

Antrim County
District 7
Commissioner Dawn LaVanway
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August 2021

County Employment Opportunities-

- Building Dept.-Plumbing Inspector (PT)
- Commission On Aging- Homemaker (PT)
- Commission On Aging-CENA (PT)
- Commission On Aging-Cook (FT)
- Commission On Aging-Custodian (PT)
- Maintenance Dept.-Custodian (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Assistant Cook-Jail (PT)
- Sheriff's Office-Civil Process -2 (PT)
- Sheriff's Office-Dispatcher (FT)
- Sheriff's Office-Road Patrol (FT)

Reminder: Household Hazardous Waste-

Antrim Conservation District maintains the HHW with ERG Environmental Services for disposal of the HHW. Last date for 2021 is:

September 11-Mancelona

Broadband-

The County contracted with Aspen Wireless Technologies for \$27,500 to assist the County with the development of a plan to bring a broadband backbone project to shovel ready status to implement beginning next year. The plan will work with NLEA, Truestream, Aspen Wireless, PFN, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa, and include other partners who will want to have broadband or increase the broadband in their area when the plan is completed.

American Rescue Plan-

The relief package Biden signed into law for \$1.9 trillion has estimated \$4.5 million for the County. Final guidelines have yet to be released. County Association is advising take it slow on how the County intends to use the funding. The funds do not need to be committed until December 2024 and spent by December 2026. Broadband has informally been identified as a priority right now and is something the money can be spent on.

Covid-19 cases-

According to the Health Department the County has had 1,685 known cases of the virus. Of those cases, there have been 32 deaths and 1601 considered recovered. The

Health Department case counts are now being reported on Mondays and Thursdays rather than daily.

The District Court since August 10th, due to CDC recommendations regarding masks and the status of Antrim County as “substantial” with regard to transmission, the District Court Judges have made the decision to require masks for employees and visitors to their office and courtrooms in all three counties.

A resolution from the Emergency Operations Center was approved honoring 46 Antrim County residents who devoted their time and energy during the Covid-19 pandemic helping out to keep residents safe, volunteered for 42 vaccination clinics with 4000+ hours and provided over 8,000 vaccines.

Medical Examiner-

Dr. Dewey Benson resigned as the County Medical Examiner. The board approved of Dr. Paul Wagner, D.O. as the County Medical Examiner with an agreement with Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner Group, LLC for services until 2025.

Budget 2022-

Board of Commissioners is currently working on the budget for next year.

Strategic Planning-

Board of Commissioners is currently working with MSU consultants on a strategic plan.

Timber Sales Agreement-

387 Trees were marked at the Dickerson Road Forest Area for a timber sale on County-owned property located in Kearney and Echo Townships known as the Dickerson Road Forest Area. Sealed bids were received and Silver Leaf Sawmill was awarded the agreement as the highest bid with \$52,655. J. Brasseur (\$40,816) Eklund Forestry (\$43,157). The money collected goes into the Forestry Fund which has been used to update parks in the County.

Parks-

The bathrooms in Elk Rapids Day park will have the bathrooms completed renovated.

Antrim Creek National Area will increase their seasonal part time (5 hours a week for 26 weeks) to a year round part time position of (5 hours a week for 52 weeks) to come from the ACNA fund. The park will be open year round.

Road Commission-

Roads for Jordan Township this summer according to Road Commission:

Morris Rd.	HMA Overlay	Completed	\$190,000
Big Marsh Rd. M32 to end of pavement	chip seal	in progress	\$41,000

It will cost the Road Commission \$200,000 to rebuild the bridge on Alden Highway that collapsed last week during the rain storm. It's expected to be an 8 – 10 week project.

Economic Development Plan Survey-

The County will once again be sending out an economic development plan survey to all townships, villages, DDA's and Chambers in the County to ask them what their plans, needs and future goals are so the EDC Committee can plan for future needs. It should come via email sometime in the next month. The goal is to have the results compiled by the end of the year.

