



July 13, 2012

### **Lt. Governor Calley Meets with GVMC Board and Record Setting Quarterly Luncheon**

On Monday, Lt. Governor Brian Calley met with the GVMC Board and was the guest speaker at our record-setting Quarterly Luncheon. The meeting was a collaborative effort between GVMC and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

At our Board Meeting prior to the luncheon, the Lt. Governor discussed many of the Snyder Administration's goals for future and the agenda for the revitalization of Michigan's Economy. In a very casual format, he was able to speak directly to the Board Members and answer a variety of questions.



His comments spoke directly to the work being done to improve Michigan economic climate and many of the critical issues facing our state. For example, the revenue implications of the expanded casino proposal and dangers in-

involved in the multiple ballot proposals to amend Michigan's Constitution were discussed in addition to the true economic impacts of the International Trade Crossing.

The Detroit/Windsor crossing is one of the most important trade crossings in the world. As an example, Chrysler moves over 1,300 component shipments; ships over 2,000 cars and trucks; and makes over 1,600 customs entries every day in Detroit.

Al Vandenberg, Ottawa County Administrator commented after the meeting, "It is refreshing to work with a Governor's Office that respects and works with the bottom line in the same fashion that counties, cities and townships must do each and every day."

Following the Board Meeting the Lt. Governor was the speaker at our July Quarterly Luncheon. The lunch was attended by 170 GVMC and GR Chamber members and set a new record for attendance. He spoke in more detail about the November ballot issues, PPT reform, the International Trade Crossing Agreement and the proposal for a state-run health care exchange program.

He praised West Michigan business and governmental leaders for their role in improving Michigan's tax climate. He said with

the Governor's ever positive approach, Michigan has moved from "49th best" in the nation to "7th" best.

GVMC chairman and Grandville Mayor Jim Buck said of the meeting, "It was a great way to build a partnership with the Grand Rapids Chamber." Alpine Township Supervisor Alex Arends commented, "Whether you were Republican or Democrat, you could not have left the presentation without feeling a whole lot better about Michigan and its leadership. I liked his suggestion that we should explore partnering not just with other municipalities but other entities as well. It was great to see so many people in attendance." Walker Mayor Rob VerHeulen added simply, "It was great".

### **Focus on Cooperation**

#### **Fireworks Portal**

One of our most critical emerging issues is the new fireworks law. We are receiving many visitors to our website to view the Fireworks Ordinances available online. Please feel free to review the ordinances we have posted at [www.gvmc.org](http://www.gvmc.org) If your community has adopted a new ordinance and you have not already forwarded a copy to us, please do so and we will post it online to share with others.