



COUNTY OF NEWAYGO QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008

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COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF JAIL EXPANSION

Newaygo County has recently appointed a committee to explore the possibility of expanding the existing jail facility to house additional federal inmates. The county has housed federal inmates for decades and the latest efforts are in response to a federal request to contract for 140 beds for fifteen years.

The current capacity at the facility is 212 beds and although the number fluctuates, the daily inmate population count is generally 105 federal (55%) and 90 local (45%). It is anticipated that any expansion plans would likely involve

approximately 70 beds which would allow for continued contracting with the federal government as well as meet the future growth needs of the county.

Historically, the agreement with the federal government has been financially beneficial to the county and its taxpayers, with the county general fund having to cover just over 30% of the operating budget. Typically, counties without federal agreements are forced to either cover the entire operating budget with their general fund or ask the voters for a millage.

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Newaygo County Veterans' Affairs Millage Renewal on August 5 Ballot

On August 5, 2008, voters will be asked to renew the ten year, .10 mill Newaygo County Veterans' Affairs millage. This millage provides emergency relief to indigent veterans living in Newaygo County. Services include emergency assistance with groceries, utilities, and rent. To qualify for assistance, veterans must meet certain requirements, have an honorable discharge, and have served 90 days active duty.

Funds raised by the millage are administered by the Newaygo County Veterans' Affairs Committee. This committee consists of five veterans, one from each war era. The Newaygo County Office of Veterans' Affairs also employs a full-time service officer to work with veterans applying for service connected compensation, non-service connected pension, education, medical enrollment for VA outpatient clinics, widows DIC & pension, ChampVA-Champus, and

Tricare health insurance. Also available is the burial fund, from which honorably discharged veterans and their spouses can apply for burial benefits and headstone setting fees.

The Newaygo County Office of Veterans' Affairs provides valuable services to our County's veterans. The need for these services has only increased with the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The annual cost of the millage renewal to an owner of a \$100,000 home with a taxable value of \$50,000 would be \$5.00.

For more information on veterans' services available in Newaygo County, contact Service Officer Marilyn Beaudry at (231) 689-7030 or visit the DVA website at: <http://countyofnewaygo.com/VA/VAHome.htm>

Newaygo County Candidate Forum

On Tuesday, July 29, Michigan State University Extension is sponsoring a candidate forum at the Newaygo High School Cafetorium. The forum, which begins at 6:30 p.m. will allow Newaygo County voters an opportunity to meet and hear the opinions of candidates for 100th District State Representative, as well as County Commissioner, Treasurer, Drain Commissioner, and Register of Deeds candidates prior to the State Primary on August 5, 2008. No reservations are necessary. Please take advantage of this chance to become better informed about those who wish to represent you.

Spotlight: Chuck Trapp, Commissioner District # 2



Newaygo County has always been special to me. It's the place where I was born and raised, started a wonderful family, and operated several successful businesses. So when I was given the opportunity to give something back to the community by serving on the Board of Commissioners, I jumped at the chance.

While my first term has not been without challenges, I have learned a lot and am wiser about the operations of our county. As my term draws to a close, I wanted to comment on several things I am proud to have been a part of:

- To have contributed to the clean up and revitalization of Diamond Lake Campground (Camp Swampy for those of us that have been around awhile). Knowing that the camp will be preserved and not turned into a crowded subdivision is extremely rewarding.
- To have assisted the City of White Cloud and Newaygo County with developing a memorial for veterans. I think we should do everything we can to honor them.
- To have participated in the Board of Public Works and our annual clean up day. The clean up is a great way to help ensure that we protect our natural resources.
- To have helped ensure that the work of the Lilley Merrill First Responders did not die out, but was resurrected under the leadership of Lilley Township and should be around for years to come, assisting people when

they need it most. Many people do not realize that Lilley Rescue is the only first responder unit north of the City of Newaygo.

- To have taken the difficult steps needed to balance our annual budget and live within our means. You might think that this is a given, but not everyone believes this is right.
- To have assisted my constituents by determining the appropriate department for their needs and working with county representatives to resolve, or at least fully explain, their issues. Most people are happier with their government if they understand why decisions were made.

These are just a few of the things that I was fortunate to be a part of. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and appreciate your continued understanding as we wrestle with difficult issues.

Chuck Trapp, Commissioner Dist. #2

Expansion Continued from Page 1.....

In addition to looking at the feasibility of expanding the jail, the committee has also been charged with exploring the possibility of including juvenile beds and new spaces for the Prosecutor's Office and Sheriff's Office in the overall project.

The operational space needs of both the Prosecutor's Office and Sheriff's Office have grown considerably in past decades and both are housed in less than ideal environments. The Sheriff's Office is housed in the former ISD school offices and since the last expansion at the courthouse, the Prosecutor's Office has been in a cramped, windowless area.

In terms of local juveniles, the county currently contracts with three outside facilities in Muskegon, Roscommon, and Ottawa County. In addition to the cost of housing the juveniles and leasing beds, the locations of the facilities create a considerable amount of expenses related to travel

for pickups/drop-offs and weekly consult visits. Preliminary figures suggest that the current cost to the county is in excess of \$300,000 annually.

To enable the committee and the Board of Commissioners to envision a possible expansion and analyze the costs, feasibility and benefit of additional beds, juvenile beds, a new Prosecutor's Office, and a new Sheriff's Office separately, the county has retained an engineering/architectural firm to develop preliminary plans and cost estimates. Those plans and estimates are expected by the end of September and any subsequent decisions are expected later in the year.

All committee meetings are open to the public, although there are not set meeting dates and times. If you would like to be placed on an e-mail list server to be notified of upcoming meetings, please contact Deb Berger at (231) 689-7234 or adminsec@co.newaygo.mi.us.

Newaygo County's surplus vehicles and equipment are now being auctioned on Bidcorp.com.

The Newaygo County Treasurer's Office will hold Foreclosed Property Auctions on July 24 and August 28, 2008. Both auctions will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners Room in White Cloud. Online bidding will be offered at the August auction only. For more information and a listing of available properties, visit the Treasurer's website at <http://countyofnewaygo.com/Treasurer/Auction/AuctionList.htm>

Emergency Services Update

In the most recent Homeland Security Grant program, Region 6, consisting of Clare, Ionia, Isabella, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa Counties, was awarded \$3.5 Million in Homeland Security Funding — over \$232,000 of which has been allocated to Newaygo County. Projects supported by the region included the development of the Muskegon River Dam Failure and Flooding Evacuation Plan, the Newaygo County Emergency Action Guidelines, and Resource Identification as well as National Incident Management System training.

Most recently funds have been used to establish and equip the Emergency Operations Center on the Newaygo County campus in White Cloud. In addition, Newaygo County has also received equipment to increase its capability to communicate effectively among first responders and maintain command and control through the Emergency Operations Center and Incident Command Post.

One piece of equipment the County recently received was an upgraded City-Watch System — an Alert and Notification System which gives emergency officials the capability to send emergency information to pre-designated call lists and the general public quickly, accurately, and automatically via phone, text messaging, fax, pager, and email. The new system has additional capabilities which the old system, purchased in 2000, did not. The new system is connected to 12 other CityWatch Systems in surrounding counties, which increases calling capacity during emergency situations. Currently, the public notification list is programmed utilizing 9-1-1 database information provided by the phone companies, which does not include cell phones or unlisted numbers, but soon residents will be able to register via a website or CityWatch Registry postcard, to ensure that officials have accurate contact information to notify you during an emergency.

The full scale exercise conducted in Newaygo County on June 3 and the regional

exercise conducted on June 4 were also funded by Region 6 allocations. The exercises, which simulated the effects of a Class A flood along the Muskegon River and the failure of Hardy and Croton Dams, gave local emergency workers the chance to test communications systems, notification time for the 800 homes in the Muskegon River's flood plain, the functions of the new Emergency Operations Center, and plans for a portable hospital that is used when routes to local hospitals are cut off. The next day, Region 6 worked together on the damage assessment and resource sharing activities that would be vital in a real emergency. The exercise was a success, giving Newaygo County and surrounding areas the opportunity to evaluate emergency plans and make necessary adjustments. Additional exercises will be held in the future, to increase preparedness for any type of emergency. For more information on Newaygo County Emergency Services, call (231)689-7354.

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

Newaygo County Parks will continue accepting reservations for summer camping into the fall. **Diamond Lake Campground will be open until September 7, Sandy Beach Campground will be open until September 21, and Ed H. Henning Park will be open until October 19. To make reservations, call (231)689-1190 for Diamond Lake, (231)689-1229 for Sandy Beach, and (231) 652-1202 for Ed H. Henning. Information and reservation forms for County parks are available online at www.countyofnewaygo.com.**

Newaygo County and the Fremont Area Community Foundation have collaborated with Lake Haven to provide low cost spay/neuter services to low-income families in Newaygo County. If your pet needs to be spayed or neutered, contact Lake Haven at (231)652-7507.



Please Remember to Vote...

In the State Primary Election on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. For a candidate and proposal listing, polling places, and voter ID requirements, visit <http://countyofnewaygo.com/Clerk/Elections-Elected%20Officials.htm>

Newaygo County Welcomes New Probate Register

Trincie Stroven has taken the position of Probate Court Register, replacing Lyn Daniels who retired in May after 30 years of service to Newaygo County — Congratulations Lyn!

After graduating from Fremont High School, Trincie received her Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration & Paralegal from Ferris State University. She has spent the last six years mediating Custody and Parenting Time for the Osceola County Courts. During that time, she also chaired the Osceola Human Services Collaborative Body. Trincie found it incredibly rewarding to help families work through sensitive issues, but her heart has always been in Newaygo County, and accepting this position has truly felt like "coming home". She looks forward to serving the residents of Newaygo County, knowing that her efforts will continue to build our community and support our families.



NCEDO: Helping Small Businesses Grow

One of the missions of the Newaygo County Economic Development Office (NCEDO) is to assist in the development and growth of small business within the community. NCEDO provides services to entrepreneurs who are interested in starting a business, growing a business, or making changes to an existing business by partnering with various organizations who can help pave the way. Organizations available to entrepreneurs are SCORE, InnovationWorks, and the Newaygo County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

SCORE

The SCORE business counseling program was started in 1964 through the Small Business Administration and has assisted more than 7 million aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners nationally. NCEDO in partnership with the area Chambers of Commerce is pleased to have a very active SCORE chapter with regular office hours on Tuesday mornings from 9-12 at the NCEDO offices, 4684 Evergreen Drive (M-37), Newaygo. During office hours, counselors will help with a variety of topics including business start-up questions, business plans, cash flow analysis, marketing plans and guidance on obtaining financing. The counselors are business professionals, both retired and currently working, volunteering to lend their knowledge and insight to create a supportive culture for new business success. This service is free of charge and is a fabulous resource to the community.

InnovationWorks

NCEDO has recently partnered with InnovationWorks (IW), a regional initiative dedicated to accelerating the commercialization of products, processes and services in West Michigan.

Just one in thirty patents makes its way into the marketplace in the form of a commercialized product. IW staff and partners work with inventors, academia, entrepreneurs, and businesses to identify and commercialize ideas. A web-based Idea Portal serves as a digital clearinghouse of these ideas, making them available to those who register with IW.

There are several Newaygo County entrepreneurs currently working with InnovationWorks and we're encouraged by their potential for success!

Convention and Visitors Bureau

NCEDO provides professional support to the newly formed Newaygo County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). Membership in the CVB provides local businesses with promotional services and benefits including a 5% discount on an ad in the Newaygo County Visitor's Guide, distribution of member organizations' literature in response to email and phone requests, and inclusion of member organizations' printed materials on display at the newly renovated Welcome Center located on M-37 north of Newaygo. In addition, members' materials are distributed at various Tourism Trade Shows in Michigan and surrounding states. Members are also listed on the CVB website: www.newaygocountytourism.com. Ultimately, participation in the CVB will help to build a better economy and community within Newaygo County.

For more information about the SCORE business counseling program, InnovationWorks, or the CVB, call Andy Lofgren or Laurie Supinski at NCEDO – 231-652-9298.

SENIOR NEWS

Medicare Beneficiaries—Know Your Covered Services

Medicare Preventative Services

Medicare pays for many preventive services to keep you healthy. Preventive services can find health problems early when treatment works best, and can keep you from getting certain diseases or illnesses. The following are some of the preventative services provided by Medicare:

Welcome to Medicare Physical Exam

Medicare covers a one-time preventive physical exam within the first six months that you have Part B. The exam is a great way to get up-to-date on important screenings and shots and to talk with your doctor about your family history and how to stay healthy.

Diabetes Screenings

Medicare covers tests to check for diabetes. These tests are available if you have any of the following risk factors: high blood pressure, a history of abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels, obesity, or a history of high blood sugar. Medicare also covers these tests if you have two or more of the following characteristics:

- *Age 65 or older
- *Overweight
- *Family history of diabetes
- *A history of gestational diabetes (diabetes during pregnancy), or delivery of

a baby weighing more than 9 pounds.

Based on the results of these tests, you may be eligible for up to two diabetes screenings every year.

Diabetic Self-Management Training

Medicare beneficiaries who are at risk of complications from diabetes are covered. Your doctor or other health care provider must request this service.

Cardiovascular Screenings

Medicare covers screening tests for cholesterol, lipid, and triglyceride levels every five years.

Colorectal Cancer Screening

If you are age 50 or older, or are at high risk for colorectal cancer, colorectal cancer screening helps find precancerous growths so they can be removed and prevent cancer. The screening also helps find colorectal cancer early, when treatment is most effective. How often Medicare pays for these tests depends on the type of test and your level of cancer risk.

Bone Mass Measurements

Bone mass measurements help determine if you are at risk for broken bones. Medicare covers these measurements once every 24 months (more often if medically necessary) for people with Medicare at risk for osteoporosis.

Glaucoma Tests

Medicare covers these tests once every 12 months for people with Medicare who are at high risk for glaucoma.

Pap Test and Pelvic Exam

Medicare covers these exams every 24 months for all women with Medicare and once every 12 months for women with Medicare who are considered high risk.

Mammogram

Medicare covers mammograms once every 12 months for all women with Medicare over age 40.

Prostate Cancer

Medicare covers the relevant tests once every 12 months for all men with Medicare over age 50.

Flu Shots

All people with Medicare are covered once per flu season (in the fall or winter).

Some of the above services are covered at 80% by Medicare, you may be required to pay a 20% co-insurance. If you wish to know the coverage for specific services, or find out more about preventative services, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-533-4227) or visit online at www.Medicare.gov.

Camp Ability—a special camp for special people

The Amazing X Charitable Trust of the Fremont Area Community Foundation made it possible for Camp Ability to celebrate its seventh year of providing a camping experience for Newaygo County residents living with memory loss, medical frailties, developmental disabilities, and mental illnesses.

Campers stayed at Camp Henry on Kimball Lake for three days and two nights in cabins that were physically accessible to those with walkers or in wheelchairs. The campers enjoyed boat rides, swimming, horseback riding, fishing, arts and crafts, live music and drumming, and all the other challenging and fun activities that go along with a camp experience. Many campers had never been on a horse, caught a fish or ridden in a boat before attending Camp. In addition to the campers having a

great time, their caregivers and family members were able to have a three day respite period to meet their own needs.

Pam Greinke from Commission on Aging said, "Our oldest participant was 90 and he told us how he helped build the camp when he was 18. The campers helped each other, had a good time, and learned that there were many things they were able to do that they thought they couldn't do before."

Commission on Aging, Community Mental Health, Dallas Darling Group Home, and Deerfield Group Home collaborated to provide this annual event.

For more information about this or other day care or respite programs, contact Pam Greinke at 689-2100 or 1-800-689-2100.



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.

Digital Confusion

Answers on what the Digital Transition Means for Seniors

The digital TV deadline of February 17, 2009 looms for many who are still confused by what the transition means for them and how it may impact their viewing habits.

Cable and satellite subscribers should not worry because their provider will be taking care of the transition. Concern is for folks without cable who may be using rabbit ears for their service; service that will be cut off when digital takes over.

Televisions not connected to cable or satellite service will need to purchase a "digital to analog" converter. Each household can request two \$40 coupons which will help cover the cost of the converter. The coupon expires 90 days after they are issued and in many cases, will not cover the entire cost of the converter. Converters are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70.

According to the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, the transition will impact 600,000 households in Michigan that rely on free, over-the-air broadcast television. Those expected to be most impacted are seniors, low income individuals, minorities, and those living in rural areas.

For more information or to request coupons: Call 1-888-388-2009 or visit www.DTV2009.gov

Medicare Prescription Drug Program

Q. I'm in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan but don't like it, can I change plans?

A. In general, you can only switch to another plan from November 15 to December 31 of each year. That is why it is so important to review your options before enrolling. However, there are a few exceptions that allow you to change to a new plan during 2008, such as if you move out of the service area, lose your employer drug coverage, enter or leave a nursing facility, or if you qualify for Extra Help.

Q. What if I did not join a Medicare Part D plan when I was first eligible, but I would like to join one now?

A. You can enroll in a plan during Open Enrollment (November 15-December 31). You may have to pay a premium penalty if you did not have coverage that was at least as good as Medicare's coverage during the first period that you were eligible to enroll. The penalty amount is calculated based on the number of months you were eligible but did not enroll. The penalty will be added to your monthly Medicare private Part D plan premium. If you qualify for Extra Help with your Medicare prescription drug coverage, you can enroll anytime and pay no late enrollment penalty. For more information call MMAP at 1-800-803-7174.

Health Care Transportation for Seniors

The Commission on Aging Senior Transit Health Care Vans are available for Newaygo County residents age 60 or older for a variety of health care transportation needs. Van transportation is provided to health care providers inside of Newaygo County and on occasion, outside of Newaygo County for those who are wheelchair bound.

Wheelchair lift equipped vans are used to provide access to a variety of health care services such as doctor and lab appointments, chiropractic appointments, therapy, optical (eye) appointments, dialysis, and foot care clinics. Suggested donation is \$4.00 for trips in Newaygo County and \$8.00 for trips outside of Newaygo County.

If you need transportation assistance for any of the above listed services, or would like further information, please call 689-2100 or 1-800-689-2100.

