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News From County Executive Tom Hickner

In This Issue

[Board of
Commissioners
Information](#)

[Bay County
Government Offices
Closed](#)

[Board Update](#)

[2010 Health
Department Annual
Report](#)

[Canine Advocacy
Program](#)

[Collective
Bargaining Update](#)

[Sheriff Deeds](#)

[4-H Fundraiser](#)

Commissioner Kim Coonan Named 2012 Board of Commissioners Chairman

During the Bay County Board of Commissioners organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd, Kim Coonan was named the 2012 Board Chairman. Commissioner Coonan previously served as the Board Chairman in 2007.

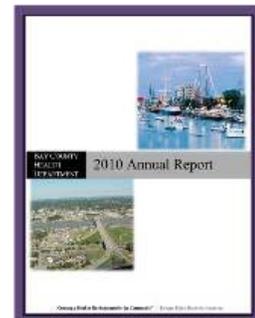


Also during this meeting, Don Tilley was chosen to serve as Vice-Chairman and Brandon Krause kept his post as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Find the Board member information, calendar, agenda, and meeting results by visiting the [Bay County Board of Commissioners](#) webpage.

2010 Health Department Annual Report Now Available

The 2010 Bay County Department of Community Health [Annual Report](#) is now available. The Annual Report provides an overall picture of the quality programs and services the Health Department delivers to the citizens of Bay County.



Public Health Director Barbara MacGregor explained, "Throughout the 2010 Annual Report, you will see how the Health Department collaborated with community, state and federal partners to provide many services. Some of these services included inspection and licensing of tattoo parlors, providing education to business owners about Michigan's new Smoke-Free Law, offering education regarding safe consumption of wild game and fish caught in the Saginaw River and Bay, delivering immunizations to individuals without insurance through a special ARRA grant, removal of household hazardous wastes, and investigation of communicable and food-borne illness outbreaks. Without these relationships and collaborations, we would not be able to provide all of the programs our citizens need."

Upcoming Board of Commissioners Meetings



Ways & Means Committee Meeting

February 7th

Board of Commissioners Meetings

February 14th

**Personnel
Judicial
&
Human
Services
Committee
Meetings**

January 17th

Please note: You can find Board Calendars, Agendas and Meeting results on the [Board of Commissioners webpage](#). You also can find links to view the videos of each board meeting, filmed by Bay3TV, on our [video webpage](#).

*All meetings are held at 4:00 PM in the chambers on the 4th floor of the Bay County Building.



Quick Links

[Bay County Website](#)

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The [2010 Bay County Department of Community Health Annual Report](#) is available on our [website](#).

**Newest Member of the Prosecutor's Team ~
Dodger the Yellow Labrador Retriever!**

The Bay County Prosecutor's Office has a new advocate for children! Dodger, a yellow Labrador Retriever, was donated to Prosecutor Kurt Asbury from the [Rochester Hills-based Leader Dogs for the Blind program](#) to start the Canine Advocacy Program at the Bay County Court Facility. Dodger was sworn-in by Judge Joe Sheeran on December 16th.



Courtesy of John Keuvelaar with Koov's Photography

The [Canine Advocacy Program](#) was started in Oakland County by Dan Cojanu and has proven successful in comforting children in very difficult situations; mainly those involved in criminal, neglect or abuse cases. Prosecutor Kurt Asbury told [MyBayCity.com](#), "It's well documented that a child's anxiety level is dramatically reduced by the presence of canine advocates. Dogs have that special ability to sense people's emotions and alleviate their stress. We believe that every child that comes to court will benefit by having Dodger at their side, offering them his emotional support."

Dodger typically will spend time with a child before and after the child goes into court. In certain cases, Dodger will be able to come into court and stay with the victim during the testimony. In those cases, permission from the Judge is needed for Dodger to accompany the victim to the stand, as is the case with any other victim advocate.



Courtesy of John Keuvelaar with Koov's Photography

During business hours Dodger will be handled by his fellow victim advocates; Cindy Howell, Kristen Monaghan and Wendy Hoffard. When Dodger is not in the office, he lives with Mr. & Mrs. Asbury and his brother, Moose (an English Bulldog). There are no costs to the county for this program; all costs associated with Dodger and the Canine Advocacy Program are paid for by the Asburys.

Bay County is proud to welcome Dodger as a member of our team!

**Bay County's Collective Bargaining Units
Labor Agreement Update**

Bay County Government Offices Closed

Bay County
Government
Offices will be
closed on Monday,
January 16th
in observance of
Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day.

All 24-hour
operations will
remain open.

From August through November 2011, the County has been involved in labor contract discussions with its bargaining units. During that period, an unprecedented number - eleven of thirteen -- were ratified by the membership and approved by the County's Board of Commissioners.

Using win-win bargaining techniques of focusing on the other side's needs as well as their own, equitable terms were reached which kept health care contributions at the same percentage level of employee contribution, provided a new prescription drug plan which could give cash incentives for employees and savings for the County, and provided a lump sum wage payment of ¾% in each of the two years of the agreement (in lieu of days off).



These provisions were reached through creative bargaining in which several County Commissioners were involved, as well as the Board's Financial Analyst and the County's Personnel Director. By modifying the prescription drug plan and managing other resources carefully, we expect that the labor agreements will not add costs to the operation.

At the same time, the unions which reached agreement must be commended. None has had an increase in base salary since 2008, although the employees have shouldered increased health care contribution costs. They have recognized the increased financial burden placed on resources because of increased health care costs, reduced state revenue sharing, and reduced income from property taxes.

For those eleven unions and to the representatives from Bay County, we should recognize their hard work and achievements. Thank you.

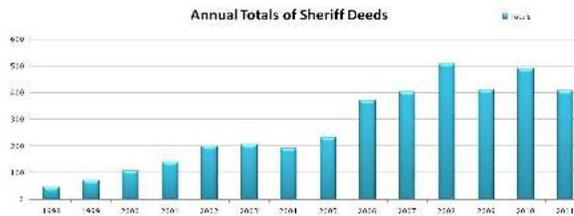
When the collective bargaining agreements are completely signed by all parties, a copy is placed on the Bay County [Personnel & Employee Relations](#) webpage.

Bay County Foreclosures - Report of Sheriff Deeds Though the Years

Bay County [Register of Deeds](#) Victoria Roupe has been keeping track of the number of Sheriff Deeds in Bay County for years.

The foreclosure process begins when an individual loses their home due to non-payment of the mortgage. Most mortgages are foreclosed by advertisement, which results in a [Sheriff Deed](#). A public sale, or auction, is conducted by the Sheriff's office on behalf of the creditor. At this public sale, the Sheriff Deed is awarded to the highest bidder, be it the bank or a paying individual. The original owner is granted a redemption period (typically 6 months beginning the day of the sale) to reclaim their home by making restitution to the creditors.

[View the graphs](#) of Sheriff Deed data throughout the years.



This data is significant because it represents one of the indicators of what is happening in our community, economically, to date. The graphs are a visualization of the trends.

7th Annual Bay County 4-H Livestock Association Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction

The [7th Annual 4-H Livestock Association Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction](#) Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, February 16th from 4:30 - 7:00 PM at the Canteen Building at the Bay County Fairgrounds, 800 Livingston, Bay City, Michigan.



All you can eat! The cost is \$6.00 per ticket, children age 3 and under eat free and take outs are available.

All proceeds benefit the Bay County 4-H Livestock Auction!

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

**Tom Hickner
Bay County**

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