

Par Plan News



October 2021 | Issue 141

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Resources to Increase Awareness, Mitigate Risk and Respond to Cyber Threats

StopRansomware.com

The U.S. government launched [StopRansomware.gov](https://www.stopransomware.gov) as a one-stop location for resources to help individuals and organizations tackle ransomware more effectively.

The website provides tools and resources to learn:

- What ransomware is
- How to avoid being hit by ransomware
- What to do if hit by ransomware

Ransomware threatens our economy, national security, and critical infrastructure and services.

Public entities of all sizes are vulnerable to this type of attack and many have dealt with the economic and reputational impacts of ransomware incidents.

Learn how to mitigate your risk. Visit [StopRansomware.gov](https://www.stopransomware.gov).



Protect Your Systems From Attack

Free Cybersecurity Services for Local Governments

The information below is from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) webpage (www.cisa.gov/cyber-hygiene-services). It describes CISA's no-cost cyber hygiene services to reduce your risk of a successful cyberattack.

CISA, the Nation's risk advisor, works with partners to defend against today's threats and collaborates with industry to build more secure and resilient infrastructure for the future.

Adversaries use known vulnerabilities and phishing attacks to compromise the security of organizations.

CISA offers several scanning and testing services to help organizations reduce their exposure to threats by taking a proactive approach to mitigating attack vectors:

- Vulnerability Scanning
- Web Application Scanning
- Phishing Campaign Assessment
- Remote Penetration Test

How much does it cost? CISA cybersecurity assessment services are available at no cost.

continued on back page

Inside

2 RRGPFall Cycle Opens October 1

3 Fire Safety for Public Entities: Seminar on October 5

3 Board of Directors Election Results

Free Event: 2021 Michigan Cyber Summit

The 2021 Michigan Cyber Summit is October 21, 2021.

This free, full-day virtual conference brings together experts to provide timely content and address a variety of cybersecurity issues impacting the world.

Hear from government and industry leaders on the latest developments and gain insights into managing today's security challenges.

The agenda for the online conference will showcase recognized speakers and experts on topics such as:

- Government and private sector collaboration
- Cybersecurity and workforce development
- Cybersecurity infrastructure

Registration is required: <https://events.esd.org/cyber-summit>



The Par Plan's Risk Reduction Grant Program provides members reimbursement funds for eligible projects.

The Time is NOW to Apply for a Risk Reduction Grant

The Par Plan assists members in reducing specific risk exposures through its Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGP).

Since 2015, the Par Plan has awarded members more than \$6 million in risk reduction grants.

Twice a year, the Par Plan accepts RRGPs applications and awards funds for eligible projects.

The RRGPs Spring Cycle is open April 1 – May 31, and the Fall Cycle is open October 1 – November 30.

Given that public entities are especially vulnerable to ransomware attacks, consider applying for a grant to fund a ransomware preventive measure for your public entity.

The Fall 2021 RRGPs Grant Cycle Opens October 1!

Applications are accepted through November 30, 2021.

Suggestions for a ransomware prevention grant-funded project:

- Adding and maintaining security measures such as a firewall and anti-virus software
- Updating software and operating systems
- Implementing a cybersecurity training and awareness program for all employees

How to Apply

1. Visit www.theparplan.com and click the **Apply for a Grant** link.
2. Read the **Grant Guidelines** prior to submitting a grant application. *It is important to understand what is and is not funded by the program and projects that have maximum award limits.*
3. Refer to the **List of Grants Previously Awarded**. *These are indicative of risk reduction projects Par Plan members have implemented to reduce risk exposure.*
4. Complete and submit the **RRGP Application and required documents**.

www.theparplan.com/rrgp

Spring 2021 Risk Reduction Grant Program Awardees

Bark River Township - Delta
Bessemer Housing Commission - Gogebic
Birch Run Township - Saginaw
Bloomingdale Township - Van Buren
Blumfield Township - Saginaw
Bridgeport Charter Township - Saginaw
Burlington Township Fire - Calhoun
Byron Township - Kent
Colon Township - St. Joseph
Denton Township - Roscommon
East Bay Charter Township - Grand Traverse
Eden Township - Mason
Goodar Township - Ogemaw
Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority - Grand Traverse
Grant Township - Mason
Grass Lake Charter Township - Jackson
Hamilton Fire Department - Allegan
Hampton Charter Township - Bay
Hanover Township - Jackson
Harrison District Library - Clare

Houghton Housing Commission - Houghton
Lakeview District Fire Department - Montcalm
Leslie Township - Ingham
Luce County Housing Commission - Luce
Maple Grove Fire Department - Saginaw
Marathon Township - Lapeer
Marengo Township Fire Department - Calhoun
Markey Township - Roscommon
Mastodon Township - Iron
Mt. Pleasant Housing Commission - Isabella
Multi Lake Water and Sewer Authority - Washtenaw
Ogemaw District Library - Ogemaw
Oronoko Township - Berrien
Ovid Township - Clinton
Peaine Township - Charlevoix
Pennfield Charter Township - Calhoun
Pentland Township - Luce
Putnam Township Fire Department - Livingston

Selma Township - Wexford
Sparta Township - Kent
Springfield Township - Kalkaska
Springport Township - Jackson
Sumner Township - Gratiot
Thomas Township - Saginaw
Torch Lake Township - Antrim
Township of Lapeer - Lapeer
Unadilla Township Fire Department - Livingston
Vassar Township - Tuscola
Village of Almont - Lapeer
Village of Burlington - Calhoun
Village of Cassopolis - Cass
Village of Garden - Delta
Village of Hubbardston - Ionia
Village of Montgomery Fire Department - Hillsdale
Village of Suttons Bay - Leelanau
Wayland Area Emergency Medical Service - Allegan
White Cloud Area Fire Department - Newaygo
Wilson Township - Charlevoix

October 3 – 9 is Fire Prevention Week. Learn how to reduce risk by attending this upcoming Par Plan seminar on fire safety.

Fire Prevention for Public Entities

Free Risk Reduction Virtual Seminar

Tips & Tricks for Fire Safety

Join us Tuesday, October 5 at 1 p.m. for *Fire Prevention for Public Entities*, a free virtual seminar covering tips for fire safety.

The seminar is facilitated by Patrick Nelson, Risk Control Representative for Tokio Marine HCC – Public Risk Group, administrator of the Par Plan.

Pat's presentation will include fire loss examples and how to prevent them.



Before joining TMHCC – PRG, Pat Nelson served 27 years in the fire service, the last 17 as Chief for Bridgeport Charter Township. He has extensive knowledge in fire service operations including policy and procedure development and OSHA, MIOSHA, DEQ, DOT, and NFPA compliance, as well as ordinance and fire code compliance experience.

Attend this seminar to learn about:

- Fire Prevention Measures
- Extinguisher Requirements
- Furnace/Boiler Safety
- Flammable Liquids
- Fire Safety Related Suggestions for Risk Reduction Grant Program Applications *(See page 2 for program details.)*
- And More!

Don't Miss This Important Risk Reduction Seminar

Register Now

Visit theparplan.com and click the Free Virtual Risk Reduction Seminar – October 2021 link in the right column on the home page

or

watch your email for seminar invitations and use the link provided.

Board of Directors Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected members of the Par Plan Board of Directors.

We thank you for your service to our members and organization!

Newly Elected Board Members



David Blake Thomas
Supervisor, Trout Lake Township, Chippewa County

David moved to Trout Lake in 2016 from the Chicago area after retiring as an attorney and executive with Kraft Foods.

Earlier in his career, he served in the U.S. Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor in Washington DC.

David currently serves as Township Supervisor for Trout Lake Township in Chippewa County and as Chairman of the St. Ignace - Area Emergency Medical Services Council.

David enjoys snowmobiling and in 2018, he created and now oversees trail grooming operations in the Trout Lake area as part of the Straits Area Snowmobile Club.



Michael Boskee
Supervisor,
Elba Township,
Lapeer County

Michael is serving his fourth term as the Elba Township Supervisor, and previously served as Chair of the Planning Commission.

Mike started his service with the Township with the Elba Fire Department, becoming a Captain and State Certified Instructor.

He serves on various boards including, MTA - Lapeer Chapter, Lapeer County 911, Construction Code Authority, Thumb Narcotics Unit and Genesee County Water and Waste.

Re-Elected Board Members



Linda Preston
Supervisor, Pokagon Township, Cass County

Linda has been involved in local government since 1984 when she was elected Clerk of Pokagon Township. In 2005, she was elected Supervisor, the position she still holds.

Linda was elected to the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) Board of Directors as District 22 Director in 2005. She served on various committees and was selected to the Executive Committee where she held all offices, leading up to MTA President in 2015.

Linda has been involved in the Southwest Michigan Planning

continued on back page

The Par Plan is unique as it is governed by Michigan township public officials. These officials make up the member-elected Board of Directors.



Board of Directors

continued from page 3

Commission as Chair, Vice Chair and is the current Secretary, representing the commission on the Michigan Association of Regions, having served as Chair and Vice Chair of the association.

She was elected to the Par Plan Board of Directors in 2018.



Judy Maike

Supervisor, Everett Township, Newaygo County

Judy grew up on a farm in Saginaw County and moved to Newaygo County in 1973.

She became involved with Everett Township when appointed to the Planning Commission and Library Board, and later elected as Trustee and most recently, serving her third term as Township Supervisor.

Judy is also an active real estate broker and works with her daughter in the business.

For more information about the Par Plan Board of Directors, visit theparplan.com/board-of-directors.

Board of Directors Meeting

October 22, 2021
9 a.m.

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
800 Harker St., Port Huron, MI



Scholarships Available for Planning and Zoning Courses

The Par Plan offers members reimbursement scholarships for the Michigan State University Extension Citizen Planner and Zoning Administrator courses.

The Citizen Planner Online course is a self-paced course available 24/7 for your convenience. The Zoning Administrator Certificate Program is also conducted online.

For information on upcoming trainings or how to register for either program, email cplanner@msu.edu or call 517-353-6472.

For Par Plan scholarship information, visit theparplan.com/scholarships-2.

Cyber Services

continued from front page

Who can receive services? Federal, state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as public and private sector critical infrastructure organizations.

When will my services begin?

Vulnerability Scanning and Web Application Scanning typically begin within one week of returning the appropriate forms.

Who performs the service? Cyber Hygiene services are provided by CISA's highly trained information security experts equipped with top-of-the-line tools.

Our mission is to measurably reduce cybersecurity risks to the Nation by providing services to government and critical infrastructure stakeholders.

Get Started

Email vulnerability_info@cisa.dhs.gov with the subject line "Requesting Cyber Hygiene Services" to get started.

For more about CISA and its services, visit www.cisa.gov.

Share Your Story

We want to feature stories about your community:

- Grant projects
- Individual citizen accomplishments
- Community events such as festivals, fairs, fundraisers

Submit your news and pictures to: theparplan@tmhcc.com.

Stay Connected

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