Commissioner Basham rolls out Anti-Distracted Driving Initiative

Over the last two years, the state of Michigan has averaged about 3,000 vehicle crashes and 18 fatalities that are directly related to cell phone usage while driving.

While there are current laws on the books to crack down on texting and driving, there is room for improvements to be made as well as opportunities to increase both public awareness and local enforcement of this dangerous practice.

Commissioner Basham has met with every local police department in the 14th District as well as the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office and the Michigan State Police, to discuss the importance of enforcing this law and to see what can be done to prevent the unnecessary crashes and deaths attributed to cell phone use while driving.

Based on these meetings, several achievable goals have been identified on which Commissioner Basham is encouraging action. Those goals include urging local communities to adopt local “distracted driving” ordinances, if they have not already, which would allow for the revenue generated to stay local to help to fund additional enforcement.

Secondly, Commissioner Basham is urging the state of Michigan to take a look at what other states have done to address this issue in order to come up with the most effective solutions for our state. Lastly, data-driven public awareness campaigns need to continue and expand in order to communicate the true danger of using a cell phone while operating a vehicle.

Above all, by doing these things, the hope is that over time the number of crashes and deaths related to cell phone use while driving can be drastically reduced.
AG, Audit Committee identify $3.1 million in savings

Commissioner Basham, who chairs the Committee on Audit, praised the county’s Office of Legislative Auditor General for its continued efforts, as reported in the 2018 Annual Report.

This report, which is required in the Wayne County Charter, was presented to the Committee on Audit on Jan. 16, 2019. The report showed that in 2018, the Office of Legislative Auditor General – under the direction of Auditor General Marcella Cora – completed 20 reports/projects, which included 59 recommendations. Those recommendations represent a potential savings of $3.1 million to the county.

The office also reported that of the 59 recommendations that were followed up, 95% were implemented or otherwise resolved.


The Committee on Audit’s meeting schedule and agendas are at https://www.waynecounty.com/elected/commission/audit.aspx. The meetings are open to the public in the seventh floor hearing room of the Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, in downtown Detroit.

Commissioners oppose efforts to increase truck weights

Wayne County Commissioners have unanimously supported a resolution opposing any legislation that would increase the weight and length of tractor-trailer trucks that travel on county roads.

Presented by Wayne County Commission Chair Alisha Bell, the resolution states that any increases beyond the current capacity of county infrastructure would cause excessive damage to roads and bridges and increase safety risks for motorists.

Other counties throughout the U.S. have adopted similar legislation.

Recent Federal Highway Administration data states there are 78 structurally deficient bridges within Wayne County.

In addition, only 16 percent of the roads in Wayne County are considered to be in “good condition” according to recent data from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

The resolution urges action by the Michigan Legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to propose and enact legislation that would enforce strict weight limits to protect the integrity of the state’s infrastructure.

Honoring Judge Nicita

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Final hazardous waste collection is Oct. 19

Wayne County will conduct its final household hazardous waste disposal day of the year Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Wayne County Community College District Downriver Campus, 21000 Northline Road, in Taylor. Items can be dropped off between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Items will only be accepted from those who can prove they are county residents. Items to be collected include household paints, bathroom cleaners, floor care products, computers, cell phones and car batteries.

For a complete list, visit the event flyer at https://www.waynecounty.com/departments/environmental/land-resource-management.aspx.
Commissioner Basham kept constituents updated on county issues, visiting various sites and organizations throughout his district. (Right) Commissioner Basham explained Wayne County government to students at Gibraltar Carlson High School and (below right) provided updates and answered questions from seniors at the City of Taylor’s Ford Senior Center. Below, he served as keynote speaker at a legislative forum sponsored by the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce, discussing issues affecting Wayne County residents and businesses.

Make sure you count in 2020 U.S. Census

With the 2020 Census being conducted next year, the U.S. Census Bureau is currently hiring for temporary positions in our area, most of which include serving as census takers. By working for the Census Bureau, you can help them reach their goal of ensuring that everyone is counted.

Census counts have a huge impact on our community since the collected data will be used to determine how more than $675 billion from government programs will be distributed to states and localities. The information collected influences decisions made about which roads get fixed, where schools are built and business opened, what medical services are offered, and more.

If you are interested, please visit the Census Bureau job site to apply. You will also be able to see the descriptions and frequently asked questions as 2020 census.gov/jobs.

Sign up for District 14 county news updates

This newsletter is just one way of keeping residents of District 14 informed of important Wayne County issues. Commissioner Basham also distributes up-to-date information on issues that affect you, our district and all of Wayne County via email and Constant Contact. If you are not already receiving county information by way of email, you may do so by sending a request to rbasham@waynecounty.com. Your name will be added to an email list. You can also follow Commissioner Basham on Facebook at Wayne County Commission.
Report a Pothole Through the Wayne County Mobile App

The Wayne County Connect app allows residents and visitors to report non-emergency issues to Wayne County. Whether it is street repair, potholes or tree damage, use Wayne County Connect to notify the County and monitor the progress of the work! Residents can take photos of the issue and send them in with their report. They can also send in the exact location of the issue by using GPS capabilities of their device. To get the app, search for “Wayne County Connect” in the Apple App store, or wherever you download your apps.