



COUNTY OF MIDLAND MICHIGAN

DID YOU KNOW?



Some say William Penn, colonial founder of Pennsylvania, started the first county commission government in 1681 when he received the state in payment of a debt from Charles II.

The [National Association of Counties](#), says counties are one of America's oldest government forms, dating back to 1634 when the first county governments were established in Virginia.

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October 2015 *Newsletter*

HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

County Board Leads the Way

Each month in this newsletter, we offer a glimpse into some of the services offered by the County of Midland. Behind the scenes is a small group of hardworking officials, responsible for making the decisions that keep the organization humming while protecting the health, welfare, and safety of Midland County's residents.



Midland County Board of Commissioners (left to right): District 7-Scott Noesen, District 6-Eric Dorrien, District 5-James Geisler (Vice-Chair), District 4-Richard Keenan, District 3-James Leigeb, District 2-Mark Bone (Chair), District 1-Alan Kloha

Members of the Midland County [Board of Commissioners](#) are elected every two years to represent the residents in the specific district in which they live. Some of the seven districts are comprised of rural out-county areas, some cover areas of the City of Midland, and some include a mix of city and out-county areas.

Each commissioner is assigned to at least one standing committee of the Board of Commissioners and appointed to represent the Board on several other internal and community boards and commissions, such as the Economic Development Corporation of Midland County, Sanford Lake Improvement Board, and Midland County Council on Aging, to name just a few.

IMPORTANT DATES

October - MSU Extension Chili Month

Oct. 5 - Child Health Day

Oct. 5 - Stop Bullying Day

Oct. 5-7 - Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

Oct. 4-10 - Fire Prevention Week

Oct. 6 - Employee Appreciation Awards (BOC 9:00 am)

Oct. 9-Dec. 2 - [Flu Clinics](#)

Oct. 16 - Boss's Day

Oct. 21 - [Household hazardous waste collection](#)

From the Midland County Health Department...

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory disease known for producing uncontrollable, violent coughing which results in a "whooping" sound. Pertussis can be very serious, even deadly, for babies less than a year old.

The best way to protect against pertussis is immunization. Call (989-832-6655) the [Health Dept. Immunization Clinic](#) for more info.

MORE IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 1 - Daylight Savings Time ends; change your smoke alarm batteries

Nov. 3 - Board of Commissioners adopts general appropriations resolution and budget

Nov. 8 - [Mid-Land \(half-marathon\) Run](#) - Pere Marquette Rail Trail

Nov. 8-15 - Winter Hazards Awareness Week

Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day (County offices closed)

Nov. 19 - [Great American Smokeout](#)

Nov. 26 - 27 - County offices closed for Thanksgiving

Board Chairman Mark Bone, who serves on 11 different boards and commissions as part of his County duties says, "We are lucky to have a strong, collaborative community with organizations that understand the value of including many different perspectives in planning and decision-making. I enjoy every opportunity to be involved."

Board meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am in the County Services Building and open to the public unless otherwise noted on the [agenda](#). Come check out a meeting or [watch them online](#).

EVERY DAY IS CHILD HEALTH DAY IN MIDLAND COUNTY



National Child Health Day falls on the first Monday of October. But for the Midland County [Health Department](#), child health is something to celebrate *every* day.

Midland County offers a variety of services designed to protect the health of children, from comprehensive family-centered care management for chronically ill children to community education programs on childhood nutrition. "In addition to services that are available to all children in the county, such as vaccinations and vision and hearing screening, we offer some comprehensive, more specialized programs that help qualifying families manage maternal and child health," says Community Health Services director Beverly Pyles, R.N., B.S.N.

One such service is the state-supported [Children's Special Health Care Services](#) (CSHCS) open to families of children with a qualifying chronic health condition. Unlike income-based services, this program is open to any child with a qualifying chronic illness. The service provides long-term case management (birth to 21 years) for help with issues related to the child's treatment, such as insurance, travel to appointments, and payment of certain medical bills.

"Community education is an important part of protecting the public's health. It helps us reach a large number of residents, quickly," Beverly adds. Health Department staff participate regularly in community events and present programs at schools on a variety of topics, such as handwashing, oral health, and safe sleep for infants.

Other important health services for children provided by the Health Department include:

- Maternal Infant Health Program - a home visiting program serving pregnant women and infants with Medicaid insurance
- Vision/Hearing screening - provided at the Health Dept. and in preschools/schools for all children up to ninth grade
- Vaccinations/Immunizations - vaccines for children, provided by appt. any time
- Blood lead level monitoring and education
- Family planning and pregnancy testing

Read more about available [health services](#) for children.

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REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS YEAR-ROUND

Finding your way through the assortment of federal and state government benefits from service-connected disabilities and pensions to education, housing assistance and health care, can be confusing, to say the least. [Midland County Veterans' Services](#) is there for our veterans, assisting our vets and their families in filing for Federal, State, and County veterans programs.

Midland County's Veteran's Counselor, Ross Ahlich, says, "Our office can simplify the application process, help you obtain the maximum benefits available, and refer you to other agencies who can help in other ways."

Ross says a new program is now available for veterans. The [Choice Program](#), a federal program under the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, expands VA Health Care benefits to allow for medical care by non-VA doctors.

Veterans and their families are encouraged to stop by the Midland County Veteran's Services office on the second floor of the County Services Building or give Ross a call at 989-832-6843 to review the veterans' benefits available today.



FIRE PREVENTION BEGINS AT HOME

Celebrate National Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 4-10) with a Plan

Did you know that a home structure fire is reported every 82 seconds? And, 80 percent of fire deaths happen in the home.

According to Midland County's [Emergency Management](#) Coordinator, Roger Garner, only about 23 percent of households have actually made and practiced a home fire escape plan. "Making a simple plan that everyone in the family can remember and follow can help your family get out of the house quickly and safely in a fire. Follow the steps below from the National Fire Protection Association to create a fire escape plan. Then practice!

- Get everyone in your home together and identify all doors and windows that lead outside. Make sure they can be opened easily.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible (like a door or window)
- Choose a place at a safe distance in front of the home where everyone can meet once they've escaped
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street
- Have a plan for anyone in your home who may need assistance to escape (children, older adults, the disabled)
- Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1 to report an emergency
- Practice your plan twice a year. Once during the day and once at night
- Get out fast and close doors behind you as you leave
- In a fire, if you can't get outside, seal vents and cracks around doors with a wet cloth; call 9-1-1 and tell them where you are, and signal from a window with a flashlight or light-colored cloth; stay low - near the floor

And, don't forget about smoke alarms. Be sure to install them on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so when one sounds, they all sound. Make sure everyone knows what your smoke alarms sound like and can hear them. Then test your smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button. When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. For more, visit the [National Fire Protection Association](#). [Back to top](#)

MIDLAND CHAMBER IS BUILDING NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS



Has your middle or high school student always wanted to start their own business?

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015-2016 Young Entrepreneurs Academy for students entering grades 6-12. Sponsored by the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce, the program teaches middle and high school go-getters how to start and run their own, real businesses.

Classes are held Wednesdays after school at Northwood University beginning October 28th and no business experience or business idea is required. Students are accepted on a rolling basis and encouraged to apply today.

For more information, contact Tina Lynch at (989) 839-9901, tlynch@macc.org or your student can apply online www.yeausa.org. *Courtesy of the MACC Weekly Update.*

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is only weeks away and soon our streets will be filled with ghosts, goblins and witches trick-or-treating. Ensure your child's safety by following these tips from Sheriff Scott Stephenson:

- Costumes should be short enough to prevent tripping. Consider using cosmetics to create fun or scary faces instead of masks.
- Watch costumed children around pets - they may not recognize the child and become frightened, especially if the child is using a prop such as a sword or dagger as part of their costume.
- Avoid hard plastic or wooden props, opting instead for items made of foam or rubber which is soft and flexible.
- To help make your child more visible after dark, trick-or-treaters should carry a brightly colored bag and flashlight or a glow stick. Add reflective tape to the sides, front and back of your child's costume.
- At all times, watch for traffic and avoid walking in the street whenever possible.
- An adult should always accompany young children and stay within close range of young children at all times. Don't allow children to go down a street alone. Walk with them to each house and wait near the porch entrance of the home until they return.



MOSQUITO POPULATIONS PEAK AGAIN



If you are wondering why the mosquitoes are so bad this fall, you're not alone. According to Midland County Mosquito Control Director Carl Doud, we are seeing the results of heavy rains in early September which caused hatching in fields, ditches and woodland pools.

COUNTY RESIDENT AND VETERAN DICK STEVENS HONORED FOR SERVICE



Korean War veteran and Purple Heart recipient Dick Stevens has relinquished his command of the Midland County Area Honor Guard after 37 years of selfless service. Through inclement weather and missed personal obligations, he has led the caring professional members of the Honor Guard in over 2,800 veteran burials in Midland County. Dick will continue to serve as a member of the honor guard.

*Celebrate Veterans Day
November 11, 2015*

Join us in honoring America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

MIDLAND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - 11:00 am in front of the Midland County Veterans Memorial (contact the Midland VFW at 989-496-3410 for more)

COLEMAN VETERANS MEMORIAL - Contact Denny Yancer at 989-941-1156 for info or follow them on [Facebook](#)

Carl says, "It's tough to control mosquitoes in the fall when evening temperatures are lower. Our most visible mosquito control tactic, fogging, has a very specific envelope for effectiveness. Even a slight drop in nighttime temperatures can cause mosquitoes to stop flying, so fogging has little effect."

The best defense is a good offense with mosquitoes, so crews mounted a campaign to treat standing water after the rains, before the adults emerged, treating 440 miles of roadside ditches and 560 acres of other flooded habitat. After keeping night crews fogging for a full week past their season end date, mosquito populations are still pretty high in some rural areas. Supervisory personnel will continue to work at knocking them down as long as the evening temperatures cooperate.

FLU CLINICS - PROTECT YOURSELF NOW!

Oct. 9, 14, and 21; Nov. 4, 18; Dec 2

All clinics located in the Board of Commissioners Rm in the County Services Building

Contact the [Health Dept.](#) at 989-832-6669 for cost and more info.

ROAD COMMISSION IS BUSY THIS FALL

In addition to inspecting bridges in the county and wrapping up reconstruction projects, the [Midland County Road Commission](#) is busy with a new construction project on Salt River Rd. between Coleman and Alamando. Now at stage 3, the site is undergoing shoulder grading, slope restoration, and sign installation. Read more about area [road construction](#).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEEDS RESERVES

Ever dreamed of being in law enforcement? Here's your chance.

The Midland County Sheriff's Office is looking for some civic-minded individuals interested in law enforcement to join the ranks as reserve deputies. While reserve deputies sometimes ride along with and assist

patrol deputies, their main job is to provide security at county events and maintain traffic control.

You must be 21 years old to apply, have a good driving record and pass a criminal history and background check. Applications are due Oct. 10 and available at the Midland County Human Resources Dept. on the third floor of the County Services Building. Check out the [job posting](#) for more.



AUTO INDUSTRY ON DISPLAY

For some people in Midland, [Northwood University's](#) Auto Show is an annual family event. But the local show, produced by Northwood students, is expected to draw a diverse crowd of approximately 60,000 this weekend.

Starting at noon on Friday, Oct. 2, and running through Sunday at 5:00 pm, the show gives visitors a chance to see everything new in the automotive industry and reminisce about classic cars, too. Exhibits will include performance and luxury cars to recreational vehicles, featuring 500 new domestic and

imported cars, trucks, vans, RVs, experimental and specialty vehicles as well as after-market items. Check out the [live webcam](#) at Northwood.



FURRY FRIEND PUTS CHILDREN AT EASE

The Midland County Prosecutor's Office has just added another staff member, but this one has four legs. Joey, a chocolate Labrador with a turquoise kerchief around his neck, has been assigned one official duty: to help calm youth victims in court or around the office.

"The canine advocate is designed to go with small children to court and act as a support and comfort," Midland County Prosecutor J. Dee Brooks says. "They are puppy trained originally to be service dogs as soon as they are born. They then go into the leader dog training program and then for one reason or another they can't be certified. They are then adopted into a canine advocate program."

Joey actually belongs to Assistant Prosecutor Atea Duso. While hanging around the office or at the courthouse, County Victim Rights Coordinator Kelly Allen will be Joey's handler along with Duso. The county's budget won't take a big hit because of Joey. He may just require an occasional trip to the grocery store.

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COUNTY EMPLOYEES TAKE UW CAMPAIGN TO HEART

As the United Way campaign continues, employees in the District and Circuit Courts have already met their 100 percent participation goal, earning free bagels on the last day of September. Campaign co-chair Michelle Speltz says there's still time for other departments to win a morning of free bagels or doughnuts. The campaign runs until October 16 and will wrap up with even more incentives, including a raffle for a gift basket from Leaman's Green Apple Barn.

Want to receive a reminder each month when our newsletter is published?

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