



Clean Air Action Program On the Road

Andrea Faber and I presented information about our Clean Air Action Program last Saturday at the West Michigan Chalk Art Festival. Approximately 300 children along with 40 artists participated in the event.

We also handed out coloring books, Frisbees, other goodies and information about the Clean Air Program.

We participate in community events to reach out to the public to inform them about Clean Air Action Days and what they can do to reduce emissions and protect their health.

If you would like to invite the Clean Air Action Program to attend your community's event, please contact Andrea at 616.776.7603 or you can feel free to e-mail her at (andrea.faber@gvmc.org). She will be attending several community events and festivals throughout the summer.



Latest Proposals on Transportation Funding

The Michigan Legislature through several committees and discussions has narrowed the debate down to three major proposals for long-term funding.

- House Transportation Committee Chairman Wayne Schmidt is pushing bills that would eliminate the flat-rate tax on motor fuels and replace it with a wholesale, percentage-based tax. He also is leading discussions on eliminating some registration exemptions and increasing registration fees by about 20%.
- Another option would dedicate the 6% sales tax on gasoline to the roads. Currently, the gasoline sales tax does NOT go to transportation funding, but instead goes to the General Fund. This would raise about \$1 billion per year for roads, but an equal loss to the General Fund (mostly schools and local government). The solution for this issue is that the voters would then be asked to increase the sales tax by 1% in a state-wide election. If passed the election could result in a slight increase in funding for schools and local government.

- Finally-there is discussion about simply increasing the state sales tax by 1% with the entire amount dedicated to roads.

The deadline for these decisions if they are going to happen this year is by the end of September. The new State Budget will take effect on October 1st. If action is not taken by September, it is highly unlikely a solution will be found for several years.

One clear factor is that the solution must be bipartisan. In order for the sales tax options to be on the ballot, it will require a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate.

July Board of Directors Meeting

Just an early reminder that due to our next meeting falling on the July 4th, our July Board of Directors Meeting has been **cancelled**. Our next Board Meeting will be Thursday, August 1st at 8:30 in the County Commission Chambers.

At that meeting we will have a presentation from the Governor's Office regarding work they are doing on Reinventing Regions. Also on the agenda will be presentation of GVMC Budget. While it will not be adopted until the September Meeting, this will give members and the public a month to consider the budget prior to finalization at our September meeting.