

New Road Patrol Deputies Hired



New Road Patrol Deputies, (L) Deputy Zack Ferrier and (R) Deputy Brandt Cygan.

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New Road Patrol Deputies

Scott Holzinger, Midland County Sheriff, recently announced the hiring of Deputy Zachary (Zack) Ferrier and Deputy Brandt Cygan to fill openings in the road patrol division created by the promotion of Sgt. Chad Thomas and the impending resignation of Deputy Szidik.

Deputy Ferrier began his law enforcement career as a Park Ranger in the City of Mt. Pleasant Police Department. He spent most of his law enforcement career with the Isabella County Sheriff's Office where he ended his time there as a K9 handler. Upon elimination of the entire road patrol division of the Isabella County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Ferrier was hired by the Alma Police Department where he had remained until accepting this position.

Deputy Cygan has been employed by the Bay City Department of Public Safety for the past three years. Deputy Cygan is active in the United States Army National Guard and has been since graduating from high school.

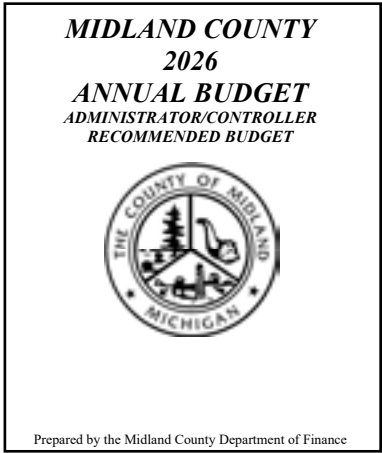


Sheriff Holzinger

2026 Budget Adopted

The 2026 Midland County budget was officially adopted by the Board of Commissioners on 11/4/25 and is now available on the County website: midlandcountymi.gov/annual-budget. The budget was presented to the board by Bridgette Gransden, Administrator/Controller in September and accomplishes the following:

- Plans for expenditures that can be supported by current revenues and existing reserves;
- Provides funding to ensure proper maintenance of County equipment and facilities;
- Maintains services and programs to support the quality of life enjoyed by Midland County residents; and
- Maintains a comprehensive compensation and benefits package for our workforce.



Behind the Scenes of Midland County



Recently Bridgette Gransden, Midland County Administrator/Controller, sat down with Logan Richetti on the Talk Midland podcast episode "Taxes, Trust, and How Local Government Really Works." This informative discussion is available through many podcasting apps and on the [Midland County Facebook page](#). The topics discussed include how Gransden came into the role of Administrator/Controller, the types of services offered by the county, the operation of the board of commissioners, county tax millages and more.





2026 Parks and Recreation Seasonal Job Descriptions

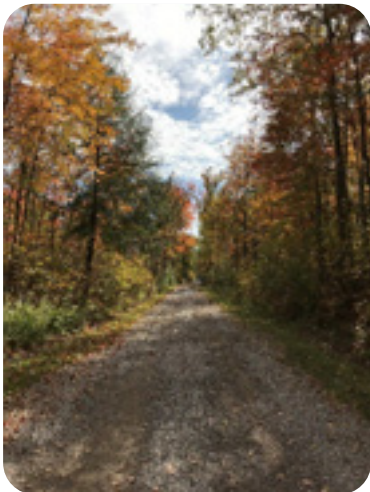
Park Ranger/Maintenance: Performs a variety of park maintenance tasks and participates in the preventative maintenance and landscaping of park facilities. Operates park vehicles and landscaping equipment. Oversees park visitors to ensure quality customer service, guest education and adherence to park rules and regulations. Works outside on a regular basis with exposure to various weather conditions. Performs routine preventative maintenance and inspections of equipment. Starting wage: \$15.29/hr. Employment season is early May through late October.

Gatekeepers: Seasonal Gatekeepers greet customers entering the park, answer customer questions, provide information on procedures or policies, assist in resolving complaints, collect money and issue permits. Starting wage; \$15.29/hr. Employment season is mid May through early September.

Requirements: Applicants must be at least 18 years of age or older, retain a high school diploma or equivalent and possess a clean driving record.

Candidates desiring consideration for this position must pass a physical/drug screen and criminal background check. Candidates must be able to work weekends, holidays and multiple shifts (40 hr. work-week).

Applications can be found on the at: <https://midlandcountymi.gov/human-contracts> and emailed to HR@co.midland.mi.us or dropped in hard copy form at:
Midland County Human Resources Department
220 W Ellsworth Street Midland, MI 48640-5194





A GUIDE TO **EMERGENCY READINESS**

GET TECH READY

- Snap photos of important documents and save them online or in a secure place you can access during an emergency
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family at the same time during emergencies
- Have external power sources available to charge phones and other devices in case of a power outage
- Sign up to receive 911 Nixle alerts

FINANCIAL READINESS

- Consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place
- Gather financial and critical personal, household and medical information

PLANNING WITH PETS

- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster
- Update your pet's microchip registration info so you can be contacted if your pet gets lost in a disaster
- Put your name and contact information on your pet's ID tag in case you're separated in an emergency
- Remember to include your pets in your family's emergency plans

MAKE A RESOLUTION

- Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact
- Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan



What's Going On With Vaccine Recommendations?

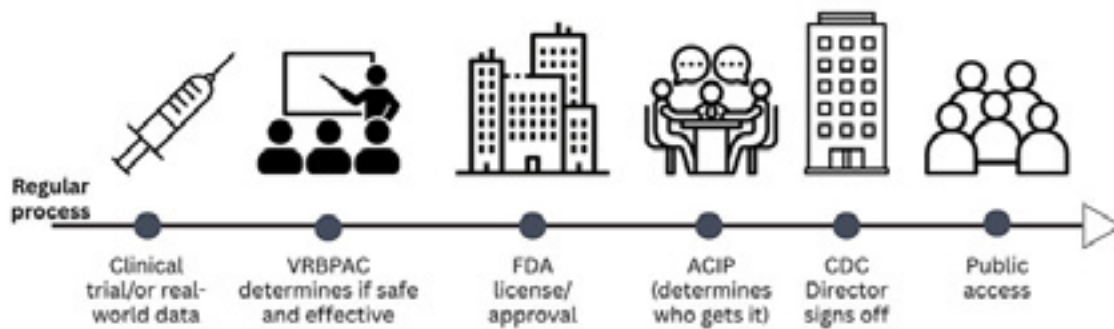
January 15, 2026



Dr. Catherine M Bodnar, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Midland County Department of Public Health

On January 5, 2026, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a new [childhood immunization schedule](#). This change was not based on any new research, new evidence or safety concerns, but rather an assessment of other countries' practices. A useful and detailed response to this assessment may be found at [evicollective.org/tec-briefs](#). This new schedule change may be causing confusion for both healthcare providers and families.

Brief Review of the Vaccine Approval and Update Process



VRBPAC: Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (FDA advisory committee)
FDA: Food and Drug Administration
ACIP: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC advisory committee)
CDC: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

The figure (1) depicts the “regular process” for vaccine approval. Once a vaccine is approved, the ACIP makes official recommendations for its use, both for new vaccines and established vaccines.

The ACIP provides expert, science and data-driven recommendations on vaccine use for the US through a rigorous GRADE framework and an “Evidence-to-Recommendations” framework to weigh benefits and harms. The CDC Director almost always adopts these recommendations due to the ACIP’s expert guidance. The ACIP periodically reviews established vaccines as new efficacy and safety data becomes available. These recommendations have guided clinical practice and insurance coverage decisions.

The ACIP review process was omitted altogether with the most recent change in the Childhood Immunization Schedule.

How We Got Here

The vaccine recommendation process was upended in June 2025, when the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, RFK Jr, dismissed the long-standing expert members and replaced them with individuals with limited relevant experience and/or anti-vaccine bias. Many medical and public health experts were outraged by this unprecedented overhaul of ACIP calling the action reckless and dangerous. (2-14) The current ACIP is

Some Definitions

Vaccination-act of receiving a vaccine (shot or oral dose)
Immunization-broader process where your body builds defenses (immunity) against a disease, either after natural infection or after vaccination
Passive immunization – Protection against diseases by transferring pre-formed antibodies, either naturally (mother to baby via placenta/breast milk) or administered (injections of immune globulin or monoclonal antibodies) for immediate defense when the body cannot make its own quickly. Examples include treatment for rabies, tetanus, or severe Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).
Immunity from either natural infection or vaccination may last just a few months or much longer, depending on the infectious disease in question.

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Vaccine Recommendations - continued

not following a rigorous review framework and is making decisions based upon weaker evidence or unsubstantiated reports. The meetings have been chaotic and confusing.

A number of childhood vaccines have been moved to “shared clinical decision-making” (SCDM). Shared clinical decision-making is meant to identify situations where evidence is limited, individual benefit varies or more than one reasonable option exists. Applying SCDM or “individual-based decision making” to routine vaccines only creates a false sense of scientific uncertainty, and shifts unnecessary burden onto clinicians and families. It was never intended for routine childhood vaccines backed by decades of consistent data.

The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy’s (CIDRAP) Vaccine Integrity Project (VIP) was created in April 2025 to safeguard the development and use of vaccines in the US, in response federal headwinds. The goal of the VIP is to keep immunization policies and programs grounded in the best available science, free from external influence and focused on optimizing protection of individuals, families and communities against vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs). VIP provides data to medical organizations to update immunization recommendations.

Michigan’s Response

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) restated their support of following the child and adolescent immunization schedule produced by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP) and the [American Academy of Family Physicians](#) (AAFP) in a [press release January 6](#). We at the local health departments fully support this guidance, as well as following the AAFP immunization schedule for [adults ages 19 and older](#) and following guidance on recommended vaccines during pregnancy from the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) (ACOG). We urge all health care providers to follow these evidence-based recommendations.

What about Insurance Coverage and School Requirements?

According to the [HHS fact sheet](#), their schedule change should not alter insurance coverage, including Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program

(CHIP), and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. It also will not impact the vaccines required for childcare and school entry in Michigan as these are defined in the [Communicable Disease Administrative Rules](#), R 325.176.

Bottom Line

The new immunization schedule announced by HHS and the CDC will not change how MDHHS and Midland County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) recommend or provide vaccinations. MCDPH will follow AAP, AAFP and ACOG immunization recommendations.

The new CDC immunization schedule will likely cause more confusion, continued decreases in vaccinations rates, and increase the risk of preventable infections at a time when vaccine preventable diseases are becoming more common. MCDPH will continue to do all we can to provide clarity on evidence-based recommendations, increase vaccination rates and decrease the risk of preventable infections.

The mission of the Midland County Department of Public Health is to promote and protect the public’s health through health promotion and disease prevention. Our vision is that Midland County will be a place where every person has a high-quality life and well-being.

You can contact the MCDPH by phone at 989-832-6380, or by e-mail at MCDPH@co.midland.mi.us. We invite community members to follow us on [Facebook](#) and visit our website: midlandcountymi.gov/health for ongoing public health information.

References:

1. Figure by [Your Local Epidemiologist](#)
2. [American Academy of Family Physicians](#)
3. [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
4. [American College of Physicians](#)
5. [American Medical Association](#)
6. [Infectious Disease Society of America](#)
7. [National Medical Association](#)
8. [American Public Health Association](#)
9. [American Academy of Physician Associates](#)
10. [National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners](#)
11. [American Pharmacists Association](#)
12. [California Medical Association](#)
13. [Medical Society of the District of Columbia](#)
14. [Vaccinate Your Family](#)



Know Your Radon Exposure Risk With a Free Test Kit

Free radon test kits are available at the Midland County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) in observance of National Radon Action Month (January).

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas with no smell, color, or taste. Radon can enter a home and become concentrated in confined air spaces such as household basements. When inhaled, radon gas can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer. In the United States, it is estimated that radon exposure causes 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually, making it the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

In Michigan, it is estimated that one in four homes have elevated radon levels. “The good news is that radon exposure is preventable, but the only way to know if radon is entering your home is to test,” shares Steve Stoddard, Environmental Health Director at the MCDPH.

Three steps you can take this January during National Radon Action Month:

- Test your home for radon. The test is simple and recommended every 2 years since homes settle, new cracks can form in foundation, and radon levels can change.
- Learn about radon. Visit the MCDPH Environmental Health- Radon website (midlandcountymi.gov/index.php?section=EH-Radon), or Michigan.gov/radon for more information.
- Encourage family and friends to test their home for radon.

Within Midland County, if a radon test is submitted and test results show elevated radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L, an environmental health professional with the MCDPH will contact you to discuss recommended protective measures.

Claim your FREE radon test kit during normal business hours Monday-Friday 8:00am-12:00pm & 1:00pm-5:00 pm at the Midland County Department of Public Health, located on the second floor of the Midland County Services Building, at 220 W. Ellsworth Street.



The mission of the Midland County Department of Public Health is to promote and protect the public's health through health promotion and disease prevention. Our vision is that Midland County will be a place where every person has a high-quality life and well-being.

You can contact the MCDPH by phone at 989-832-6380 or e-mail the MCDPH Environmental Health Division at ehinfo@co.midland.mi.us. We invite community members to follow us on [Facebook](#) and visit our website: midlandcountymi.gov/health for ongoing public health information.

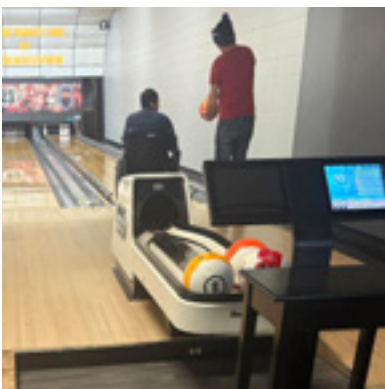




PINECREST FARMS



Residents and staff of Pinecrest Farms topped off a busy year with visits from Santa Claus, an Ugly Sweater Contest, A Northwood basketball game, bowling, lunch out and cheering on the Lions. All are looking forward to a happy and busy 2026!



MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure: Year in Review

While looking forward to additional progress in the new year, the Midland Business Alliance (MBA) Advisory Committee on Infrastructure shared milestones from 2025. The Advisory Committee is focused on reducing the frequency and severity of flooding in the region.

Early 2025

The County of Midland, City of Midland, the MBA, and many businesses and organizations collected and shared historical flood damage data with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for their experts to use in the General Investigation (GI) feasibility study, the second USACE study of the Tittabawassee River Watershed that launched in late 2024.

March 2025

The USACE Detroit District held a community open house in Midland to gather input from citizens. Held at Midland City Hall, the open house included a variety of “information stations” and interactive activities to learn from residents. The study’s local sponsors – County of Midland, City of Midland, and MBA – also interacted with citizens and answered questions. Several conservation-environmental groups also participated (Chippewa Nature Center, Little Forks Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, and Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network).

April-June 2025

In April, Advisory Committee members went to Lansing to meet with legislators. Then in June, they testified before the Michigan House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), presenting information on the Midland area’s flood reduction efforts.

Also in June, the USACE Detroit District announced that it received an additional \$1.2 million in federal funding under the Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan to continue the GI study. As a reminder, the GI study’s costs typically are split 50/50 between USACE and the local sponsors. This additional \$1.2 million is on the USACE side of the 50/50 cost-share “equation” and indicates the continuing federal commitment to this GI study, according to J.W. Fisher and Lee Ann Keller, co-chairs of the Advisory Committee.



MIDLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

September 2025

The USACE Detroit District returned to Midland for a community update presentation on September 24. (Watch the event recording [here](#).)

The MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure also launched its High Water Mark newsletter in September. (The current issue can be found [here](#).)

October 2025

“Thanks to State Rep. Bill G. Schuette and our legislators in Lansing, a new \$10 million grant for Midland’s flood reduction infrastructure was included in the state budget,” said Fisher.

“In October, we had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin and her staff to tell the story of the Midland area, our flood history, our work with the Army Corps of Engineers, and our needs in the coming years,” said Keller.

November 2025

Members of the Advisory Committee presented updates to the Midland County Board of Commissioners and the Midland City Council in early November.

Late 2025

Back in 2024, the Advisory Committee had worked with state legislators to help secure \$40 million in grants for the City of Midland to reduce flooding and improve infrastructure. With relatively tight deadlines on these grants, the Advisory Committee offered to employ Spicer Group engineers to work with City staff and analyze a long list of project options, looking for the projects with the highest impact that could be completed within grant time limits. The Midland City Council approved the recommendations in October 2024. In 2025, the engineering plans were completed and bid packages were prepared. Currently, the City is waiting for construction bids to be returned, and infrastructure construction is expected to get underway at the start of the 2026 season.

continued on next page



MBA Advisory Committee - continued

Looking at 2026

“Every week, every month, we have pressed on since the [Advisory Committee](#) was formed by the MBA Board of Directors in 2021,” said Fisher. Members of the Advisory Committee meet weekly. The full Advisory Committee meets monthly and includes representatives from the flood study’s local sponsors. Members of the Advisory Committee, the City of Midland, and the County of Midland typically meet with the Corps of Engineers every two weeks.

“There are many more hours outside of these meetings, including making calls, contacting legislators, giving presentations to community organizations, gathering information, and planning our next steps,” said Keller. “This volunteer team and our local partners are committed to finding solutions to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding and to increase the community’s resiliency.”

“It’s worth it because we see real progress,” said Tony Stamas, MBA president and CEO. “We also want to point to the generosity of local foundations and businesses who donated ‘seed money’ to the Advisory Committee – with many of them renewing their commitment – to support the committee’s research, planning, flood studies, and communication efforts.” These donors include the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, Corteva Agriscience, Dow Company Foundation, Fisher Companies, Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, Johnston Contracting, Midland Area Community Foundation, MyMichigan Health, Patricia and David Kepler Foundation, Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, and Three Rivers Corporation.

Art Seen Festival 2026

The 2026 Art Seen Festival is now accepting applications with artist portfolios for review! We’re so excited to bring our next community mural to Sanford on June 13th at Harry’s Sewer.

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 5, 2026:

- 1) Read the full call and fill out this form: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdEiCygu5p9HVn50njX8YPNGoC3bcgMRPoMmw5uM56-UvVvqA/viewform
- 2) Email your 3-10 portfolio images and recent resume to artseenfestival@gmail.com.

Learn more about the festival and view archives from past years at midlandfoundation.org/artseen.

“We are a year into the multi-year GI study with the Corps of Engineers, and this is the second study we’ve worked on with the Corps,” said Fisher. “We’re making progress – while still having many steps ahead of us. But we’re committed to finding good solutions to improve things for the area’s residents and employers.”

About the MBA Advisory Committee on Infrastructure

Formed in 2021 by the Midland Business Alliance Board of Directors, the advisory committee’s structure is made up of MBA board members, members of the community at large, an MBA staff representative, and ex officio (non-voting) representatives from the Four Lakes Task Force, the County of Midland and the City of Midland. The committee was charged with determining how best to work with local, state and federal partners to address longstanding issues that impact citizens, the business community and economic development. The first task was to address legacy flooding challenges and related sanitary sewer issues. In addition to communicating with stakeholders and collaborators, the committee also reports back regularly to the MBA Board of Directors. Visit MBAmi.org/FloodStudy for more information.

About the Midland Business Alliance

The Midland Business Alliance (MBA) represents more than 3,000 businesses as Midland’s business hub. The goal of the MBA is to support the attraction, development and growth of businesses throughout Midland by providing an integrated portfolio of tools and resources. Additionally, the MBA manages the Midland Area Farmers Market and Midland Blooms. Visit MBAmi.org for more information.





American Heart Association.



NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY[®]

Friday, February 6

**CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE
IS THE NO. 1 KILLER OF WOMEN.**

We wear RED for every woman's story of strength, survival, and sisterhood.

Because no woman should face cardiovascular disease alone.

Together, we create a community where every heart is seen, every voice is heard, and every life is celebrated.

WearRedDay.org | [#WearRedDay](https://twitter.com/WearRedDay)

Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by



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Midland County Phone Directory

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Administrator/Controller | 989-832-6797 |
| Board of Commissioners | 989-832-6775 |
| Circuit Court - Clerk | 989-832-6735 |
| Circuit Court - MI-Hope | 989-832-6810 |
| Circuit Court - Probation | 989-832-6760 |
| Community Corrections | 989-832-6646 |
| County Clerk | 989-832-6739 |
| District Court | 989-832-6700 |
| District Court - Probation | 989-832-6710 |
| Drain Commissioner | 989-832-6770 |
| Drug Court | 989-832-6864 |
| Emergency Management | 989-832-6750 |
| Equalization | 989-832-6844 |
| Facilities Management | 989-832-6390 |
| Finance | 989-832-6876 |
| Friend of the Court | 989-832-6801 |
| Health | 989-832-6380 |
| Human Resources | 989-832-6797 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Information Technology | 989-832-6653 |
| Jail | 989-832-6612 |
| Juvenile Care Center - Judge Cole | 989-837-6080 |
| Managed Assigned Counsel | 989-832-6823 |
| Mosquito Control | 989-832-8677 |
| Mental Health Court | 989-832-6834 |
| MSU Extension | 989-832-6648 |
| Parks and Recreation | 989-832-6876 |
| Pinecrest Farms | 989-832-6634 |
| Probate Court - Judge Cole | 989-832-6880 |
| Prosecuting Attorney | 989-832-6722 |
| Public Guardian | 989-837-7145 |
| Register of Deeds | 989-832-6820 |
| Sheriff's Department | 989-839-4600 |
| Township Code Authority | 989-837-6521 |
| Treasurer | 989-832-6850 |
| Trial Court Administrator | 989-832-6832 |
| Veteran's Services | 989-832-6843 |

Board of Commissioners Info Online

Check the Board's [Meeting Calendar](#).

Look up [agendas and minutes](#) for all Board and Committee meetings.

[View Recorded Meetings](#).

County of Midland
220 W. Ellsworth St.
MIDLAND, MI 48640

Midland County Newsletter

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