



Get Your Quarterly

Luncheon Reservations Soon

By now everyone should have received an email regarding the April 9th Quarterly Luncheon with Mark Murray of the Meijer Corporation. I hope you have also forwarded the invitation to others in your organization. We have received many responses and reservations for this event. In order for us to plan appropriately and ensure that we don't have to turn away anyone wanting to attend, please contact Gayle McCrath at 776-7613 as soon as possible to guarantee your reservation.

GVMC Website

We have begun the long over-due process of updating the GVMC website. The changes are being made internally and thus as cost-efficiently as possible. This is not a complete redesign of the website or the image of GVMC. Staff is working to condense information, making the site more user friendly, providing more relevant information and is more accessible to our members and the public.

Transparency is an important goal for all of us and we are working to ensure that the information we provide is relevant and timely. In the future we will post meeting minutes and other activities in a much more timely manner. We will also be featuring some of our key activities.

If you have a staff member or volunteer expert in web design that would like to assist us, please have them contact me personally at 776-7604 or john.weiss@gvmc.org.

New Legislation

The Legislature has approved a set of bills that will give Counties the authority to takeover Road Commissions. The final bills establish a sunset of January 1, 2015 for transferring powers, duties and functions of the Road Commission to the County Board of Commissioners. In a county with appointed road commissions, (all GVMC Counties) the county board, after two public hearings, could take over the road commission by passing a resolution. Other provisions exist in the few counties where the road commission members are elected. If a county takes over the road commission and later determines an independent road commission would be a cost savings to county residents, the Board of Commissioners could put the issue of reinstating the road commission to a public vote.

Board Meeting Visits

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Board Meetings for the cities of Grandville and Walker, and also Gaines Township. Thank you to Mayors Buck and VerHuelen, and to Supervisor Hilton for amending your agendas to allow me talk about the new activities happening at GVMC. My goal is to personally attend as many of our member Board meetings as possible. I will try to make appointments, but if time permits, I may just stop in as I try to visit more than one community in an evening. I would appreciate any accommodations you can make and promise to "keep it short".

Spotlight on Cooperation

Throughout the GVMC service area there are many active intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation projects that quietly serve the public on a daily basis. These projects provide increased public services, cost savings and enhance the quality of life for our residents. Often, few people other than those directly involved, know the scope or services provided by these key public partnerships. We can all learn from what others are doing. Sharing "best practice" ideas and collaborative service sharing are keys to our Five Strategic Initiatives. Please email me any collaborative or cooperation partnerships that your community is already doing or planning so we can share those ideas with others. My email is john.weiss@gvmc.org.

LGROW

Chaired by Brian Donovan, City Manager of East Grand Rapids, the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds is an excellent example of cooperation and collaboration in our area. LGROW is a broad stakeholder organization dedicated to the ongoing health, use and enjoyment of the Grand River. The organization has 48 public, private and environmental members. It involves over 1.8 million acres of property, 2900 square miles and all or portions of 10 counties. You can learn more about LGROW at www.gvmc.org or www.lgrow.org.

Submit Your Partnership

For Future

Spotlights on Cooperation Stories