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County Township Association hears from sheriff and prosecutor on enforcement of ordinances

BY KAREN WALKER

The Charlevoix County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association (MTA) held their regular monthly meeting Jan. 25th at the Bay Township Hall. The purpose of the Association meetings is to share information and discuss topics of interest to local township officials. Guest speakers for the evening were Charlevoix County Sheriff Chuck Vondra and Charlevoix County

Prosecutor Allen Telgenhof. The pair were invited to address the group on the subject of township ordinance enforcement.

Sheriff Vondra noted there are several areas in which his department assists the County's townships including delivering citations and accompanying township officials on home visits as well as enforcing township and county ordinances.

An ordinance the Sheriff's

Department is often called on to enforce is the Fireworks Ordinance. Sheriff Vondra explained the Sheriff's Department has an agreement with each township that makes it legal for them to enforce the township's fireworks ordinance. With the agreement, his only request was that every township have the same ordinance.

Sheriff Vondra stated the Alarm Ordinance seems to

pose an issue for the Sheriff's Department. He said, "We get so many [false] alarms at houses and businesses." He pointed out, "the County's ordinance states you must register your alarm systems so we know who key holders are so we can contact them." While not opposed to alarms, he noted, "If something's going on, we certainly want to get there and take care of the problem." But, Vondra explained he reviewed 30-40

alarms this past week and "Not one was valid".

A County ordinance that is currently under review is the Animal Control Ordinance. Vondra feels the ordinance needs to be more 'objective' as opposed to 'subjective' and encouraged township officials to give input on a revision.

Boyne Valley Township Supervisor Sue Hobbs com-

See **Enforcement** - Page 3A



The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has been awarded the Gold Workplace Award from the Michigan Breastfeeding Network for the second year in a row for being a breastfeeding-friendly workplace. Courtesy photo

Health Department receives Gold Workplace Award

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has been awarded the Gold Workplace Award from the Michigan Breastfeeding Network for the second year in a row for being a breastfeeding-friendly workplace.

The Michigan Breastfeeding Network provides criteria that employers must meet to be considered a breastfeeding-friendly workplace. The Health Department has established a Workplace lactation policy that includes a private space and time to express milk during the workday.

"Support is essential to the success of breastfeed-

ing," according to Danica Howard, an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant at the Health Department. "That support needs to come from a mother's community and can come in many forms. Seamless support from the hospital to home can be one of the most critical times, but it's important for a mother to feel supported throughout the breastfeeding journey, especially when returning to work."

In addition to creating a workplace culture that supports breastfeeding, the Health Department boasts some of the highest breast-

feeding rates among Michigan for mothers who utilize the Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program - 64% at six weeks for Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties, compared to a state average of 49%. Breastfeeding, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), can provide unmatched health benefits for babies and mothers, including reducing risks of asthma, obesity, Type 1 diabetes, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and ear infections in infants who were breastfed, and lowering the mother's risk of high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes,

ovarian and breast cancer.

The Health Department has two International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants and four Certified Lactation Specialists within the agency. They also offer free newborn home visits to any mother, regardless of income - a visit that often allows for breastfeeding support as those needs arise.

For additional information about breastfeeding support services, call the Health Department at 1-800-432-4121 or visit nwhealth.org. For additional information on how to become a breastfeeding-friendly workplace, visit mi-breastfeeding.org/workplace/.

MDHHS activates Community Health Emergency Coordination Center

As cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) continue to increase in the United States and internationally, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) activated the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC) today to support local and state response to the outbreak.

"We at MDHHS recognize the potential threat associated with this virus and are working to identify any suspect cases in Michigan along with our local health partners," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy for health. "To help coordinate Michigan's response to 2019 Novel Coronavirus, we are opening the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center to assist the multiple public health jurisdictions involved in the response and prevention of coronavirus here in our state."

The CHECC will develop and distribute guidelines and educational materials concerning 2019-nCoV to public health agencies and healthcare providers as needed. This includes coordination with local health departments, including Detroit and Wayne County Health Departments especially as Detroit Metropolitan Airport has become a 2019-nCoV screening location.

To date, there are no confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Michigan. MDHHS has issued statewide messages through the Health Alert Network encouraging healthcare providers across Michigan to assess patients for exposures associated with the risk of 2019-nCoV infection, including travel to China or close contact with a confirmed case, and for symptoms consistent with 2019-nCoV infection. This includes coughing, shortness of breath and fever.

The first U.S. case-patient was identified on Jan. 21, and had recently traveled from Wuhan, China. Since that time, additional cases have been confirmed in the United States among persons who traveled from Wuhan, and two close contacts of con-

See **Coronavirus** - Page 5A



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ENFORCEMENT

FROM PG. 1A

mented it's a big problem for the township to enforce ordinances, the Zoning Ordinance in particular. Enforcement costs are often more than the fines. She feels it can be a waste of taxpayer money attempting to enforce the ordinance.

After the discussion of ordinance enforcement, the talk turned to other issues facing Charlevoix County. Sheriff Vondra reported that patrol time on Lake Charlevoix is up by about 500 hours over the last couple years. He explained an increasing number of people come here because they've discovered this is the best place to live and play. He said he foresees more problems with erosion along the shoreline due to high water levels and non-observation of slow/no wake zones. He also noted that people have approached the County Board asking for a smaller swim area at Whittings Park so they can get more power boats in. Vondra recommended the Board think of swimmers first. He said there's no greater re-

sponsibility than to a swimmer in the water. He quipped, "There's plenty of lake out there for the boaters."

High water levels are also causing concern for township officials. Vondra predicts that some sanitation systems along the lake are likely to fail because of the high water, and may contaminate well water. Complicating the problem is that owners of vacation rentals may not necessarily know their septic systems are not working properly. Vondra commented that vacation rentals bring a whole new set of issues including noise complaints.

Prosecutor Telgenhof further explained many of the above issues from a legal standpoint and discussed how his office can be of service to the townships. MTA Chair and Melrose Township Clerk Robin Hissong Berry commented to the group, "we all have similar problems and county resources are only a phone call away". More information on the MTA as well as county ordinances may be found on the County's website, charlevoixcounty.org.

Local road network left in the dust with Governor's bond proposal to fix the darn roads

BY KAREN WALKER

The County Road Association of Michigan (CRA) says Governor Whitmer's bonding proposal to fix Michigan's roadways leaves the local road network in the dust. In her recent State of the State address, Governor Whitmer unveiled her plan to fix Michigan roads by taking out \$3.5 billion dollars in bonds. The County Road Association of Michigan has called any road funding solution that does not provide additional dollars for local roads a woefully incomplete answer to the situation with Michigan roads.

Local roads are those roads not part of the state trunkline. They include city streets and the county road systems,

both primary and local, the kinds of roads you normally use to go to work or go shopping. These are the roads we use every day in Northern Michigan which the Governor has no plans to fix.

In a recent television interview, Charlevoix County Road Commission Manager Pat Harmon explained, "It looks like it's all going to be spent on MDOT Roads which leaves the 83 county road commissions out of that equation". He pointed out, "There was no mention of funding for the road commissions or the cities, counties, or villages."

"While not in a position to evaluate what is widely expected to be \$3-plus billion in bonds for state trunkline

projects – which comprise a mere 8% of Michigan's road network – this actionable proposal from the Governor entirely leaves out the local and primary road network," said Denise Donohue, director of the County Road Association of Michigan, whose members are the 83 county road commissions and road departments across the state.

Donohue stated, "Last May we provided data to the Governor, House and Senate indicating that our local road network is currently 45% good/fair condition on the primary system (federal aid roads) and only 36% good/fair on the local road system. With counties responsible for 75% of Michigan road miles and 52% of

the bridges, a bonding proposal with no local dollars will lead to further decline." Donohue noted, "In order for counties to restore primary roads to the same goals that MDOT has (90% good/fair) and the local roads to 60% good/fair additional dollars will be required."

CRA and its member agencies called upon the Governor and the Legislature to find an immediate solution that will benefit all types of roads and bridges in the state.

Ed Noyola, CRA deputy director stated, "While we all have had bumpy drives on the freeway, and those certainly need repair, every Michigan resident's daily travels begin and end in their driveway."

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East Jordan Lions Club presents Milestone Achievement awards

The East Jordan Lions Club presented two Milestone Achievement Awards. Recognizing 15 years of service to the Club, receiving the

award is Bob Noll. Recognizing 10 years of service is Joe Krumholz.

Both awards were presented by Lion's First Vice

District Governor Rod Leathers. The East Jordan Lions Club meets the first and third Mondays at the Jordan Inn at 6pm.



Recognizing 15 years of service to the Club, receiving the award is Bob Noll. Courtesy photo



Recognizing 10 years of service is Joe Krumholz. Courtesy photo

DNR FISHING TIP

Targeting walleye? Wait until the sun goes down!

While many anglers pack up their gear and head off the ice after dusk settles in, some anglers will stick it out – especially if they've got a lighted shelter. This can be an ideal time to target walleye and to see some angling success.

Many anglers adopt a simple presentation when targeting walleye in the dark – they jig a spoon to catch the fishes' attention and then offer them a setline with a minnow nearby. Focus on baits that glow to appeal to the walleye's senses, and keep the minnows small to accommodate their slower appetites.

Want even more tips for targeting walleye? Visit the walleye page on the DNR website.

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'Wardens' TV show chronicles DNR officers



A Michigan conservation officer participates in investigation and cleanup of a dump site in Roscommon County, as part of the Adopt a Forest program. The latest series of the popular TV show "Wardens" chronicling Michigan DNR officers on their jobs is airing weekly on the Outdoor Channel. (courtesy of DNR)

The DNR continues its partnership with the Outdoor Channel on production of the 2020 season of the channel's television series "Wardens."

New episodes started this week and air on the Outdoor Channel every Monday at

8:30 and 11:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 2:30 a.m., with repeats Saturday and Sunday. Focusing on ice fishing, bear hunting, opening day of firearm deer hunting season and more, the episodes will showcase law enforcement activities, as well as the science

behind successfully managing Michigan's natural resources.

Michigan-based Wolf Creek Productions is filming episodes at locations around the state with conservation officers and staff members from other DNR divisions

who will be featured throughout the season.

"Wardens," on the air since 2011, chronicles the lives of conservation officers in America. Learn more about the show at OutdoorChannel.com/Wardens.

