



Quarterly Luncheon Update

Over 120 people have registered to attend our July 9th Quarterly Luncheon with Lt. Governor Brian Calley. I expect this event to surpass our October luncheon and set a new GVMC record. The lunch will be held in cooperation with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. In the spirit of cooperation, collaboration and communication I am pleased that so many of our members of the business community will be joining us for this GVMC Event.

Special thanks to Rick Baker, President of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and Andy Johnston, Vice President for Governmental Affairs for assisting us. Also, to Meijer for helping us with a generous sponsorship.

Please register with Gayle no later than Friday June 29 to make sure we have seating available. If your community is purchasing a table and would like to sit together please let Gayle know so we can make appropriate arrangements.

**Reserve Your
Quarterly Luncheon Tickets
for
July 9th with Lt. Gov. Calley
Price: \$25.00 per person
RSVP to Gayle at
mccrathg@gvmc.org**

Fireworks Ordinances

GVMC member communities continue to discuss the recent changes in the Michigan Fireworks laws. Communities are responding in a variety of ways to the new laws which restrict local government from placing any limitations on the use of consumer fireworks on the day before, day of and day after a national holiday. There are 10 listed holidays so the legislation insures open use of fireworks 30 days per year. Communities must pass ordinances if they desire to specifically enforce limitations on fireworks other than those 30 days.

At the Kent County Supervisors Association Meeting on June 11th, I along with Captain Chuck DeWitt of the Kent County Sheriff's Department discussed the new law. While rural areas are not receiving an abundance of complaints, more urban areas and the cities are dealing with many residents concerned about the use of fireworks.

On Monday afternoon, the Senate concurred on SB 193, a bill to amend the new Michigan Fireworks law and increase sanctions and fire marshal enforcement of the law which regulates the sale of fireworks. Local governments are still responsible for granting permits for large display fireworks.

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Several communities have already passed new ordinances. If your community has adopted a new Fireworks Ordinance, please forward it to me to use as a reference for other members that might be interested.

Sheriff Larry Stelma asked me to advise our members that their ordinances should be, "kept simple and should focus on regulating the days and the time of day which is easy for everyone to understand. Using decibel levels can be more difficult to enforce." If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Jay Hoekstra to Retire

After 19 years of service, Jay Hoekstra will retire from GVMC at the end of June. Previously Jay worked for GRETS.

Jay worked on many significant projects including over 200 presentations to local governments and other groups about urban sprawl, walkability, urban design, and regional planning.

He stated, "I have greatly enjoyed my time of employment with GVMC, and appreciate the opportunities to do good and useful work for the benefit of the public".

All of us at GVMC wish Jay all the best in the future.