

## AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor & City Commissioners  
FROM: Diane Lyon, Clerk  
DATE: December 3, 2015  
RE: \*Communications

For the Agenda of December 7, 2015

**\*Note: This is a Consent Agenda item and is considered as routine by the City Commission. As such, this matter shall be automatically enacted by one motion with all other Consent Agenda items unless a Commissioner or citizen requests this item be individually discussed, in which event it shall be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered and acted upon in its designated sequence on the approved Clare City Commission agenda of December 7, 2015.**

---

The following major items of correspondence were either received by or transmitted by the City since the last regularly scheduled City Commission meeting:

*The Standard Insurance.* Standard Insurance has notified the City of a slight increase in life (\$0.005 increase) and short term disability (\$0.016 increase) premiums effective January 1, 2016. The new premiums and those of the current accidental death & dismemberment insurance rates are guaranteed for the next three years.

*Resident Safety Concern.* The City received an email regarding a safety concerns in school zones. The issue is being addressed by Police Chief Gregory.

*Bureau of Construction Codes.* The City received notice from the Bureau of Construction Codes regarding the Clare County Building Official's lapse in Act 54 registration.

*Consumers Energy Meter Notice.* Consumer's Energy announced that they will be installing new meters and have provided a timeline for meter installations throughout Michigan.

*Consumers Energy Rate Changes.* Consumer's Energy has announced an increase of 4.6% in residential electric rates; a 4-15% decrease in large business electric rates; and approximately 1% increase in other business electric rates effective December 1, 2015.

*Letter of Support.* The City provided a letter of support for the Region 5 Regional Prosperity Initiative to East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG).

*The Loop.* The Michigan Municipal League has provided the latest edition of their newsletter which offers several educational opportunities for city officials and employees. Those interested in attending classes or webinars should contact the City Clerk.

*Attachments.* As outlined above.



The Standard®

Rec'd  
10-13-15

October 1, 2015

Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan

202 W. Fifth Street  
Clare, MI 48617

**Re: City of Clare 649301**

Thank you for allowing MERS and the Standard Insurance Company to provide quality products to support your employees' insurance needs. MERS partners with The Standard Insurance Company to offer competitive benefit features, a variety of plan designs and family-friendly provisions at an affordable cost. We are pleased to renew your policy with continued coverage and services with **guaranteed rates** through December 2018.

We have carefully reviewed the current composition of your organization within the MERS pooling advantage by evaluating age, occupation, gender and salary of your insured employees.

Based upon this review and application of rate factors appropriate for your industry classification, effective January 1, 2016, we are adjusting your premium rates as indicated in the chart below. These **rates are guaranteed** until January 1, 2019.

<b>Product &amp; Services</b>	<b>Through 12/31/15</b>	<b>Effective 01/01/16</b>
Basic Life	\$0.175 Per \$1000 of Benefit	\$0.18 Per \$1000 of Benefit
Basic AD&D	\$0.03 Per \$1000 of Benefit	\$0.03 Per \$1000 of Benefit
STD	\$0.54 Per \$10.00 of Benefit	\$0.556 Per \$10.00 of Benefit

If you have any questions about your rates or our review process, the Detroit Employee Benefits Sales and Service Office at (248) 641-9850 is available to serve your needs. We value your business and welcome the opportunity to provide continued assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

Rodney Yoder  
National Accounts Central  
Employee Benefits Division  
Standard Insurance Company

## Ken Hibl

---

**From:** noreply@server.mailjol.net on behalf of allForms [noreply@server.mailjol.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2015 3:19 PM  
**To:** contactus  
**Subject:** Form Submission from www.cityofclare.org

Form Results	
Name	Michelle
Address	Wheaton ave
Phone	
Email	<a href="mailto:Mizur1969@gmail.com">Mizur1969@gmail.com</a>
RadioGroup1	email
Comments	As a safety issue why do you allow people to park on side street when they can park in the parking lot to pick up kids after school? I have witnessed the busses having a hard time maneuvering in and out of school parking lot. You need to put up signs that do not allow parking from 230 till 400. This is a major safety issue and needs to be corrected. Just as apparently people here don't know how to use the correct side of street when driving.perhaps u should paint lines.please address the parking issue. Thankyou
Submit	Submit
More Information about this submission and submitter	
Submission ID	9410259
Date & Time	23rd Nov 2015 8:17 PM (UTC)
Form Location	<a href="http://www.cityofclare.org/services/forms/contact.html">http://www.cityofclare.org/services/forms/contact.html</a>
IP Address	75.133.246.136
Browser info	Mozilla/5.0 (Linux; Android 4.4.2; SCH-I605 Build/KOT49H) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/46.0.2490.76 Mobile Safari/537.36
Predicted Country	United States



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES  
IRVIN J. POKE  
DIRECTOR

MIKE ZIMMER  
DIRECTOR

November 16, 2015

**Registration No: 005699**

Mr. Mark E. Fitzpatrick  
5680 Bailey Lake Avenue  
Beaverton, MI 48612

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

A review of our records indicates that you did not submit for renewal of your Act 54 registration as a building official, building inspector and plan reviewer by the deadline of September 16, 2015.

Rule 52 of the Building Official, Plan Reviewers, and Inspector Registration Rules states in part:

**“(2) An application shall be submitted by September 16 of the cycle year. There shall be no extensions or grace periods.”**

Since we have not received your application for renewal by September 16, 2015, **as of September 17, 2015**, you were no longer registered as a code official.

If you wish to become registered as a code official in the future, you must reapply. Any incomplete continuing education hours must be made up before you can do so. You must then meet the requirements of Rule 40 of the Building Official, Plan Reviewers, and Inspector Registration Rules.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (517) 241-9317.

Sincerely,

*Heather G. Fields*

Heather G. Fields  
Building Division

cc: **City of Clare - Clare County**  
Clare County

*Providing for Michigan's Safety in the Built Environment*

LARA is an equal opportunity employer  
Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
P.O. BOX 30254 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/bcc • Telephone (517) 241-9302 • Fax (517) 241-9570



# Consumers Energy Smart Energy™ Program

There are more than 65 million smart meters in the United States. The Consumers Energy Smart Energy™ Program is installing meters through 2017. The information below provides insight into the benefits, facts about the program and where/when we will be installing meters.

## HOW YOU BENEFIT



Meters can be remotely read in any weather — no estimated bills



Energy use is sent daily to us, minimizing estimated bills or bill surprises.

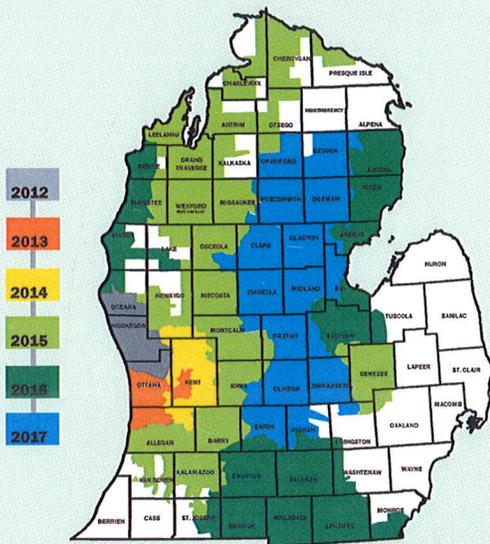


Track your energy use online via the Smart Energy Web Portal.



Better outage management - we will know when a customer's power is out  
*(Coming in the future)*

## INSTALLATION SCHEDULE



## THE FACTS

- The meter contains no customer information, only usage and operational status.
- All information transmitted to/from the meter is protected by a private, secure network.
- The meters do not identify specific devices or appliances – only total energy use is sent to Consumers Energy.
- The radio frequencies used to transmit the data are the equivalent of sending one text message a day. The frequency emissions are well below guidelines set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

## INSTALLING THE METER: KEEPING YOU INFORMED

**30**  
DAYS  
BEFORE

POSTCARD



**7**  
DAYS  
BEFORE

PHONE CALL



**14**  
DAYS  
BEFORE

LETTER



**DAY**  
OF  
INSTALL

DOORHANGER



## HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Visit [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy) to learn more
- Call our dedicated team at 888-862-2199
- Schedule us to speak at your civic meeting

**ENERGY THAT WORKS SMARTER FOR YOU.**  
THAT'S OUR PROMISE TO MICHIGAN.





# IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, YOU WILL BE RECEIVING AN UPGRADED METER!



Sample A. Sample  
1234 Anystreet  
Anytown USA 12345-6789

Re: Installation at 1234 Anystreet

Dear Sample Name,

In the next few weeks, we'll be in your area to install upgraded meters. We're upgrading to enhance our customer service and to provide new tools to help you have better information about your energy usage.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



No need to be home, unless your meter is inside



Make sure your meter area is clear for installation



Do you operate sensitive equipment? Do you want an appointment?  
Call 1-888-862-2199

For more information, please contact us at 1-888-862-2199 or visit [ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy](http://ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy).

Sincerely,

Garrick J. Rochow  
Vice President, Customer Experience, Rates, Regulation and Quality

Para ayuda en español, llame al 1-888-862-2199.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



No more estimated bills



Monitor your energy use online and save money



We'll know about outages faster so we can respond quicker

LEARN MORE:

Visit [ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy](http://ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy)

## WHAT TO EXPECT: DAY OF INSTALLATION

The service technician will be wearing and driving:

1



MARKED VEHICLE



SAFETY VEST



ID BADGE

2

The installer will knock on your door. If you would like, you may shut off your electronics.

3

The installation will take approximately 5 - 10 minutes – during that time you may be without power.

4



The installer will leave a door hanger (pictured) when the installation is complete.

5

Use the website on the door hanger to learn more about the benefits of your new meter.

**ENERGY THAT WORKS SMARTER FOR YOU.**  
THAT'S OUR PROMISE TO MICHIGAN.

## Consumers Energy Meter Upgrades Extend to the Tip of the Mitten

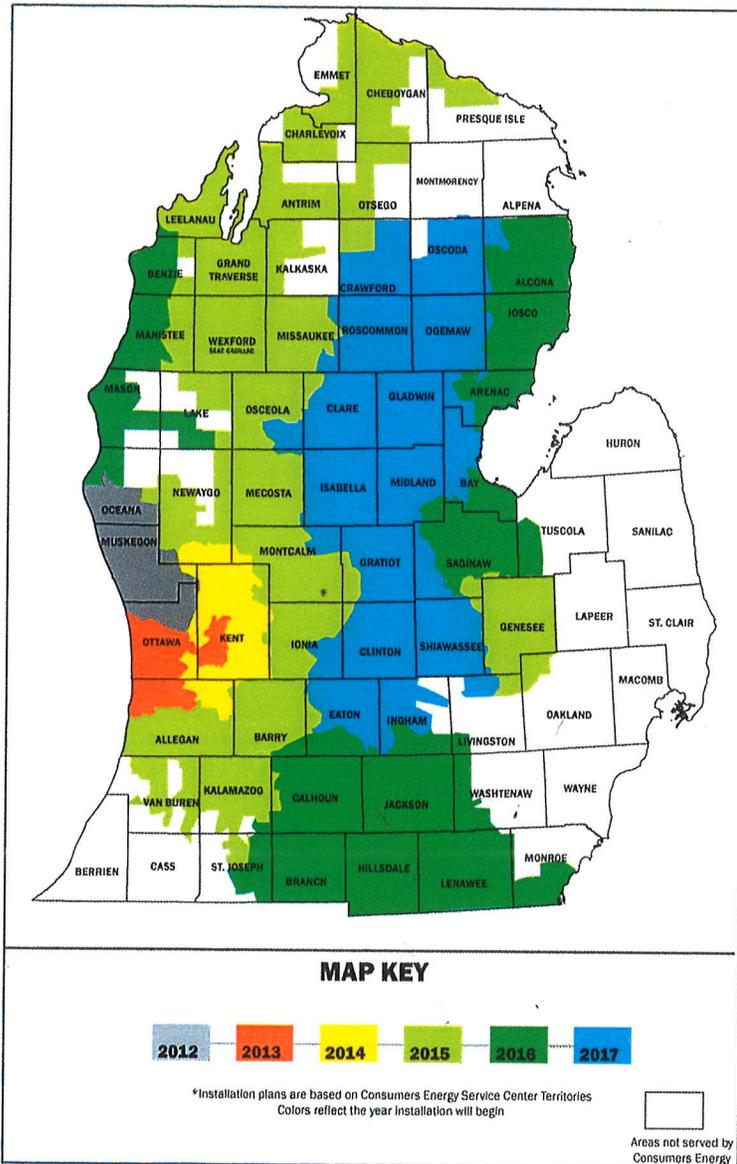
*More than 670,000 Meters Already Installed Across Michigan*

JACKSON, Mich., October 4, 2015 – The Boyne City region is the latest area for Consumers Energy customers to begin receiving enhanced service with upgraded meter technology, joining West Michigan, Kalamazoo and Flint.

More than 670,000 communicating electric meters have been installed toward a total of 1.8 million by the end of 2017, with automatic power outage notifications from the meters to Consumers Energy about a year away.

“Right away, the new meters help us to get away from estimated meter reads by sending us a once-per-day text-type message with energy use and also help us to provide customers with secure online access to their energy use information,” said Garrick Rochow,

Consumers Energy’s vice president and chief customer officer. “By next summer, the new meters will also have the ability to notify us of power outages, so we’ll add that capability to using notifications from customers to enhance our power outage restoration process.”



The upgraded meters will help Consumers Energy to be more efficient and control costs better and provide households and businesses with online access to their energy use information that helps them to track their energy usage more closely and predict their bills before they arrive, Rochow said.

As the more-severe weather season approaches, Consumers Energy is reminding customers to call 800-477-5050 when power outages occur, or to use mobile technology to go online during power outages at [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/OutageCenter](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/OutageCenter).

Consumers Energy began updating electric meters this summer in the Flint, Kalamazoo and Boyne City regions. The Battle Creek, Cadillac, Jackson, Ludington, Saginaw and Tawas regions are scheduled for meter upgrades in 2016, while the Clare, Lansing and Midland areas will get meter upgrades in 2017. As part of the upgrade, Consumers Energy will also install communication modules on natural gas meters of customers who also receive electric service, allowing remote meter reads of gas meters through the electric meters, which will also eliminate estimated meter reads for their natural gas.

Notifications of meter upgrades will arrive in the form of large blue information postcards at homes about 30 days before the upgrades. Residents don't need to be home for the replacement, which takes only a few minutes, but they can call to make appointments if they choose. Businesses will be contacted in advance through mailings, calls or outreach meetings, depending on their size and the complexity of their electric service.

Households and businesses do have the option to continue using older meter technology and enroll in the manual meter reading program for \$9.72 per month and a onetime cost of \$69.39 to maintain the systems and infrastructure to support continued use of older meters.



**Consumers Energy has upgraded meter technology for residential customers and small businesses from electromechanical meters (left) to digital meters (middle) over the past 10 years, as the older meters have required replacement. Digital communicating meters (right) have upgraded functions and will be installed across the state through 2017.**

### Media toolkit

**LEARN MORE:** Find out more about the benefits of upgraded meters at [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy) or call 1-888-862-2199.

“Enhancing service to our customers and controlling our costs are being made possible by using technology,” Rochow said. “We are striving to provide the energy our customers need, whenever they need it, in ways we have never been able to before – thanks to technology.”

Learn more online at [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/smartenergy).

Consumers Energy, Michigan’s largest utility, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), providing natural gas and electricity to 6.6 million of the state’s 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

###

*Media Contacts: Dennis McKee, 616-530-4146, or Kathryn Burkholder, 517-545-8745*

###

*For more information about Consumers Energy, go to [www.ConsumersEnergy.com](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com).*

### Check out Consumers Energy on Social Media



This news release contains "forward-looking statements." The forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause Consumers Energy's results to differ materially. All forward-looking statements should be considered in the context of the risk and other factors detailed from time to time in Consumers Energy's Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

**Diane Lyon**

---

**From:** Consumers Energy [consumersenergy@email.engagemsg.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 03, 2015 9:12 AM  
**To:** Diane Lyon  
**Subject:** New electric rates effective Dec. 1



Reliable, affordable power key focus

[View as Web Page](#)



## BUSINESS MATTERS



At Consumers Energy, our Promise to Michigan is to deliver the energy you need, whenever you need it. That includes upgrading our electric system to more safely and reliably provide electricity to 1.8 million Michigan businesses and homes.

On Nov. 19, we received approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission to adjust our electric rates. We have not made an overall adjustment such as this since May 2013. **New rates for all customers were effective Dec. 1, 2015.**

These adjustments help make possible important upgrades to our electric system, including:

- Replacing poles, lines and electrical equipment
- Clearing tree branches and limbs away from electric lines

- Improving Michigan's air quality with environmental upgrades at power plants
- Installing upgraded meters to better serve businesses and homes

### About Your New Rates

The approved changes consider the purchase of an existing natural gas plant to generate electricity and the retirement of seven coal units across the state in 2016. As a result of electric rate order U-17735:

- Large business customers on primary voltage using the most electricity will see a decrease in their rates of about 4 percent. Some will see decreases up to 15 percent. These changes will allow large employers to be even more competitive, selecting Michigan over other states to locate or expand and put more people to work.
- All other business customers on secondary voltage will see rates increase by less than 1 percent.
- Residential customers will pay about 4.5 percent more than they do today. A typical household (using an average of 650 kilowatt-hours a month) will see its average monthly bill increase by about \$4.25.



**It's important to note customer bills change for other reasons**, as surcharges and credits come and go. For example, electric bills will decrease in mid-2016 after we close seven coal plants.

### Reliability Upgrades and Long-Term Planning

- We have spent nearly \$400 million over the past five years to strengthen our electric distribution system. This has resulted in fewer power outages.
- We are upgrading meters in businesses and homes across Michigan at a faster pace, giving you the tools to better manage your electricity use. By fall 2016, the new meters will notify Consumers Energy of power outages, enhancing the power restoration process. Upgraded meters should be in place statewide by the end of 2017.
- We are carefully trimming trees and limbs away from power lines. We

the best opportunity to improve reliability. About 700 people are doing forestry work for us today.

---

# WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

CHOOSE THE MOST CONVENIENT METHOD TO CONTACT US.



Online



Email



800-805-0490

© 2015 CONSUMERS ENERGY | [PRIVACY](#) | [SECURITY](#) | [TERMS OF USE](#) | [CONTACT US](#)



This message was sent by **Consumers Energy**  
One Energy Plaza, Jackson MI 49201

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Email](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)



## CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

Office 989.386.7541 | Fax 989.386.4508

[www.cityofclare.org](http://www.cityofclare.org)

November 19, 2015

### CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541  
Fx 989.386.4508  
[www.cityofclare.org](http://www.cityofclare.org)  
Manager x102  
Assessor x103  
Clerk x106  
Treasurer x107

East Michigan Council of Governments  
Attention: Sue Fortune, Executive Director  
3144 Davenport Avenue, Suite 200  
Saginaw, MI 48602

### RE: Letter of Support and Commitment to Region 5 Regional Prosperity Plan Initiative

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ph 989.386.2182 or  
989.386.7541 x202  
Fx 989.386.4508

Dear Ms. Fortune,

Please accept this on behalf of the City of Clare outlining its unequivocal, total support for the Region 5 Regional Prosperity Plan Initiative. Over the past two years, this initiative has shown the potential benefits of better aligning our strategies and priorities in the areas of economic and community development, adult and higher education, workforce development, transportation and placemaking across our eight-county region.

### UTILITY BILLING

Ph 989.386.7541 x201

As a local government unit located in the eight-county ECM PR-5 region, we are committed to participating in this planning initiative and to working as a partner in implementing the strategies and projects outlined in the East Central Michigan Prosperity Region 5 Regional Prosperity Plan (Economic Development strategy blueprint) that advance our collective goals and objectives in these areas.

### W/WWT PLANT

Ph 989.386.2321  
Fx 989.386.2387

### POLICE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2121  
Fx 989.386.0440

We wholeheartedly support the East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) 2016 application to the State of Michigan for continuing funding for this project. We strongly believe in and have witnessed the great results that regional collaboration and partnerships can achieve. We are absolutely committed to working together to respond to opportunities and address needs that are unique to our region. Thank you for your leadership in this initiative.

### FIRE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2151  
Fx 989.386.3020

Respectfully Yours,

Ken Hibel  
City Manager

### PARKS & RECREATION

Ph 989.386.7541 x213  
Fx 989.386.4508

### AIRPORT

Ph 989.386.0445  
Fx 989.386.4508



## Diane Lyon

---

**From:** mml.activehosted.com@emsend7.com on behalf of Michigan Municipal League [lgreen@mml.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 03, 2015 9:01 AM  
**To:** Diane Lyon  
**Subject:** Power Up Newly Elected Officials!

[Web version of email](#) [Send to a friend](#)

Share:  

# the LOOP

Your One-stop Spot for League Events & Education Training

 michigan municipal league

## Dec. 3, 2015

### You Won! Now What?

Dec. 2015 - Feb. 2016 | Various locations

The League is once again offering specialized training for newly elected officials. The Newly Elected Officials course covers core topics that help educate first-time elected officials, as well as seasoned officials, on the basic functions they will need to know in their role as public leaders. Courses will be held at a variety of locations, December– February. Check the [League calendar](#) for a session near you.



**PLEASE NOTE:** The Dec. 1 Grayling session has been rescheduled to Feb. 10, 2016 at Grayling City Hall

---

### Elected Officials Academy

Feb. 26-27 | Frankenmuth

Looking for more advanced training? Register for one of the two-day sessions listed below.

[EOA Core Weekender](#) - Offers the most critical information in four short courses - legal framework, leadership roles and responsibilities, financial management, and planning and



zoning.

[EOA Advanced Weekender](#) - Provides more in-depth knowledge on advanced planning and zoning issues, financial modeling, intergovernmental cooperation, and more.

---

## Upcoming Webinars

Feb. 9 - [Local Government 101](#)

Feb. 11 - [The Lobbyist 2.0](#)

Feb. 16 - [Open Meetings Act](#)

Feb. 23 - [Freedom of Information Act](#)



---

## Nominate Your Peers

**Jan. 15 | Nominations Due**

Do you have an outstanding chief elected official in your community? Nominate them for the [Michael A. Guido Leadership and Public Service Award](#).

Would you like to recognize a person who has provided exemplary service to the Michigan Municipal League? Nominate them for a [Jim Sinclair Exceptional Service Award](#).





**MML Calendar**  
Stay up-to-date on all the  
League events and trainings.



## Municipalities and Small Scale Development

The Incremental Development Alliance is presenting a workshop for municipal officials interested in knowing more about small scale development. It's designed to help individuals in small towns or big cities learn how neighborhood scale real estate projects work. The focus is on 1-3 story buildings with 2-20 residential units or a mix of uses.

[Small Scale Developer Training Workshop](#),  
Kalamazoo, Dec. 4-6.

## MLGMA Winter Institute

Join your colleagues for enlightening sessions on marketing your community, regional collaboration, mentoring, and more. Port Huron, Feb. 2-5, 2016.

[Register now.](#)

**Email management:** The Michigan Municipal League respects your right to privacy.

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to manage your Michigan Municipal League email subscription preferences.

If you no longer wish to receive any type of email notice from the Michigan Municipal League, [click here](#).

Michigan Municipal League, 1675 Green Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, USA