



### **Important Survey Coming**

GVMC in cooperation with the Community Research Institute at Grand Valley State University and the Center for Social Research at Calvin College will soon send you a very important survey. This critical survey will help us focus our efforts on our strategic initiative regarding collaborative service sharing.

The survey is being developed by John Risley, Ph.D. of GVSU and Neil Carlson, Ph.D. from Calvin College. It will be used to measure the views of elected officials in our region regarding collaboration and cooperation.

The survey will arrive by email to you and can be completed easily and returned to Dr. Risley at GVSU. The results will be collected and analyzed and will be shared as soon as possible.

The survey will be sent to everyone we have on our Elected Official email list. It is important that we hear from as many elected officials as possible as we hope to survey a very comprehensive

(survey continued)

group of officials at all levels of city, county, township and village government. Everyone's opinion is important as we develop a better understanding of the issues and concerns involved in collaboration and cooperation.

This survey will focus specifically on elected officials, however, it is phase two of a survey already conducted in our communities. The first phase of this effort surveyed 500 residents representing 30 jurisdictions and even 19 respondents that did not know the city or township where they lived

The community portion of the survey was funded with the assistance of the Frey Foundation. We truly appreciate their support in this community wide effort.

You will be asked the same set of questions regarding collaboration, cooperation and consolidation of services. In addition, the survey will ask our elected officials four additional questions about their specific support or concerns regarding the issue.

We hope to complete this phase involving our elected officials in the next 30 days. I will bring you updates as they develop, but please help GVMC by ensuring that you and your fellow elected officials complete the survey honestly and in a timely manner. Thank you for helping us!

### **Spotlight on Cooperation**

For many years governmental agencies in the region have participated in a variety of collaborative purchasing programs. Given spring is almost here, I wanted to spotlight some of the programs used by our road agencies.

The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC), along with the cities of Kentwood, Walker, Wyoming, Lowell, Gerald R. Ford Airport, Village of Sparta and Montcalm County Road Commission work together to purchase salt. This joint agreement purchased 45,950 tons of salt in 2011.

The City of Grand Rapids and KCRC work together to purchase over 1.2 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel. This cooperative agreement meets the fuel needs for both agencies.

Other joint purchasing agreements include the cities of Grand Rapids, Walker, Kentwood, Rockford, Wyoming, and Grandville along with road commissions from Kent, Ionia, Montcalm, Newaygo, Muskegon and Ottawa. Also participating are the villages of Sparta and Caledonia. These agreements cover items like emulsion, asphalt sealer, chloride, limestone, pavement marking services, micro-surfacing, seal coating and other road maintenance products and services. Job well done!

**Don't Forget to Reserve Your  
Quarterly Luncheon Tickets  
for  
April 9th with Mark Murray  
Call Gayle at 776-7604**