

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | July 29, 2016

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Infrastructure commission listening tour stop coming to Northern Michigan

Township officials can provide their input on how to improve Michigan's infrastructure at the second stop of the governor's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission's listening tour, which will be held in Marquette on Aug. 19. This is the second of



three listening tour stops designed to gather input from local officials and residents across the state on the current state of Michigan's infrastructure, the infrastructure system citizens envision, and how the state can work with residents to close the gap between the two. The input gathered will help shape the commission's final report and recommendations, due to the governor by Nov. 30, 2016. The Marquette event will be held Friday, Aug. 19, at Northern Michigan University, Jamrich Hall, Room 1100, 1400 Presque Isle Ave. in Marquette. Registration will be capped at 150 attendees, so RSVP today to secure your spot. You may also provide feedback, participate in discussions and read more about the commission's work online.

Part 2 of water strategy released

Revitalizing waterfronts, sustainable development of water-based industries and promoting water recreation were all included in the second part of Michigan's Water Strategy. Released this week by the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes, the report is part of a 30-year plan for Michigan to protect, manage and

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* Asphalt Materials, Inc.



enhance its water resources for current and future generations. The recommendations in the strategy focus on beach health, water trails, sustainable fishing, watershed-friendly farming techniques and accelerated creation of water technologies. Two additional parts of the strategy are expected to be released this summer.

* Bauckham, Sparks, Thall,
Seeber & Kaufman, PC

* Consumers Energy

* Fahey Schults Burzych
Rhodes PLC

* Foster, Swift, Collins &
Smith, P.C.

* ITC Holdings Corp.

* Mika Meyers, PLC

* Ted Hartleb Agency

Are you retiring from township government? We're looking for your MTA, township memories

With the November election approaching, MTA knows that many long-serving township officials will be retiring from public office. If you are one of those individuals, we'd like to honor you in Township Focus and other MTA publications. Email your name, township (and county), along with position and years of service to jenn@michigantownships.org. Please also share some of your township or MTA memories, or advice to new officials. Thank you!



Strategies for serving, engaging your community

Join MTA in Frankenmuth on Sept. 8 and learn how to connect with your constituents, identify what's most important to them and improve your township's credibility. The morning session, ***Creating a Vision***, will help you identify community expectations and evaluate programs and services. Stay for lunch and the afternoon session, ***Linking with the Community***, to identify ways to increase trust at the local level and take home tips for keeping residents informed. Download the brochure [here](#) or register online [now](#).

Third municipal finance summit in planned for August

Learn about pressing policy issues in municipal finance at the ***Investing in Michigan Communities Summit*** next month. MTA is a partner in the free event set for Thursday, Aug. 11, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Citizens Forum inside the Lakeview Arena, 401 E. Fair, Marquette. Attendees will hear from Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans, officials from the City of Marquette and Marquette County, and industry experts. RSVP by emailing ceo@waynecounty.com by Aug. 2.



Applications accepted for aquatic habitat improvement grants

Townships looking to protect or rehabilitate aquatic habitat can apply for state grant funding. The ***Michigan Department of Natural Resources*** is now accepting pre-proposals for the \$1.25 million available in this year's ***Aquatic Habitat Grant Program***, funded by fishing and hunting license

fees. Minimum grants will be set at \$25,000 for projects such as those that emphasize the protection and rehabilitation of degraded aquatic resources. Pre-proposals must be postmarked by Aug. 26, and those that are successful will be invited by Sept. 30 to submit a full application.

Seasonal road resource available



Does your township have seasonal roads? This flyer can help to educate your residents and visitors about these roads. Many Michigan residents, and most out-of-state visitors, are unfamiliar with seasonal roads and don't know that they aren't plowed or maintained by road commissions from

November to April. This resource could be distributed to residents and visitors who buy property on a seasonal road.

Federal update for week of July 25

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships' e-newsletter for an update of federal actions impacting townships.
