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In the Neighborhood

JUNE 18, 2009

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BATTLE CREEK: Lakeview To Post Expenses Online

Lakeview School District will start posting its expenditures alongside its board meeting minutes online each month.

In an effort to increase transparency, Lakeview trustees on Monday agreed with an administrative recommendation to post the district's monthly check registry online starting in July.

"It is a simple step we can take to keep the public informed," said Wendy Meyer, Lakeview's communication coordinator.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy has urged districts and government units to post check registries online. As of March, only 42 Michigan school districts had done so, according to the center's Web site.

AREA: Airport Gets \$6.6 Million

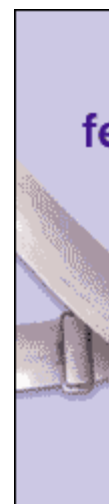
The U.S. Department of Transportation is awarding the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek [International Airport](#) more than \$6.6 million to construct a new terminal, rehabilitate a runway and remove obstructions.

The funding comes as part of the Airport Improvement Program, which provides grants to public agencies and other entities for the planning, development and improvement of public-use [airports](#) that meet certain criteria.

In a statement announcing the grant, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said the money will help "make [air travel](#) easier for Michiganders and visitors alike."

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Enquirer Seeks Input About Schools

Are you a parent who thinks your kids' school district could do a better job of marketing itself to attract more students, or at least keep the ones it has? Or do you think your child's schools do a fine job of marketing?

Either way, the Enquirer would like to hear from you for a story.

If you'd like to share your thoughts, please contact reporter Justin A. Hinkley at 966-0698 or jhinkley@battlecr.gannett.com.

EMMETT TOWNSHIP: Companies Vie To Open Hotels

Public Services Director Dennis Dunnigan said Emmett Township has entertained three inquiries from companies hoping to open hotels near FireKeepers Casino, although it's unclear if any will come to fruition.

New businesses opening to catch some of the casino's traffic, and the jobs those businesses would create, were major selling points FireKeepers officials used to try to sway critics.

Dunnigan said the township has received nothing more than inquiries from any type of enterprise and that no plans for a new business near FireKeepers have ever been brought before the township, despite many rumors.

FireKeepers, set to open in early August, is expected to draw customers by the millions every year, officials said.

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