



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN CHERRY

Hello Friends,

On Wednesday, we said goodbye to winter and hello to spring. As the weather warms up, please be sure to keep an eye out for students walking home from school, migrating animals and hazards on the roads that get uncovered as snow melts. I've been enjoying the sunlight while spending time in Lansing and our community, where I was fortunate to start and end my weeks reading to students in our local schools.

Starting Monday, the Legislature will take a break to allow a two week in-district work period. After the business that comes with the start of a new term, I'm grateful to get a chance to be back in our community and to spend extra time with my family, reading over background and policy analysis on the budget to better answer your questions. But don't worry! My office will still be open and we will still be able to answer your calls.



I'm here to help:

Phone:
(517) 373-7515

Email:
JohnCherry@house.mi.gov



If you have any questions, comments or concerns, I hope you will reach out to me. You can email me at any time at JohnCherry@house.mi.gov or call my office at (517) 373-7515.

Best,
John

Legislative Update

FOIA: Transparency and Accountability

This past week, I voted 'yes' on a bipartisan package of bills that would expand the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to apply to the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor, as well as

create the Legislative Open Records Act (LORA) to apply similar transparency to the legislature.

Expanding transparency measures to both of these branches of government is long overdue. Everyone deserves the right to know how our government operates, how our tax dollars are spent, and whether our elected officials are acting in our communities' best interests.

We are now waiting for these bills to be taken up by the Senate.



PFAS in the Flint Area: Information and Resources

With the expanding spread of PFAS into our community, I am focused on providing accurate and useful information to the public and forming a plan of action. I have been in direct contact with MDEQ officials regarding this type of contamination and I will be sure to keep you and local units of government informed as I receive additional information.

If you weren't able to attend my informational PFAS Town Hall, the slides are now available on the Constituent Downloads section of my website that you can find by [clicking here](#). Answers to the question cards received will be posted at the same link very soon.

For those who don't know, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, are a group of man-made chemicals that are commonly found in polishes, waxes, paints and cleaning

products. Firefighting foams have become a major source of groundwater PFAS contamination near airports and military bases throughout Michigan where firefighter training often occurs. Information on the testing sites and results indicating PFAS contamination can be found on the state's PFAS Response website [here](#) and [here](#).

If you would like to have your own well tested, you can contact the MDEQ Environmental Assistance Center at (800) 662-9278. If you are not part of an official investigation area and want to sample your own residential well or pay a technician to sample the well, the MDEQ provides information on laboratories located within the state and guidance on how to take a sample of your drinking water. A private sample and test may run anywhere from a few hundred dollars and up. That information can be found [here as well as lists of potential laboratories to use](#). If any residents test their wells and receive positive results, they are asked to contact the MDEQ Environmental Assistance Center as soon as possible.

There are some filters available to lower PFAS contamination in the water. You can find information [here](#). If residents have been notified that there is PFAS contamination in their water, they may be eligible to receive a free filter system.

If you have more questions about PFAS, you can reach out to the MDEQ's Environmental Assistance Center or visit the State of Michigan PFAS informational page. You can also contact my office or the Genesee County health department.

Coffee with Cherry

Join me for coffee and conversation! I'll give a brief legislative update and then open it up for any questions, comments or concerns you'd like to share. These events are family friendly and coffee will be provided.



Monday, April 15, from 2:45-3:45 p.m.
Swartz Creek High School
1 Dragon Drive in Swartz Creek

Thursday, April 18, from 6-7 p.m.
Flint Public Library
1026 E. Kearsley St. in Flint

Monday, April 22, from 10-11 a.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church
2111 Flushing Road in Flint

Friday, May 3, from 10-11 am
Donna's Donuts
1135 W. Bristol Road in Flint

Monday, May 13, from 10-11 a.m.
Coffee Hour at Krapohl Senior Center
5473 Bicentennial Drive in Mt. Morris

Monday, May 20, from 6-7 p.m.
Swartz Creek Senior Center
8095 Civic Drive #2 in Swartz Creek

Tuesday, May 21, at 6 p.m.
Flushing Area Library
120 N. Maple St. in Flushing

Resources for Folks in the 49th House District

Get a Jump on Your Spring Cleaning-Start Recycling

Much of the glass, metal, paper and plastic we use daily heads straight to the landfill, usually after a single use, yet these items have not reached the end of their life cycle. Keep Genesee County Beautiful believes that conserving resources is important and recycling is one way in which to do so. KGCB has become the “go-to” resource for recycling education in Genesee County and provides information on what can and cannot be recycled in curbside programs and how to prepare it.

[Click here](#) for a list of year-round locations that accept hazardous waste, electronic waste and items not permitted in curbside trash or as part of recycling collection.

City of Flint Residents – for information regarding curbside recycling services and guidelines from Republic Services, [click here](#).

Need some help figuring out how to prepare your recycling? [Click here](#) for Recycling Bin Basics.

Join the 2020 Census Team and Be a Part of History!

New and exciting career opportunities are available both in office and in the field. The US Census Bureau will be hiring temporary staff to carry out the 2020 census. This is a great opportunity to find work and be a part of history! For more information call (855) 562-2020 or go to the census jobs website at census.gov/jobs.

Flint Property Portal: Get Your Data

Want to learn more about your house and those around you? Visit the Flint Property Portal [here](#). The Flint Property Portal is made-up of city of Flint and Genesee County Land Bank Authority data. For this site, the city of Flint and the Land Bank have strategically collected and combined more than sixty data points for each of the 56,000 properties that comprise Flint, more than 4 million pieces of property information in total. The Land Bank and the city of Flint maintain this data and use it on a

daily basis to make decisions.

You can look up information for properties in Flint, such as ownership, value, and condition. You can also make maps for your neighborhood, ward or custom area. This site is delivered to you by the Genesee County Land Bank Authority and the city of Flint as part of their commitment to increasing the public's access to information and ensuring governmental transparency and accountability.

Learn a Language!

Looking to learn a new language? Genesee District Library Card holders can use Mango, an interactive language learning application that uses movies, music and more to teach users a new language in a way that is both fun and engaging! If you are not already a library card holder you can fill out an application online or in person!

Lend a Hand-Volunteer with Genesee County Parks

Making a difference. For anyone who cares about the place they call home, it's an important thing to do. That's why Genesee County Parks offers a wide variety of opportunities to get involved.

SIGNING UP

Here are just a few of the many volunteer opportunities available with the Genesee County Parks:

- Community and perennial gardening
- Trail map creation
- Crossroads Village railroad crossing greeters
- Special event staff
- For-Mar Visitor's Center greeter
- Bluebird monitor
- Invasive plant removal
- Butterfly counts

You can [download a volunteer application here](#), or you can

pick one up at the Genesee County Parks & Recreation Commission Administrative Headquarters, located at 5045 Stanley Road in Flint.

For more information about volunteering at Crossroads Village, just contact our volunteer coordinator, Cindy Kimber, at ckimber@gcparks.org or call (810) 249.3858

For more information about volunteering at For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum contact For-Mar staff at (810) 789.8567 or email parkswebteam@gcparks.org.

For information about how to get involved with Keep Genesee County Beautiful visit their website at <http://kqcb.net/>

Center for Higher Educational Achievement

The Center for Higher Educational Achievement offers a variety of adult achievement programs for adults 25 and older. Courses range from improving literacy to attaining a GED, to preparing for the GRE! For more information visit the Center for Higher Education Achievement website or call (810) 553-2140.

Community Events

Mt. Morris Library Book Club

Have a passion for reading? Come on down to the Mt. Morris Library to discuss some good reads!

When: Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to noon.

Where: 685 Van Buren Ave. in Mount Morris

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum: Explore Maple Syrup

Join the For-Mar team at the Dewaters Building near our Sugar Shack for a firsthand look at how one of Michigan's most historically significant natural resources, maple syrup, is made. From tapping to pancake topping, see it all. Trained For-Mar staff will be on hand to share information about winter tree ID. Come anytime between noon and 3 p.m.

When: Saturday, March 23, from noon to 3 p.m.

Where: 2142 N. Genesee Road in Burton

Hour of Code: Star Wars Challenge

This is a fun-filled class for beginners learning how to code! This hour-long class will teach you how to code a Star Wars video game. No prior experience is needed!

When: Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to noon.

Where: 120 N. Maple St. in Flushing

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum: Pond Journey

Tadpoles, Turtles and water bugs... Oh my. Join the For-Mar team in a journey to the pond in search of our water loving animal friends. This is a hands on program for Genesee County residents ages 3-6, so plan to dress for a mess. Pre-registration required by March 26. [Click here to sign up.](#)

When: Thursday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Where: 2142 N. Genesee Road in Burton

Easter Egg Hunt!

The 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held March 30, at 10:30 a.m. at the Flint Township Park at 5200 Norko Drive. There will be an Easter Eggs Hunt, the Easter Bunny and prizes.

The Flint Township Economic Development Authorities are working with local businesses to welcome the Easter Bunny to Flint Township. They are looking for businesses that would like to be a part of this family event.

For scholarship information contact Community Events Chair Carol Pfaff-Dahl at (810) 252-2049 or Deputy Authority Director Jean Marks at (810) 600-3239 or email at jmarks@flinttownship.org.

When: Saturday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Flint Township Park, 5200 Norko Drive in Flint

Swartz Creek High School Drama Club Presents: Our Town

Swartz Creek High School Drama Club presents *Our Town*, a landmark of American drama, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Our Town* tells the story of a small town, Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, in order to tell us the story of every town, the whole world over. With humor, wit, and exceptionally powerful storytelling, *Our Town* offers a unique opportunity for audience members to make precisely that realization.

When: Thursday, April 11, at 7 to 9 p.m.

Where: Swartz Creek Performing Arts Center, 8427 Miller Road in Swartz Creek



I hope that this information has been helpful to you. As always, please feel free to reach out to me at JohnCherry@house.mi.gov or at (517) 373-7515.

Sincerely,

State Representative John Cherry
49th House District

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