November 13…why is this an important date? No, it's not just the day before the day before hunting season. It's GIS Day! Yes, around the world GIS professionals celebrate their passion for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and how this technology has improved the lives of so many people. One of the premier GIS programs in the State is right here in Midland County! GIS has enriched the user experience for our community through better services and better data. The most familiar GIS application in Midland County is Fetch GIS, our free online web mapping application with parcels, imagery, and other County datasets. You may notice other smaller web maps embedded on various county department's webpages on the County website as well, all part of providing information to the public efficiently and uniting disparate data from many departments. Many County departments use GIS daily. Equalization uses it for tax mapping and providing accurate land ownership information. The County Treasurer runs the foreclosed property sale, the Drain Commission Office uses GIS for drain assessments, House Numbering relies on GIS to assign new property addresses for 911, and Environmental Health uses GIS for well and septic permitting.

You most likely use GIS on a daily basis and not realize it. Have you asked Siri or Google for directions? Ordered a ride from Uber or Lyft? Looked up the location of an item at Home Depot or Lowe's? All of these applications are built on location, which is GIS - one of the most powerful technologies in use today!

For more information on how Midland County is innovating through the application of GIS, visit https://www.co.midland.mi.us/GIS.aspx

Go. Explore. Have Fun!

Following on Twitter: @gisday

#GISDay2019