



Christina Kretschmer: Antrim County Transportation Director



In late June, Ms. Kretschmer took over the Director's role for Antrim County Transportation (ACT) after the retirement of the previous director. At that point, she had been serving as ACT's Lead Dispatch.

When asked about her new role, Ms. Kretschmer said "It would be a lie to say, 'I am not nervous' as I transition into my new role as the director." She then added that "we have a great staff here at ACT that provide a great foundation for our department and provide a wonderful service to our community."

Ms. Kretschmer went on to say that "as we move forward, we will continue to adapt to provide our community with the transportation needs they desire. My staff and I are committed to connecting our community by providing safe, efficient, and reliable transportation."

Ms. Kretschmer is a proud graduate of both Bellaire High School and Grand Valley State University.

Bellaire Dam: A Very Brief History

The original dam was constructed soon after the first settlers arrived. Its purpose was to power a sawmill and to make it easier to float logs. Soon after, Henry Richardi, owner of a woodenware factory next to the dam, was responsible for fitting the dam with equipment to generate electricity.



In the early 1900s, the City of Charlevoix needed an electrical power source for their street lights. This resulted in Charlevoix funding the renovation of the Bellaire

dam for their power generation. The dam generated power for many years and was decommissioned in the 1950s. In 1971, Antrim County took ownership of the Bellaire dam.

Beginning in 1973, the summertime water level of Intermediate Lake was established by a circuit court order. On November 1 of each year, the order calls for the level to be dropped to a certain level. The court has changed the legal lake level several times over the years.

In practice, the water level has a fluctuation of several inches with a significant rain or melt—even if the dam is wide open. However, most of the time the level is within an inch or so of the ordered level.

Update: Public Safety Center

Following is the ballot language approved by the Board of Commissioners for the November 4 election. No new millage will show up on property tax bills if this vote is approved. Additional information will be provided later this summer.

Shall the County of Antrim, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Eighteen Million Dollars (\$18,000,000) and issue its limited tax general obligation bonds, in one or more series, payable in not to exceed fifteen (15) years from the date of issuance, for the purpose of paying all or part of the costs to acquire, construct, furnish and equip a new Public Safety Center, including a jail facility, emergency management center, 911 dispatch center, and county sheriff department administrative facilities, together with all related site improvements?

The principal and interest on the bonds shall be payable from the County's annual operating tax levy, provided that the amount of taxes necessary to pay the principal and interest on the bonds shall not exceed the limit authorized by law.

Antrim Creek Natural Area: Programs

Four Saturday trail programs are planned for this year at ACNA, located at 9890 Old Dixie Highway, Ellsworth. Though there is no fee to attend, donations are welcome.

- July 19 at 10 am: **ACNA History Tour** with local ACNA historian, Carl
- July 26 at 10 am: **Dune Wetland Walk** with Arlene, Naturalist from Grass River Natural Area
- August 23 at 10 am: **Bird Walk & Native v. Non-Native Plants** with Tyler and Katie from CAKE Cisma
- September 27 at 10 am: **Nature Photography** with James from Grass River Natural Area

Elk Rapids Day Park: Concert in the Park by ArtRapids!

On Thursday, July 10, the Max Lockwood Trio played a well-attended concert at the Elk Rapids Day Park. Admission was free thanks to the sponsorship of the Elk Rapids Rotary Club.

