



Kentwood Mayor Richard Root Resigns

The City of Kentwood and GVMC recently received notice that effective June 4th, Mayor Richard Root was resigning his position. Richard has been Mayor of Kentwood since 2003. He has served the City since 1979 in a variety of positions including Planning Commissioner, City Commissioner and Mayor.

Mayor Root was recognized by the Michigan Municipal League with their Outstanding Service Awarded in 2011, and their Excellence in Service Award in 2004.

He was a member of many regional boards and commissions and served GVMC as a member of our Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Chair of our Legislative Committee.

GVMC Chairman Jim Buck stated, "Mayor Root was a pillar of our organization and our community. He is a true public servant that is always willing to help others, to cooperate, and promote the values of GVMC. The entire region will miss his dedication and service and we wish him all the best in the future".

Bob May, Mayor of the City of Hastings commented, "No matter what he had going on in his life, Rick always put your problems first. He did everything 100%.

There was no better partner or mentor for us all".

Perhaps the most poignant best wishes for Mayor Root were found on a note attached to a cake that was decorated in his honor. The note was not found until after our Board Meeting. The note said:

"Richard, It was an honor to make your cake!

This cake was made with a lot of love. I chose a diamond because you are as precious as a diamond stone. We will miss you!

This note was left by the baker or decorator that created the cake and is a real and unexpected tribute to Mayor Root.

On behalf of all of us at GVMC we share those feelings and wish you the very best in the future.

Thank You Mayor Root!

Spotlight on Cooperation

Clean Air Action Program

The purpose of the Clean Air Action program is to educate the community about ground-level ozone (smog) and fine particulate matter pollution and to notify the public on days when either pollutant is expected to reach or exceed the level that is "unhealthy for sensitive groups".

In order to educate West Michigan about air quality, GVMC partners with the MACC (Macatawa Area Coordinating Council) and WMSRDC (West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Council) every year to organize public information campaigns for the Clean Air Action program. Locally, GVMC staff hosts an informational booth at a variety of community events and rotates the Clean Air Action display throughout member communities.

The Clean Air Action program is run by the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition, a partnership of business, education, government, and nonprofit groups working together to achieve cleaner air in the region through the education and promotion of voluntary emission reduction activities. Grand Valley Metro Council has provided staff to coordinate the Clean Air Action program in Kent and Eastern Ottawa County since its inception in 1995. *(Please note that the Clean Air Action program was formerly known as the Ozone Action! Program.)*

For more information about the West Michigan Clean Air Coalition, please visit www.wmcac.org. You can also contact Andrea Faber at andrea.faber@gvmc.org

Please Email Your Community's Programs and Ideas for Cooperation!