



The Beacon Newsletter

February 2022 Issue #30



Dr. Bob visits the ICDP Office!
See articles on pages 5 & 14

WHITMER SHARES VISION FOR MICHIGAN'S FUTURE



In this frame capture from a video feed, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer delivers her 2022 State of the State address.

Celebrating Michigan's 185th birthday on January 26, Governor Gretchen Whitmer gave the State of the State address live from Detroit Diesel in Redford Township. According to Dave Boucher and Paul Egan from the Detroit Free Press, the Governor spoke about "kitchen-table issues... (that she) won't be able to accomplish...without the help of the GOP-controlled Legislature, a point she repeatedly noted during her address". Gov. Whitmer reviewed her recommendations on how to cut taxes on pensions; expand the Earned Income Tax Credit for Michigan families; cap the cost of insulin; introduce a \$2,500 tax rebate for electric vehicles; and expand access to mental health care services.

The Beacon will focus on one of the Governor's proposals each month. In February, we will look at her plan to cut taxes on pensions by repealing the retirement tax. Rolling back this tax on retirement income, including pensions, 401(k) accounts, and IRAs would save half a million house-

holds \$1,000 a year.

"Repealing the retirement tax will put Michiganders first and save half a million households \$1,000 a year," said Governor Whitmer. "Michiganders who have worked hard, played by the rules, and budgeted for their whole lives should be able to retire and keep all of their hard-earned dollars. Putting money back in the pockets of retirees will help them afford the essentials from prescriptions, rent, utilities, car payments, to gifts for their grandkids."

Over the coming years, Governor Whitmer's proposal would again exempt public pensions and restore deductions for private retirement income, including private-sector pensions, withdrawals from individual retirement accounts (IRAs), and the portion of a 401k account that is subject to an employer match.

Among the advocacy groups who support the Governor's plan were AARP Michigan, Michigan Education Association and Detroit Urban League. If you have been impacted by the pension tax implemented by Gov. Rick Snyder, please send The Beacon a quick note of how this plan will positively impact you and your family.

Gloria Brooks, Editor

Sources: Lansing State Journal; Michigan Executive Office Of The Governor

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ICDP Member Shares Thoughts on SOS Address

Governor Whitmer had some good news in her State of the State (address). I liked her report on providing “420 million dollars in relief to small businesses, empowering them to expand operations and retain over 200,000 jobs through COVID.” That, in addition to welcoming the announcement of a “\$7 billion dollar investment from General Motors

She also is working on additional rebates on electric vehicle purchases and repeal of taxes for seniors. What’s not to like? - Jim Mortimer

that will create and retain 5,000 good-paying jobs manufacturing electric vehicle batteries in Lansing and Orion Township” was positive news for the state.

Jim Mortimer, Campaign Committee Chair

106th District Committee Updates

Alcona County

- Alcona County ran an ad in the Alcona Review in remembrance of the anniversary of the insurrection and backed it up with a boosted post on Facebook. The Facebook boost reached about 1100 people. These were people that Facebook chose and not necessarily people that have “liked” the Alcona Dems page. Overall, the ad achieved the party’s goal to get its name out in a set 30-mile radius from Greenbush, and only cost \$20 for 4 days.
- The Alcona executive committee is considering hosting a campaign BBQ similar to one held years ago for Sen. Gary Peters. The location would be in Harrisville on Friday, July 22, 2022. All other counties are invited to join.

Alpena County

- The ACDP published its bi-monthly newsletter the week of January 17 and included a “Year In Review” summary as well as a membership survey.
- The ACDP is actively looking for an office rental for the 2022 Midterms.
- On Saturday, February 19 from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, is the ACDP Annual Celebrity Server Fundraiser will be held at the Black Sheep Pub, 113 S. Second Avenue, Alpena. The purpose of this fundraiser is to help a local business in these COVID times. Customers may order take out instead of dining in, which makes many people uncomfortable. Simply call in your order, pay over the phone and 2 ACDP Celebrity Server members will run take-out orders to customers in their vehicle at which time the ACDP will ask for a tip. All proceeds to benefit ACDP’s efforts to turn Northeast Michigan Blue in ’22.

Bob Kennedy, Alcona County Dems/106th District Meeting Convener



2022 MDP Endorsement Convention

The Democratic Electors of the State of Michigan are hereby notified that by direction of the Democratic State Central Committee, the 2022 State Endorsement Convention of the Michigan Democratic Party will be held at TCF Center in Detroit, Michigan on Saturday, April 9, 2022. If circum-



stances are such that the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for in-person attendance, the Michigan Democratic Party reserves the right to change the format of the Convention from an in-person, hybrid event to a virtual event. Find more information by reading the Call to Convention here: <https://michigandems.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-State-Endorsement-Call-to-Convention.pdf>

Click on the link below to sign up and join other like-minded Democrats!
https://www.mobilize.us/midems/event/436373/?force_banner=true&share_context=event_details&share_medium=mailto

The ICDP will hold its County Convention on Tuesday, March 1 at 5:30 pm at the headquarters office in East Tawas in conjunction with the regular monthly general membership meeting. The purpose will be to elect Members and Alternates of State Convention Committees and to consider resolutions to be forwarded to the State Party.

From MDP

What is Empower MI Vote?

“Defending the right to vote and fair access to the ballot box in the State of Michigan” is EMV’s primary mission. Michigan Republicans continue to advocate for changing rules that promote voter suppression, making it harder for Michiganders to vote. Beware of the dangerous petition drive

called Secure MI Vote. CBS Nightly News recently featured a news story about this effort, but even for someone like me who is familiar with this tactic, it sounded like there was widespread support for the petition. We need to shout “Decline to Sign” loud and clear in the local, state and national media and to our communities. Learn more about what EMV is doing to hold legislators accountable for these continued attempts to erode voting rights by clicking on this link.

<https://empowermivote.com/?fbclid=IwAR0c0DoaWcO6d306aCFKCM1Lxm0201WN3RulsngLAFUcau-0kySebMLqgs>

*Jim Mortimer
Gloria Brooks*

ICDP is on Social Media!

Direct links to our pages:

Facebook

Public page:

www.facebook.com/loscoCountyDems

Private ICDP Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/513749385704570/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/loscoCountyDems>

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/ioscocoountydems

On the web:

www.ioscocoountydems.org

Please contact Duane Breijak at dbreijak@gmail.com if you have any questions or additions to our social media presence.

We Love Photos!

If you participate in a ICDP-related activity and have pictures to share, please send them to The Beacon by the 1st of the month for inclusion in the next edition!



This month's opinion is authored by Gary Street of the Cheboygan County Democratic Party, and was shared at the January 2022 106th District Chairs monthly meeting.

Gloria Brooks, Editor



In My Opinion: From the Frying Pan into the Fire: The Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel

A dive into the sordid details of Enbridge Line 5 in Michigan reveals 33 spills and at least 3 anchor/electric cable strikes that potentially could have caused a massive oil spill. We've been lucky. Incredibly lucky. But our luck will run out. Enbridge proposes to build a tunnel for Line 5. They assure us - falsely - it will eliminate all hazards. The tunnel will, unfortunately, introduce new ones, even more insidious.

A study by two seasoned engineers, Brian O'Mara (B.S., Geological Engineering) and Gary Street (M.S., Chemical Engineering, P.E.) have confirmed these concerns. Enbridge recently conducted a limited number of lake bottom borings. But not enough to assure they will not hit a pocket of methane and/or hydrogen sulfide. Methane was detected in 20 percent of the lake bottom borings and hydrogen sulfide is often found with methane. However, Enbridge lead tunnel engineer stated "No hazardous gases were identified along the tunnel's path, like elsewhere in Michigan" during a November 2, 2021, public webinar.

Both substances are explosive. Hydrogen sulfide is also extremely toxic. 28 tunnel workers were killed in 1971 when they hit a pocket of methane while building a tunnel under Lake Huron near Port Huron. Making matters worse, nearly 20% of the time Enbridge will ship propane and butane thru the pipeline. Both are heavier than air. If during the 99-year life of the tunnel there is a pipeline leak, it will accumulate at the low point of the tunnel, awaiting a source of ignition which is always present. Statistically a leak will happen 2-3 times in 99 years. A single 1/8-inch hole in the pipeline, will release, within 19 minutes, the propane equivalent of 345 pounds of TNT.

What will this do to the pipeline, the tunnel, nearby residences, and any vessels traveling above? Experience says it will be catastrophic. We can't afford to guess and find out. The tunnel must NOT be built.

Gary Street, Cheboygan County

Still Wondering About Line 5?

For more insight about the negative impact of Line 5, click on this article from Energy magazine: <https://mibiz.com/sections/energy/pipeline-expert-testifies-that-state-agency-is-downplaying-line-5-tunnel-explosion-risk>

Bob Kennedy, Alcona County Democratic Party

1st Congressional District: Dr. Bob Lorinser, Democratic Candidate

Jack Bergman's smear campaign is beginning. Looks like they're trying to hit me for public service. Ridiculous. I had my team attach my resume to our "About" page, so you can judge for yourself. I'm very critical of the current representative – transparent and open with my opinion about his shortcomings as a leader. But I told my team when we go on the offensive, our message must have substance and be related to the issues. Jack Bergman's team isn't getting the same memo. His ads are ridiculous. According to Bergman's new fundraising page, dedicating a career of service to my community and country makes me an overreaching bureaucrat who wants to "run your life."

It's time to get real with voters. He's using this lie to raise money, and we're hoping you can help make it backfire. I'm proud and honored to work for the people. After humble beginnings, Northern Michigan/U.P. has been my home for over 30 years and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

I can sum up why I am running for Congress in one word: Service. I have a strong sense of duty and hope to offer Northern Michigan true, honest and ethical representation. It's time to get back to the issues, but if you care to learn more about my service, download my résumé and read more at [About Dr. Bob Lorinser | VoteDrBob.com](#).

From the Dr. Bob Lorinser website

Confirmed: Plot to Falsify Election Results in MI

CNN reported on January 20 about new information regarding the failed plot to undermine voters by falsifying Michigan's 2020 election results. CNN released a recording of Meshawn Maddock, co-chair of the Michigan Republican Party, declaring that she and other GOP leaders submitted fake elector certificates to the federal government at Trump's request^[1]. Read the full article here [Trump campaign officials, led by Rudy Giuliani, oversaw fake electors plot in 7 states - CNNPolitics](#)

According to CNN, Maddock and GOP leaders in 6 other swing states cast electoral college votes on behalf of the losing candidate as part of a national effort to overturn the will of the voters. Nancy Wang, Executive Director of Voters Not Politicians, was interviewed by CNN and said "The same people who led this effort in 2020 are now leading a national, coordinated effort to tamper with election results and suppress voters in every way possible in advance of the 2022 and 2024 elections". VNP is working to educate voters with the truth, stop anti-voter legislation from becoming law, and support measures that will make our elections more secure, accessible, and fair. VNP reminds us that "We need to stand up and fight to protect the freedom to vote in Michigan." Join them at <https://votersnotpoliticians.com/>

From the VNP website

TOWN HALL MEETINGS



Dr. Bob Lorinser, Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in Michigan's 1st District (MI01), held several town halls to meet with voters and answer questions from constituents in Northern Michigan. Over six days, Lorinser hosted events in Traverse City, Lake City, East Tawas, Houghton Lake, Standish, Cheboygan, and Harrisville. The campaign scheduled stops in several counties new to the district. Wexford, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, and Arenac are now part of MI01 under Michigan's new redistricting plan. His campaign has planned another tour scheduled for the Upper Peninsula in March.

How do you milk sheep?



Pretend the election was stolen and ask for donations.



Richard Douglass, ICDP member, continues his ongoing series of "How Can You Fix It If You Don't Know How It Got Broke?".

The ICDP thanks Richard for continuing to education our members and the community at large regarding the factors that have lead to the lack of accessible healthcare in rural communities.

How Can You Fix It If You Don't Know How It Got Broke?

The economic alarms had been sounded by 1980 that things were out of control. The Hill-Burton Act was ended and comprehensive, regional and area health planning initiatives of the 1970's were all recent history and found to be nearly impotent regarding control of the Medical Care Cost Index. Medicare (a form of "socialized medicine" to Ronald Reagan) had quickly become the financial foundation of the entire health care system.

Ronald Reagan was not interested in reforming the health care systems of the United States. His original political roots, as a union member Democrat, were cast off in his journey to the Presidency by way of changing political stripes and adopting a conservative world view. During the 1960s, until he decided to run for the White House, he was the "front man" for the American Medical Association's persistent campaigns against Medicare. It was his opportunism that took him to Washington D.C. along with his wife's support, his talent for selling 20 Mule Team Borax soap, and his iconic Hollywood good looks. Reagan's adopted world view was inconsistent with the idea that "others" should pay for what individuals need. The greater good was subservient to the idea that we are self-contained, self-reliant, and responsible only for ourselves. He was fully aware, however, that by 1980 between 70 and 80 percent of Americans favored Medicare and it was a poor choice as a political target. His narrow understanding of the human condition, however, had convenient exceptions, namely military spending and support for major industries by way of tax revenues.

Reagan's world view, and that of his supporters took issue with the idea that private insurance premiums paid by employers on behalf of workers were fully tax deductible in corporate income tax filings. He needed to finance his military buildup because "America is back", but promised not to levy new taxes on the voters. But he never promised not to raise revenue. So, he found ways to decrease spending on social programs and took particular interest in Medicare and private health insurance. When Reagan got into office and one of the first things to command his attention was the extraordinary rate of inflation in the medical sector and how unconcerned the general public was about this part of the inflation crisis.

In 1983 Reagan's budget sought to tax health premiums paid by corporations to private health insurance carriers. Also, within the budget request was a requirement that elderly people pay a larger share of routine hospital expenses through increased deductions from Social Security checks. The combined recommendations, which became part of the 1984 budget, were expected to raise at least \$2.7 billion annually. The effect of taxing health insurance premiums was that instead of such premiums being 100% tax deductible, they became 70% tax deductible. Employers instantly shifted the 30% difference back to the workers and that is when we all became aware of a crisis in health care inflation.

Unlike more recent Republican presidents, Reagan understood most of his limitations and sought the input of health economists, particularly if their pedigree came from the



The 1980's and Reagan's Impact on Reimbursement Part 11b

University of Chicago, a notoriously conservative academic economics faculty, and a handful of conservative think tanks. The problem, according to Reagan was Medicare's inability to set prices for services. On this point he was correct.

Medicare, and Medicaid, from the beginning, allowed institutions and practicing physicians to set the prices for services to patients. The bill for a patient stay in an acute care hospital was determined by the general cost of a room, meals, diagnostic services, laboratory services, specialized staff services, laundry, and incidentals. This was all multiplied by the number of days that a patient was hospitalized, which is what we call length of stay. These expenses were traditionally covered by Blue Cross. Physician services, including referrals and consulting opinions, were billed by Blue Shield. These categories of compensation were combined when Medicare was created on the model of "The Blues". This was a traditional value held by the American Medical Association and the American Hospital Association, and both professional and insurance industry interests. The value base set in stone the business model of how medicine's financial foundations had evolved in the United States. This tradition was based essentially on the good faith of practitioners and institutions within a framework of doing good and serving communities and people in their hour of need. It was never a completely supported assumption and there have always been price gouging individuals, fake (snake oil) medications, and institutional efforts to maximize profits within a system that included non-profit, publicly-owned, and for-profit components.

By 1980 the monumental increase in financial resource potentials that Medicare offered had become like low fruit on a tree. If prices could be increased, within very generous regional parameters, then prices would always go up. If prices by institutions (like hospitals) were published, then everyone else could find out if their prices were below, at or above the averages and the financial directors would adjust the prices for everything from trimming a toenail, to major surgery. This is a form of systemic inflation which economists call cost-based reimbursement; it must have been seen as breathtaking to those who saw organizational growth and market share as goals. If you add the ability of physicians to keep patients in the hospital as long as clinically desirable, urged on by administrative pressure to keep a hospital fully occupied, it is obvious that the inpatient systems would rarely face financial difficulties; the potential income ledger was always in the black.

This all came crashing down by Reagan in 1983. He had already taxed corporations and shifted costs to Medicare recipients and the general public, now he aimed at price and spending controls. Robert Fetter and colleagues at Yale University's School of Management and School of Public Health conducted research that identified groups of medical services in a hospital, based on combinations of admission diagnosis, and then classified them according to average costs which they called hospital products. They sought to demonstrate that average hospital products and the average costs attached to them could determine



Share Your Suggestions

Is there a topic you'd like The Beacon to include in upcoming editions? Share your ideas or articles (400 words or less) to Gloria Brooks at gloriadbrooks@att.net by the 1st of the month.





Fix it—continued

"reasonable costs" for specific hospital experiences. This was a direct challenge to cost-based reimbursement. In 1983 the Reagan administration adopted the DRG model to create the Prospective Payment System (PPS) to replace cost-based reimbursement in Medicare. Once established in Medicare all other hospital insurance programs, private and public, adopted the PPS too. What this meant was that the reimbursement that a hospital could expect for a specific patient with a specific set of diagnoses (called co-morbidities, or concurrent medical problems) was set at the time of admission. The expected reimbursement for "this patient with these problems" was a fixed price. If the expected reimbursement, based on the DRG profile, was for a length of stay of 12 days, and then the patient died or was discharged before a 12-day period, there would be a bonus marginal profit. If, however, the length of stay went beyond 12 days the hospital would take a loss. Policy makers figured that it would all "average out." Admission for observation, however, that had no DRG, and admission for very short stay conditions posed a problem. These admission categories were easy ways to keep the beds of a hospital full between 1965 and 1982. Eliminating these convenient tools for keeping the books balanced caused huge changes in how hospitals were organized, staffed, and managed. The world of health care delivery in the United States would never be the same.

Richard Douglass



*This cartoon was recently posted at the ICDP headquarters office in East Tawas.
Can you relate? Gloria Brooks, Editor*

Gearing Up for the State Rep. Primary in August 2022

Iosco County will be part of the 99th district (instead of the 106th) as a result of the recent MICRC redistricting efforts. A quick online review to identify any declared candidates for the Michigan House of Representatives Republican primary scheduled on August 2, 2022 as listed on Ballotpedia included only 2 Republican candidates. Here are some highlights from their candidate information:

1. Mike Hoadley, Mayor for City of Au Gres

Click on this link to read Hoadley's responses to Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection survey completed in 2022.

... I am a patriot that strongly believes in... Free speech, the 2nd Amendment, election integrity, personal property rights, right to life, education of our children, reigning in and restricting bureaucracies, and putting a stop to mask and vaccine mandates are among the top issues of my conservative platform.

... I am respected by my colleagues...with several endorsements to proudly include the most notable from the 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

... When Michigan family-owned restaurants were forced to close and/or limit capacities by Governor Whitmer; I stepped up, organized others to create a community initiative called the SOAR (Support Our AuGres Restaurants) program to help local restaurants avoid closing their doors for good.

...K-12 school curriculum grounded in reading, writing, arithmetic, and history. CRT and sexually explicit material have no place in our classrooms with parental rights to know and be involved in their child's education. NO government imposed covid-19 vaccine mandates!

2. Todd Schorle

Schorle completed Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection survey in 2021 – click on the link to read the entire profile.

... Being a staunch fiscal conservative has led to his success in budget management and the ability to properly allocate available fiscal resources to get the most accomplished.

...Our community needs a fighter with... the fortitude to take on special Interest and the Radical Left agenda.

... knows that people simply want to live their lives and not have to worry about the Government overreaching.

... supports the right of every American to keep and bear arms. Full stop. It is plainly written in our founding documents and not up for interpretation or to be used as a political pawn. Gun laws only benefit criminals and make good people targets.

...Our Constitution was designed to stop one leader rule.

Help Needed for Video Messaging at HQ

The Communications Committee is in need of the following items to create a new way to engage visitors to the office on Newman Street. We are in need of a donated TV (doesn't need to be a smart TV) to run videos loop-to-loop on different messages from our members. Then we need someone who can embed the videos in a PowerPoint (or has a better suggestion on how to do this!).

Please reach out to Cindy Schwedler or Sue Duncan if you can help!



Want More Information?

For additional information on registered candidates, visit https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_House_of_Representatives_elections,_2022



Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

FEBRUARY

- Saturday, 2/5/22 11 am Perchville Chili Cook-Off, Downtown East Tawas & 224 Newman St
- Thursday, 2/24/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

MARCH

- Tuesday, 3/1/22 5:30—7 pm: County Convention & General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Thursday 3/17/22—4 pm. St. Patrick's Day Chair Boga (Chair Yoga & Beer) Location to be announced
- Thursday, 3/24/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

APRIL

- Tuesday, 4/5/22 5:30—7 pm: General Membership Meeting ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas
- Wednesday 4/13/22 Time to be announced Acrylic Pour Tawas Bay Art Gallery 302 Newman St. East Tawas
- Friday- 4/22/22 2 – 4 pm Earth Day Adopt-A-Forest Location TBD
- Thursday, 4/28/22 4—5:30pm: Brew & Stew, ICDP office, 224 Newman St, East Tawas

ICDP Committee Roundup

Communications — *Cindy Schwedler & Sue Duncan*

The Committee developed a comprehensive advertising plan for the 2022 election year. The plan includes radio ads on three local stations; display ads in several newspapers including the Iosco County News Herald, the Oscoda Press, the Nor'easter, and the Good Times free paper. There's also an ad in the program book for the Tawas Bay Players. We thank the Executive Committee for approving the budget request.

WKJC Viewpoint	ICDP Member	Broadcast On
Take care of Healthcare workers	Richard Douglass	1/24/22
Newspaper LTE Topic	IDCP Member/Paper	Publish Date
Respectful language	Alice Barnes /INH, OP	01/05/22
Covid vaccines don't cause Covid	Richard Douglass/INH, OP	01/12/22
Newspapers have good bipartisan	Sue Duncan/INH, OP	01/12/22
Autocratic Deceptions	Jesse Lyman /INH, OP	01/19/22
Wake up and speak up	Terry Austin /INH, OP	01/26/22
Newspaper Articles	IDCP Member/Paper	Publish Date
Recap of ICDP's 2021 Accomplishments	Carole Bleau /INH, OP	1/19/22

Events & Service — *Carole Bleau & Judy Goodman*

The committee held its first Brew & Stew fundraiser at the end of January, and is focused on participating in the "Chilly" Cook-Off in the Perchville festival in East Tawas on Saturday, February 5 at 11 am. We hope to see you soon!



ICDP Committee Roundup *Cont'd*

Membership Recruitment & Retention—*Laurie Miles*

If you have time to assist the ICDP with our post-carding project, here's the information you need. Both directions and voter mailing lists have been printed at the ICDP headquarters office. There are two ways to participate:

- If you are willing to write out postcards during your shift, look on the tables in front of the podium and everything you need to complete the project is on display (postcards, lists, stamps, directions).
- If you are willing to take some home to fill out, choose a list, count out how many postcards you'll need, take the right amount of stamps and an instruction sheet.

We are only mailing to names with the SD – Strong Democrat – code. So in selecting who you will send a postcard to, please skip those marked LD – leaning Democrat; LR – leaning Republican; I – Independent; and SR – strong Republican. Also, we started the annual membership drive last month. If you haven't had the opportunity to renew your membership, please don't hesitate to reach out to me for a renewal form or stop by the office and pick one up. We also appreciate your consideration of a donation to the ICDP! We really appreciate your help. If you have any other questions, please feel free to reach out to anyone on the committee: Carole Bleau, Kathleen Davidson and Jaime Brants.

February General Membership Meeting Update

- Carole Bleau informed members that the ICDP website has a membership renewal page thanks to Tom Davidson.
- Chris Zimmel uploaded the Events & Service Committee calendar for the year on our website.
- Laurie Miles is starting a new Social Media Committee.
- The membership unanimously approved the HQ office being a location for Covid tests distribution from the District #2 Health Department.
- Jaime Brants from MDP shared that she is focused on candidate recruitment and is conducting training for anyone interested in running for political office. Reach out to her for more information.
- The membership unanimously approved the purchase and installation of 3 security cameras for the front door, side door, and back door for proactive safety measures.
- Tom Davidson lead a discussion on the proposed 2022 budget. The Finance committee will meet soon to confirm budget and then will share the fundraising goal for the year with the Events & Service Committee for fundraising event planning purposes.
- Laurie Miles shared that ICDP's current membership is 235.
- Jim Mortimer introduced Raymond Titus, the ICDP's newest member from National City.

Gloria Brooks, Editor

ICDP Leadership

Please feel free to contact an Executive Board member with any ideas, questions or information that would help in the work of the party.

ICDP Executive Board Members & Committee Chairs

Carole Bleau – **Chair; Chair, Bylaws; Co-Chair, Events & Service Committee**
bleausy@gmail.com

Józef Drozdowski – **Vice Chair**
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Laurie Miles – **Secretary; Chair, Member Recruitment & Retention Committee**

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Tom Davidson – **Treasurer**
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Kathleen Davidson – **Trustee**
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Jim Mortimer – **Trustee; Chair, Campaign and Environmental Committees**
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Develop Iosco receives economic development survey grant

Develop Iosco, the volunteer nonprofit economic development organization for Iosco County, recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation to support a stakeholder survey project. DI pushed the 'reset' button in 2021, and through its new Board of Directors, is sharing the rebooted DI mission, purpose, and goals in support of economic and community development activities across Iosco County. DI's three core focus areas are business development, community connectivity access and housing. DI, as an economic development organization, promotes Iosco County as a place for business growth to improve the quality of life for current and new residents and acts as a convener and facilitator for economic development activities within the county.

The funding from Consumers Energy Foundation in addition to funding already received from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, allows DI to launch a survey for business owners, residents, and community leaders across the county. The project will be facilitated through Golden Shovel Agency, a nationally recognized economic development marketing agency focused on helping community development organizations. This four-week project started in late January and will utilize survey responses from stakeholders to build a customized strategy unique to Iosco County.

If you wish to participate in the survey, please click on this link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/>

[e/1FAIpQLSfIRHrDRHApq0KsYb0rTp8D70ZQnGP-3I_7vqV7h_X0BjI4Ew/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIRHrDRHApq0KsYb0rTp8D70ZQnGP-3I_7vqV7h_X0BjI4Ew/viewform).

Your responses are anonymous to DI, and your candor will help us build a blueprint that supports the needs of the entire Iosco County community. We request your survey response by Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

DI will announce the Marketing Blueprint survey outcome and recommendations at its quarterly community meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 8:30 – 10 am at Eagle Pointe Plaza in Hale. There will be virtual and in-person attendance options. In the meantime, if you have any questions about DI or the project, please feel free to contact me or any of the board members listed below.

Please feel free to forward this information and the link to the survey to other Iosco County residents, business owners and community leaders. The DI Board of Directors and I look forward to your feedback and direction in order to support economic development throughout the county. Visit www.develop-iosco.org for more information.

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Terry Dutcher, Board Vice President
tdutcher@ioscocounty.org
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ICDP Endorses Bradley Hall for appointment to the Michigan Court of Appeals

The ICDP was recently contacted by a nominee for the Michigan Court of Appeals with ties to Iosco County. Bradley Hall grew up in a union home in Caro, Michigan, and currently lives in Farmington Hills with his family. He owns a small cottage across the street from the Oscoda Beach Park – in fact he became a member of the ICDP a couple years ago when he walked across the street to join an ICDP picnic and meeting at the picnic pavilion. Brad says, “I knew those were my people!” Brad is a seasonal resident of Oscoda, and has worked closely with the 23rd Circuit Court to help reform indigent appellate defense representation in Iosco County, cultivating a positive relationship with the court staff in this community.

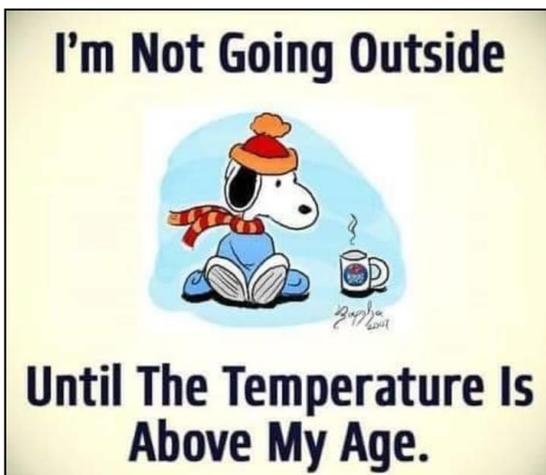
Brad would be that Court’s first judge ever with a significant public defender background.

He has secured significant support, including:

- Michigan Democratic Party Justice Caucus
- American Constitution Society
- ACLU of Michigan Director Loren Khogali
- Safe and Just Michigan Director John Cooper
- Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget McCormack
- Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge Elizabeth Gleicher (term begins Jan 2022)
- Several other leading judges and lawyers

Since we share the same values, ICDP is proud to support Brad as he seeks this appointment. Brad completed an interview last week with the Governor’s office and is now just waiting for news. We agree that he would be a great appellate judge. We are sending positive energy to Brad as he awaits this decision. In the meantime, ICDP has extended an open invitation to Brad to speak at one of our meetings in March or April when he is in town.

Gloria Brooks, Editor



Sound Familiar? At least one ICDP member is already counting the days to spring.





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Saturdays 10a-6p

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About Us

The Iosco County Democratic Party is a group of passionate Iosco County Democrats who are working together to change our country's leadership throughout the Michigan legislature and in Washington DC.

We believe in truth, justice,
and the American way.

www.ioscocountydems.org

ICDP Newsletter

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Dr. Bob Lorinser Hosts Iosco County Town Hall

Several ICDP members were in attendance on Tuesday, February 1st at 6:30 pm at the East Tawas Community Center when Dr. Bob Lorinser, Democratic candidate for the 1st Congressional District, spoke about his campaign and serving the community. Dr. Bob spoke for about thirty minutes on his history and interest in serving in the Congress. There was an hour-long questions and comments session from those attending. Dr. Bob is holding open to all Town Hall events in each of the 36 counties in his district. *See related story on Page 5.*



*Jim Mortimer,
Campaign
Committee Chair*



New District Map for Iosco County Board of Commissioners

Iosco County has finalized the new map based on county redistricting efforts earlier this year. There will be additional information shared at the March General Membership meeting. In the meantime, confirm which District you live in case your district has changed by clicking on this link [FetchGIS](#).

Carole Bleau, Chair

