Waltz Bridge reopens to traffic, pedestrians

After being closed for two years for repairs, a new Waltz Road Bridge reopened to traffic in Huron Township on June 3. The original 95-year-old bridge was closed in 2017 after inspectors discovered serious deterioration to its bearings, deck and supports. The new bridge includes a pedestrian walkway and bicycle lane that connects it to trails in the Lower Huron Metropark.

“I’m pleased to have helped play a role in getting the new bridge built,” Commissioner Al Haidous said. “With the help of County Executive Warren Evans and Huron Township Supervisor David Glaab, we were on a fast track to open for traffic.”

The newly designed Waltz Road Bridge also features decorative light fixtures that illuminate the roadway and add a touch of beauty to its overall structure.

Huron Township project to bring more jobs, investment

New development could soon be coming to an area surrounding the former Pinnacle Race Course in Huron Township. Wayne County Commissioners in September approved an agreement allowing the county to exercise its right of first refusal on three tax-foreclosed parcels, totaling some 320 acres, including the former thoroughbred race track.

The county intends to combine those parcels with adjacent property it already owns to open roughly 650 acres for new development. The parcels are west of Vining Road, north of Sibley Road and east of I-275. They are located within the Detroit Region Aerotropolis, a public-private economic development partnership involving areas near Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County and Willow Run airports.

“Behind hard work and leadership from County Executive Warren Evans, Assistant County Executive Khalil Rahal and Wayne County Commission Chair Alisha Bell, we are about to engage in one of the largest economic development projects ever in Wayne County,” Commissioner Al Haidous said.

“Huron Township Supervisor David Glaab and township trustees worked hard to rezone the property for the new use of this development. With 650 acres, we will be able to create many new jobs and continue economic growth.”

Commissioner Haidous represents Huron Township and is the county commission’s representative on the aerotropolis board. The three parcels would have gone into the annual tax foreclosure auction if the county declined to exercise its right of first refusal, eliminating any county control over their development.

Other recently announced projects in the Detroit Region Aerotropolis have included: a $140 million, 1,600-job distribution center for Amazon.com; a $100 million-plus distribution center for Penske Logistics that created 400 jobs and a $10 million state-of-the art auto parts distribution center for Mopar, creating 100 jobs.
Commission moves closer to approving new budget

Wayne County Commissioners are continuing their work with the county executive’s office to put the finishing touches on the county’s 2019-20 operating budget.

This year’s budget will be balanced for the fifth consecutive year and is expected to contain a slight surplus.

It is a positive sign that the county is on strong and stable financial footing and is continuing to grow stronger. With increased tax revenue due to a stronger local economy, the proposed $1.6 billion budget represents a one percent increase from the budget approved one year ago.

“Even though there is a slight increase, Wayne County is keeping its spending under control,” Commissioner Al Haidous said. “We are not adding new major programs, but providing aid to areas where it is needed.

“We are restoring funding to areas where cutbacks took place a few years ago when our economy was struggling.”

Once again, county officials are also preparing a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year to provide guidance in keeping county finances on track.

“It is important that we remain financially stable and I will do everything I can to see that Wayne County continues to provide the services all residents need to live a happy and healthy life,” Commissioner Haidous added.

The 2019-20 proposed budget must be approved by the full Wayne County Commission before the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

Commissioner Haidous lends support to union employees

Commissioner Al Haidous lent his support to members of Service Employees International Union Local 1 in their bid for a $15 per hour minimum wage for its workers, who provide security in downtown Detroit office buildings.

Several commissioners met with union members in June to discuss the issue and have also attended a union rally calling attention to the $15 minimum wage issue.

“These union workers do so much to keep all of us safe,” Commissioner Haidous said. “A fair wage isn’t too much to ask for what they do.”

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.

“Our roads and bridges need a great deal of work and this would only worsen the situation,” Commissioner Al Haidous said. “We can’t compromise on road safety.”

Other counties throughout the U.S. have adopted similar legislation. 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.
Wayne County Commissioners on Aug. 8 paused for a moment of silence to remember victims of the mass shootings in Dayton, Ohio, El Paso, Texas and Gilroy, Calif. and unanimously approved a resolution which “strongly condemns any hatred toward immigrants already residing or seeking to reside in the United States.”

“The gun violence in this country has got to be stopped,” commission Chair Alisha Bell said while also remembering victims of other mass shootings as well as the 36 Detroit residents killed in the previous 30 days.

The resolution, introduced by Commissioner Sam Baydoun and co-sponsored by Commissioner Al Haidous, states that “the idea of hate often spawns further hate and as a nation we must work together to quell the urge to vehemently disagree publicly which often leads to violence and the loss of innocent lives.”

Commissioner Al Haidous was joined by Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, Huron Township Supervisor David Glaab and Huron Township Trustee Angie Cady for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Waltz Road Bridge.

The Wayne Historical Museum enjoyed an outdoors makeover this summer as members of the American Rosie the Riveter Association, along with Commissioner Al Haidous, planted rose bushes, honoring the American women who volunteered their services for various organizations during World War II.

Commissioner maintains infrastructure is a priority in District 11

Commissioner Al Haidous continues to work with the county executive’s office and county departments on critical infrastructure issues, including roads, bridges, railroad crossings, ditches and drains throughout District 11.

Assuring roads are properly maintained remains a priority, especially for dirt roads in Huron, Sumpter and Van Buren townships.

“We are working hard every day with the administration and township supervisors in an effort to ensure safety for all of our residents,” Commissioner Haidous said. “Drains and ditches need to be properly maintained to avoid flooding. We also need to keep all street signs clear of any foliage to maintaining safe roads for all to travel.”

With improved drainage in mind, Commissioner Haidous reminds residents that the county Department of Public Services urges residents to keep debris out of ditches and culverts to prevent storm water backups and overflow.

Commissioners remember mass shooting victims, condemn violence and hate speech

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Be sure you’re counted in the 2020 U.S. Census

Please make sure you take part in the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census. The census determines such vital issues such as how much federal revenue Wayne County will receive for road projects and other important programs as well as how seats will be apportioned in the U.S. House and Michigan Legislature. Census data will also help the county better prepare for its residents’ future needs.

Households will be initially mailed an invitation and details on how to respond online sometime between March 12-20, 2020.
Wayne County Commissioner

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

Wayne County Commissioner

AL HAIDOUS

Celebrating Wayne!
Commissioner Al Haidous helped celebrate the 150-year anniversary of the City of Wayne by presenting Mayor John Rhaesa with a resolution commemorating this historic event. Commissioner Haidous served as Wayne’s Mayor from 2001-2014.

Wayne County Commissioner

AL HAIDOUS

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2019-2020 Committee Assignments
Committee of the Whole
Committee on Economic Development, Chair
Committee on Public Services
Special Committee on Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs

All Wayne County Commission meetings are open to the public.

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
SMART - Chair
Correctional Advisory Board - Chair
Governor’s Talent Investment Board
Aerotropolis Board of Directors
SEGA/SEMCA Workforce Board - Chair
Joint Airport Zoning Board
Wayne County Airport Authority Executive Board