



COUNTY OF NEWAYGO QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FALL 2008

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NEWAYGO COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MARD

On September 9, 2008, Newaygo County Register of Deeds Linda Landheer was elected President of the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds (MARD).

Linda's county career began in August 1969 when she was hired by the Equalization Office, where she rose to the position of Assistant Director. In 1996 she took on a more public role when she was elected Register of Deeds.

Linda takes the Presidency in addition to her Newaygo County Regis-

ter duties. She previously served as First Vice President, chaired the legislative committee, and was instrumental in establishing the Register of Deeds Automation Fund. A portion of filing fees received by the Register's Office is deposited into the automation fund. This money is then used to update technology for recording and storing property records, with a focus on improving search capability.

Newaygo County thanks Linda for her years of service and congratulates her on her new role!

Newaygo County Approves Agricultural Renaissance Zone Application

On Wednesday, September 24, 2008 the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved an application to establish an Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone (APRZ) in the City of Fremont, Michigan for Gerber Products Company. The application for the APRZ must now go to the Michigan Department of Agriculture Commission and the Michigan Strategic Fund for their approval before it receives final approval from the Michigan Administrative Board in December.

APRZs were created to promote agricultural processing operations in the State of Michigan and to enhance the industry overall. The APRZs differ from Michigan's original renaissance zones because they are required to contain a company's agricultural processing facility and can be located anywhere in Michigan.

Under the proposed APRZ, Gerber Products will commit to maintaining their employment at their current level of 1,100 employees and add 200 new employees, as well as invest a total

of \$75 million. If they meet these requirements, they will receive the full 15 years of benefit from the APRZ designation.

Facilities located in an APRZ are not required to pay the Michigan Business Tax (MBT), state education tax, personal and real property taxes, and the local income tax where applicable. Taxes still due are those mandated by the federal government, local bond obligations, school sinking fund, or special assessments. Companies are not exempt from paying Michigan sales and use tax. The State of Michigan reimburses intermediate school districts, local school districts, and public libraries where taxes are abated.

"We appreciate the support of the City of Fremont, Newaygo County, the State of Michigan, NCEDO, and the Fremont Area Community Foundation for their support of this ARZ on our behalf," stated David Parker, Gerber Plant Manager in Fremont. "This package reflects a strong partnership between Gerber Products and the community to strengthen our economic future together."

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Did you know it is expected that 212,920 women and 1,729 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and over 41,000 people will die from breast cancer in 2008 alone! This dreaded disease touches millions of lives.

Newaygo County's 78th District Court makes a difference each October, showing their passion and sharing the promise for the cure by raising money for a great organization: **Passionately Pink for the Cure™**. Each year, proceeds are donated to the Susan G. Komen; Passionately Pink for the Cure Organization. The Susan G. Komen Foundation is global leader in the fight against breast cancer. Contributions stay in the area and are put directly to work to fund critical research, education, screening, and treatment programs.

The highlight of the staff's fundraising activities is a silent auction, held this year on Friday, October 24th. Thanks to their efforts and community support, the District Court staff auctioned 48 baskets in 2007, raising \$2,371. 2008 is shaping up to be another successful year!

Thank you for your support.

JAIL EXPANSION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

The Jail Expansion Committee has reviewed preliminary plans and cost estimates for proposed expansions. The plans include a possible 68 new beds for the jail, new offices for the Sheriff’s Department and Prosecuting Attorney, and a 10 bed juvenile facility. All components were examined separately, considering the county’s greatest needs and the possible benefits of combining expansion projects.

The committee determined that it would be best to expand the jail and the Sheriff’s Department offices at the same time, allowing a basement expansion that would house most of the Sheriff’s Department. The current Sheriff’s Depart-

ment offices, a small building that previously housed the Intermediate School District, would be torn down to create additional parking to replace spaces lost to the expansion.

Three proposals were submitted for new Prosecuting Attorney’s offices. The committee decided that any of these three proposals would be possible to complete at a later date and that there was no significant cost benefit to including one with the expansion at this time.

The addition of a juvenile facility was also considered, but there was no significant benefit to including it with the expansion currently under discussion. There are still

plans to explore a juvenile facility in the near future.

Committee members agreed that the first priority was to secure a 15 year obligation to lease 140 beds to the Office of Federal Detention Trustees/US Marshall Service and explore the expansion of the jail and Sheriff’s Department

All Jail Expansion Committee Meetings are open to the public. If you would like to be placed on an email list server to be notified of upcoming meetings, please contact Deb Berger at (231) 689-7234 or adminsec@co.newaygo.mi.us.

County-Wide Brownfield Plan Proposed

After seeking input from city and township officials and environmental consulting firm AKT Peerless, the Newaygo County Brownfield Authority will ask the Board of Commissioners to adopt a County-Wide Brownfield Plan. The plan outlines the process of determining if a redevelopment project qualifies for brownfield incentives such as Michigan Business Tax credits and tax increment financing. The plan will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners on November 12, 2008. For more information on brownfield redevelopment, contact Marcy Dix at (231)689-7223.

HELP FOR FAMILIES FACING TAX OR MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

As the problem of foreclosure continues to demand our urgent attention, we recognize the need to help families struggling with this issue. County Treasurer Holly Moon would like to remind everyone of her partnership with NCCS Center for Nonprofit Housing (CNH) to counsel and educate homeowners. Their goal is to help families understand the tax foreclosure process and to assist citizens in developing a solution to save their homes.

Information sheets are now included in delinquent tax notice mailings to let taxpayers know about the programs and services available in the county. If you need assistance or know someone who would benefit from a free, confidential appointment with a certified housing counselor, please call CNH at (231) 924-0641 and ask for Julie Higgins or Roxane Hiler.

If you have specific questions about the tax foreclosure process, you may call Holly Moon, County Treasurer, or Julia Bird, Tax Reversion Coordinator, at (231) 689-7230 or visit the County Treasurer’s website, www.countyofnewaygo.com/Treasurer/TreasurerPA123.htm for tax foreclosure information and timelines.

Please Remember to Vote...

In the General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. For a candidate and proposal listing, polling places, and voter ID requirements, visit <http://countyofnewaygo.com/Clerk/Elections-Elected%20Officials.htm>

The Newaygo County Board of Commissioners will hold its next evening meeting at **6:30 p.m.** on Wednesday, **December 10, 2008**, at the Board of Commissioners room in the Administration Building, 1087 Newell Street, White Cloud.

Probate Court Welcomes New Deputy Register

The Probate Court is excited to announce a new addition to its staff. Marcy Murray has accepted the position of Deputy Register and Court Recorder. She will be working directly with Judge Dimkoff on Probate matters, including guardianships, conservatorships, orders regarding mentally ill persons, and estates. Marcy holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Grand Valley State University. Although Marcy is a fresh face to the court system, she has been a lifelong resident of the county. Her involvement with the community includes serving on the interview board of the Fremont Area Community Foundation, teaching youth at her local church, and sharing her musical talents in various ways. Marcy is excited to have this new opportunity to work with the Newaygo County community.



Winter Tips from the Newaygo County Road Commission

- ❄ **Slow Down:** Most snow or ice related accidents are caused by driving at speeds too fast for existing conditions.
- ❄ **Don't Crowd the Plow:** Motorists should keep a safe distance between their vehicles and snowplows. Plowing may result in a cloud of snow, limiting visibility. Plows may also throw ice, rocks, or salt. Always watch for the unexpected.
- ❄ **Don't Let Children Play in Roadside Snow Banks:** Even at low speeds, snowplows throw large amounts of snow a great distance from the roadway, making it difficult for drivers to see children.
- ❄ **Don't Park on Snow Plow Routes:** Parking on snow plow routes is not only illegal, but hinders your road commission's ability to keep roads safe and convenient for travel. Illegally parked cars may be towed or ticketed.

- ❄ **Pile Snow to the Right:** Snow plows operate by pushing snow to the right. Piling snow to the right of your driveway and mailbox (as you face the road) will help reduce the amount of snow pushed into or in front of your driveway and mailbox.
- ❄ **Pile Snow Responsibly:** Section 677a of the Michigan Vehicle Code prohibits the removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or shoulder which obstructs the safety vision of drivers and the deposit of snow, ice, or slush on any road way or highway (MCL 257.677a).



Snow Removal

There isn't a magical amount of snowfall required before plowing begins. The Newaygo County Road Commission aims to have roads convenient for travel as early as possible following a snow event.

Heavily traveled county roads and problem areas are the first to be addressed. Lower volume neighborhood and rural streets are plowed next. Roads designated as "Seasonal Roads" are not maintained in the winter.

The Road Commission designed its snowplow policies to provide the highest possible quality of service. Unpredictable weather events and financial constraints make it impossible to make winter roads absolutely safe. Please be patient as the Road Commission strives to keep your road to success open. For a detailed Winter Maintenance Policy, please visit <http://newaygoroads.org/policies.html>

2009 Relay for Life

Relay For Life is the most successful fundraising event in the nation and the signature event of the American Cancer Society. The American Cancer Society is dedicated to educating our community about early detection and prevention of cancer.

What happens at Relay For Life? Throughout the night, the members of teams take turns walking around the track. Music and games help to keep the energy going. Once the sun falls and the sky darkens, candle-lit luminary bags glow in memory of those who have lost the battle and to honor those who have won their fight against cancer.

Newaygo County Relay for Life Teams will walk the Newaygo High School track on June 13 and 14, 2009. Everyone is encouraged to participate, including friends, families, businesses, organizations, students, churches, community groups and most importantly, cancer patients and survivors. Form a team, make some money, and share in an event full of camping out, walking the track, enjoying free food, honoring loved ones, celebrating survivors, and making many memories.

Everyone is touched by cancer at some point. One in every three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer during their lives, but our community is trying to change that with Relay For Life of Newaygo County. If you or someone you know has beaten this life altering disease, and would like to be honored at this event, or would like information on how to form a team please contact Savanna Rivist at 616.396.5576, savanna.rivist@cancer.org or Sue Ayers at 231.519.1642, sue@gospelcom.net. **Volunteers are also needed for the 2009 planning committee.** Please contact Savanna or Sue if you are interested.

The Newaygo County Campus is now Smoke Free. Smoking is limited to designated areas.

The Newaygo County Welcome Center, located at 4684 Evergreen between Newaygo and White Cloud, has installed a new roadside sign advertising the visitor information available inside and the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority Trailhead available for hikers. The Welcome Center is open to the public Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



ZingTrain Kicks Off Business Seminar Series

On September 11th a taste of Ann Arbor came to Newaygo County – at least for a day. Zingerman's Deli, an Ann Arbor institution, conducted a one day training seminar focused on the business practices and corporate philosophy that have made Zingerman's a nationally recognized company. Over 130 people attended the seminar, held at the Dogwood Center in Fremont, to learn how to make effective changes within their own organizations.

In 1982, Ari Weinsweig and Paul Saginaw opened Zingerman's Delicatessen with the intention of offering a world-class corned beef sandwich in a retail space where customers would be surrounded by

exceptional food. Over the years the deli has become world famous, not just for its food, but for its exceptional service, quality, and culture. The company has grown to include a series of offshoot companies that all work together to promote the Zingerman brand. Zingerman's practices evolved into management ideas that other companies strive to emulate. Voted one of the Coolest Small Companies in America by Inc. Magazine, Zingerman's has developed a seminar program to teach companies how to incorporate these practices into their own business.

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Newaygo County Economic Development Office (NCEDO) and

the Fremont, Grant, Newaygo, and White Cloud Chambers of Commerce, with regional partner The Right Place from Grand Rapids helping to promote the event. The seminar was the kick-off event of a two year educational seminar series designed to assist area businesses and entrepreneurs on the road to growth and success. The partnership of NCEDO and the four area chambers has received a grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation to help fund this series. The group has been meeting monthly to discuss ways to collaborate on projects that will be beneficial to all of the businesses in Newaygo County.



For more information on the Newaygo County Economic Development Office and efforts to promote growth and success in Newaygo County, visit www.ncedo.org or call (231) 652-9298.

Michigan's Great Outdoors 2008 Tourism Conference

On October 27, 2008, West Shore Community College in Scottville, Michigan, will be the site of the 4th Annual Michigan's Great Outdoors Tourism Conference. The theme for this year's event is "Tourism as an Economic Engine." The conference will feature keynote speaker Ken Wasco of Gordon Food Service, who is a nationally renowned for his energizing and informative presentations. His topic "Wowing Customers One Generation at a Time" is sure to be both educational and timely.

The Michigan's Great Outdoors group consists of representatives of 5 county regions: Lake, Manistee, Mason, Newaygo, and Oceana. The group formed in 2003 with a mission to collaboratively promote tourism in our unique region of Michigan. We've recognized the vital role that tourism plays in the economic health of our state and we are committed to working together to do our part to ensure the prosperity and progress of our 5 counties.

In addition to the keynote speaker, there will be presentations on Sustainable Nature and Cultural Tourism, Developing a Framework for Local Tourism, and Cool Small Town Success Stories. The luncheon menu will feature a wonderful celebration of locally grown foods. There will be exhibits displaying various businesses around the 5 counties. The conference will also provide a great opportunity to meet and connect with a variety of tourism industry stakeholders.

The conference cost is \$35 per person in advance or \$50 at the door. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 AM on October 27, with the conference beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding at 3:30 PM. To register or receive more information please call (231) 845-6857 or visit the Michigan's Great Outdoors website – www.MichigansGreatOutdoors.org.

For more information on tourism in Newaygo County, visit the Newaygo County Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.newaygocountytourism.org or call (231) 652-9298.



SENIOR NEWS

Open Enrollment Season For Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

Do you have Medicare coverage? Do you take prescription medication? Would you like help paying your premiums, deductibles or co-payments? If the answer to these questions is Yes, then we have important news for you.

If you are a Medicare beneficiary who has not enrolled in the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program, you may do so during the open enrollment season which begins November 15 and ends December 31. If you also have limited income and resources, you may qualify for extra help paying the premiums, deductibles and co-payments. This extra help could be worth more than \$3,600 per year.

To qualify for the extra help, you must be receiving Medicare and have:

- *Income limited to \$15,600 for an individual or \$21,000 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments.
- *Resources limited to \$11,990 for an individual or \$23,970 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. We do not count your house and car as resources.

Social Security has an easy-to-use online application that anyone, family members, friends and caregivers, can complete. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov. To apply by phone or get an application, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

To learn more about the Medicare drug plans and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

Source: Vonda VanTil, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Medicare Choices

You have choices about how you get your Medicare coverage. Here are the two main options:

Original Medicare
 Managed by the Federal government, it provides your Medicare Part A & Part B coverage. (You can choose to have either one or both parts). You have to pay a deductible, and you are usually charged coinsurance each time you get services.
 *You can add Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) by joining a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. Costs and benefits vary by plan.
 *You can also choose to buy a Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policy to help pay

some of the health care costs; "gaps" (like copayments, coinsurances, and deductibles).

Medicare Advantage Plans
 You must have both Part A and Part B to join one of these plans. The plans provide all of your Part A and Part B services and generally provide additional services. You usually pay a monthly premium, and copayments that will likely be less than the coinsurance and deductibles under Original Medicare. In most cases, these plans also offer Part D prescription drug coverage. These plans are offered by private insurance companies approved by Medicare. Costs and benefits vary by plan.

Help is available
 If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for help paying your Medicare health care and/or prescription drug coverage costs. For more information about "extra help" call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov. If you have a question about Medicare or the Medicare health and prescription drug plans in your area, call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227, visit their website at www.medicare.gov or the local MMAP program at 1-800-803-7174.

Source: CMS publication 11306

1087 Newell Phone: (231) 689-7200
 P.O. Box 885 Fax: (231) 689-7205
 White Cloud, MI 49349-0885 www.countyofnewaygo.com

The Newaygo County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson	Adam Wright	District 5	(231) 652-1589
Vice-Chair	Stan Nieboer	District 3	(231) 924-0594
Finance Chair	Dan Powell	District 7	(231) 834-0957
Finance Vice-Chair	Julia Bird	District 1	(231) 924-9344
Commissioner	Chuck Trapp	District 2	(231) 689-6260
Commissioner	Bob VanBelzen	District 4	(231) 652-5603
Commissioner	Pat Gardner	District 6	(231) 834-0230

Regular sessions of the Board are held the second and the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room located in the Administration Building.

Blood Pressure Clinics

Heartland Hospice, Community Home Care, and Commission on Aging are teaming up to provide Blood Pressure Clinics at the Senior Meal Sites in Newaygo County.

Every Wednesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

A Community Home Care nurse will be at the Senior Resource & Community Center in White Cloud

2nd Tuesday of each month from 11:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

A Heartland Hospice nurse will be at St Bart’s Church in Newaygo

2nd Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

A Heartland Hospice nurse will be at NCCS in Fremont

4th Monday of each month from 11:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

A Heartland Hospice nurse will be at Merrill Township Hall

For more information call 231-689-2100 or 1-800-689-2100

2009 Medicare Premiums & Deductibles

Part A Premium & Deductible

The Part A deductible for inpatient hospital is \$1,068 for 2009, an increase of \$44 from 2008. The Part A deductible is the beneficiary’s only cost for up to 60 days of Medicare-covered inpatient hospital care in a benefit period.

Beneficiaries must pay an additional \$267 per day for days 61 through 90 in 2009, and \$534 per day for “lifetime reserve days” that can be used for hospital stays beyond the 90th day in a benefit period.

Daily coinsurance for the 21st through 100th day in a skilled nursing facility will be \$133.50 in 2009, up from \$128 in 2008.

People who have fewer than 30 quarters of coverage may obtain Part A coverage by paying a monthly premium set according to a statutory formula. This premium will be \$443 per month for 2009, an increase of \$20 from 2008. In addition, seniors with 30 to 39 quarters of coverage, and certain disabled persons with 30 or more quarters of coverage, will pay a premium of \$244 in 2009, compared to \$233 in 2008.

Part B Premium

The standard Medicare Part B monthly premium will be \$96.40 in 2009, the same as the Part B premium for 2008. This is the first year since 2000 that there was no increase in the standard premium over the prior year.

For more Medicare information call 1-800-803-7174 and ask to speak to a MMAP counselor.

Volunteers Needed For COA Medical Transportation Program

Volunteer drivers are needed to provide transportation for Newaygo County senior citizens to their out-of-county health care appointments. Volunteers are reimbursed for their round-trip mileage from their home. Prospective volunteers must pass a background check and have a clean driving record.

For more information or to complete an application, please contact the Commission on Aging at 231-689-2100 or 1-800-689-2100.