



MSU Extension Officer Manager: Katie Rogers



MSU Extension’s new office manager is a graduate of Lapeer County’s Almont High School. She’s also a University of Michigan graduate with a BS in Wildlife Biology. Her former positions in behavioral healthcare, human resources, and property management, are providing MSU Extension with a diverse skill set.

What Ms. Rogers likes most about her new position is “promoting and sharing the work and amazing educational resources of MSU Extension.” She and her family try to take advantage of every Antrim County season. Skiing, fishing, and boating are a few of their many activities.

Change in Jail Food Services

The Board of Commissioners has made a decision that is expected to save taxpayers more than \$50,000 each year. Starting February 1, food for Antrim County Jail inmates will be supplied by Cellmate Food Solutions, Inc.

The Sheriff’s Office staff have been working closely with the new company to integrate our systems with theirs, which includes the retention of one existing assistant cook position as our food service coordinator retires. Cellmate, in addition to its daily food services, also offers commissary goods and meal options that can be sponsored by an inmate’s family and friends. Cellmate is based in Tekonsha, Michigan.

County Building Exterior Renovations: January 2024 Update

Exterior brickwork installation is near 100% complete. The bricks will be cleaned when the weather warms. Though some exterior work is still underway (entrances, final metal panels), most of the current work is inside. Electrical, drywall, painting, and ceiling grids are all ongoing.

Proposed Public Safety Center: Survey Results

Results of the Fall 2023 survey have been received. The survey’s goal was to determine voters’ willingness to increase property taxes for a new Antrim County Public Safety Center (PSC). The overall response rate was 6.3%. Township response rates ranged from 2.3% to 13.2%.

In response to the question of voting for a 1.0 mill property assessment for 15 years to support construction of a new PSC, the GVSU report states that “the majority of respondents indicated that they support local funding for PSC construction.” The report noted a 95% confidence that the percent of voters Likely or Very Likely to vote for higher property taxes to support PSC construction of a PSC is between 47.5% and 58.9%.

The current Antrim County jail is nearly 70 years old, which is the length of time that the original Broad Street facility served as a county jail. With the current structure, repair and improvements would be very costly. Plumbing repairs alone have been estimated at \$750,000 to \$2,000,000. About 1/3 of a new PSC would be jail space; the remainder would house sheriff’s office personnel, 911 dispatch services, emergency management, and training space.

At this time, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners has made no motions to include a proposed PSC millage vote on any upcoming ballot. The full report from GVSU is available on the [Antrim County website](#) via “How Do I” at the top of the page, then “Get Information.”

Parking in the Cayuga Street lot will be available throughout the project, which remains on track for completion early this year. Funding for this safety-oriented renovation is primarily through the Federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant.



Renovated County Building Rendering: View from Cayuga St.