean Amador (WHP/WCPP staff person) at 734-544-6886. If you have expensive medications, Jean Amador may also be able to help you with referrals to patient assistance programs so you can get your medications for free.

Many medications are now available through "\$4 programs" at pharmacies. The Washtenaw Health Plan routinely refers people to Kroger, Kmart, Target, and Busch's to access these programs. Make sure you ask if a medication is on the \$4 medication list—and if you prefer a locally-owned pharmacy, many of them will match the \$4 price if you ask for it. If you have questions about how to access these medications, you can call Jean Amador at 734-544-6886.

Recycle Old Holiday Lights This Season Exchange for "Greener" LED Lights

Don't dump your old lights in the trash when you make the change - **recycle them.** A number of programs will now accept the older incandescent lights, often in exchange for a discount on LED lights.

HolidayLEDs.com will recycle them for free, offering a discount on the purchase of new lights

Recycle Ann Arbor accepts holiday lights for recycling (Drop Off Station, 2950 East Ellsworth, Ann Arbor)

Consumer Reports: LED vs. Incandescent Lighting Comparison



Community Action Board

As a member of the Community Action Board, I have been able to learn of the many resources provided by our ETCS department at the county. If you know of a senior citizen or family who may need food assistance this year, please visit this county site [Washtenaw County Community Action \(ETCS\)](#) for more information on the Food Assistance for Seniors and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

Question of the Month

Each month, I will be asking for feedback on issues facing the County Board. If you are interested in giving your opinion, please email or call me.

Question: Washtenaw County will be facing more budget cuts in the coming years due to decreases in State funding and property tax revenue. Should the County Board be involving residents in the process of analyzing our budget choices? How should that be done? For example, some communities are doing surveys, focus groups or town halls. Would you be interested in participating in the discussion?

MDOT Update – Platt Road and Michigan Avenue

Underground work has been completed and new signals will be installed shortly. Residents will have a safer intersection with dedicated left-turn signals East and West bound on Michigan Avenue.

Beware! CDC H1N1 “Swine Flu” PHISHING SCAM

The CDC **has not** implemented a program requiring registration on its Web site for vaccinated persons. Do not follow unsolicited links and do not open or respond to unsolicited email messages. These messages are designed to steal personal information.

H1N1 Update

Washtenaw County Influenza Surveillance

H1N1 Death: The second H1N1 flu-associated death of a Washtenaw resident unfortunately has been confirmed. The individual was an adult who had a significant underlying medical condition.

Lab-confirmed Cases: It appears that H1N1 activity peaked in Washtenaw during the week ending October 31. Future peaks in the coming months are quite possible. Reports of confirmed influenza cases are decreasing, but numbers are still near peak levels of some previous flu seasons. All cases are H1N1 influenza. No seasonal influenza has been detected in Washtenaw County this season.

Washtenaw Schools and Childcare Centers: Rates of respiratory illness continue to decrease but remain high. Washtenaw County has only had one school closing.

Hospitalizations and Deaths in Washtenaw Residents with Confirmed Influenza

| Total Hospitalizations* | Hospitalizations Week of 11/15 – 11/21/09 | Child Deaths* (0 – 17 years) | Adult Deaths* (18 years and older) |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 70 | 15 | 0 | 2 |

*Starting August 30, 2009

H1N1 Vaccine Update

- **Important information on the second dose of H1N1 vaccine in children under 10 years:**
 - Only 25% of children 6 – 35 months have immunity after the first dose. With the second dose, immunity was found in 100% (per NIH clinical trials).
 - Only 55% of children 3 – 9 years show immunity after the first dose. 94% had a good immune response after the second dose (per NIH clinical trials).
 - Recommended spacing between the two doses is 28 days (21 day minimum).
- Please note that seasonal and H1N1 vaccine do not have a minimum separation for administration except if both are the nasal formulation and then they must be separated by 28 days.

For the latest information on vaccines call: Public Health Department (734) 544-6700
Or go online to: <http://www.ewashtenaw.org/flu>

2010/2011 Budget Passed

At our last meeting of the year, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a balanced budget for the 2010/2011-budget cycle. The resolution approving the budget can be found at: [County Budget](#)

We were able to minimize job loss with the help of our staff. Our dedicated staff members agreed to share in the burden with wage and benefit concessions. Department Heads agreed to find efficiencies and do more with less. Until the economic situation in Michigan improves we will need to continue to work as a team to find cost reductions.

Phone Scam Alerts

It has come to the attention of the Sheriff's office that a phone solicitor by the name of Barbara Hill has been calling and leaving threatening messages on residents' answering machines. She claims to be from legal services and informs to the resident that this is an urgent matter and will have a summons if this case is not taken care of immediately. Barbara Hill goes as far as to leave a case number and attempts several calls to reach you. If you happen to be the recipient of this phone call, please do not send her any money. Only you will know if you really owe anything to a debt collection agency. Many residents that have hung up on her are still waiting to see their summons in the mail. The number that will be left on the answering machine is 1-888-243-6569 and if you look online to www.800notes.com you are not alone when it comes to this woman calling. Contact the State Attorney General's Office at Toll Free (877) 765-8388 for their Consumer Protection Division and inform them of this incident.

Add your phone to the National Do Not Call Registry by visiting www.donotcall.gov or by calling 1- 888-382-1222 (this does not guarantee that you will not receive spam).

The following information was in last month's newsletter, but I thought it was important enough to repeat.

Keeping Your Home Safe

With a decrease in economic stability sometimes comes an increase in crime. If you would like to receive alerts about crime in your area, visit these links:

[Pittsfield Township Alert System](http://www.pittsfieldtwp.org/DPS.html) or
<http://www.pittsfieldtwp.org/DPS.html>

Or call Pittsfield Township Public Safety at (734)-944-4911

[Sheriff Email Alert System](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/sheriff/community/email-alert-system/email-alert-sign-up) or
<http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/sheriff/community/email-alert-system/email-alert-sign-up>

Or call the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department at (734) 971-8400

Foreclosure Prevention Help

Please tell your family and friends who may be facing foreclosure that their first call should be to the County Treasurers office. Her staff will help the homeowner in Washtenaw County sort out their specific situation and get the assistance they need, including legal services.

734-222-9595 or e-mail mfpp@ewashtenaw.org

For mortgage foreclosure prevention

OR

734-222-6600 or taxes@ewashtenaw.org

For tax foreclosure prevention

Michigan Rideshare Website

Michigan Rideshare is a free and easy way for commuters working in southeast Michigan to find carpool, vanpool and bike partners quickly and securely. Just follow the link:

[Michigan Rideshare](http://www.mirideshare.org) or
www.mirideshare.org