



# Shiawassee County Veterans News

Volume 1 Issue 24

Serving Those Who Served

April 2018

## Calendar of Events:

- April 1st Easter
- April 18th Veterans Trust Funds Meeting 1pm
- April 18th Veterans Relief Fund Meeting 3pm



## Featured Topics

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**Welcome...**  
**Vet Affairs Monthly Newsletter by Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs & Services.**  
**Each month look for information and current events to keep you updated. All monthly newsletters will be available online and in our office. Sign up at [vetaffairs@shiawassee.net](mailto:vetaffairs@shiawassee.net) to receive monthly newsletter via email.**

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## Notes from the Director

The Veterans Affairs Department would like to welcome Michael A. Reeve as the new Director of Veterans Affairs.

Reeve served our country for 27 years, retiring as an Army Major having served in a variety of active leadership, operational and staff positions. Before becoming an Officer, he spent 10 years as an enlisted Soldier earning the rank of Sergeant. He was then selected for Officer Candidate School (OCS) where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery, April of 1997.

"I'm excited to join Veteran Affairs and look forward to utilizing my professional and military service experience in providing high quality service to the Veterans and their families of Shiawassee County. It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to assist and help our Shiawassee Veterans and am fortunate to have inherited an amazing team".

Prior to his selection as Shiawassee County's Veterans Affairs Director, he

served as the Director of Veteran and Agency services for MIAT, College of Technology in Canton, Michigan.

In addition to his education, work experience and military background, Reeve hails from a family of veterans. His father, Ed Reeve, was a Corporal in the Marine Corps, his brother John, served as a Navy Corpsman, and his grandfather, Thomas, retired as a Master Sergeant from the Air Force.

He is married to Carol Reeve and has six children and one grandson.



## 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM (VCP)

*The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) is a benefit that allows eligible Veterans to receive health care from a community provider rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.*

### 1. Am I eligible for the Veterans Choice Program?

- To be eligible for the program, you must be enrolled in VA health care and must also meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - You are told by your local VA medical facility that you will need to wait more than 30 days for an appointment.
  - Your residence is more than a 40 mile driving distance from the closest VA medical facility with a full-time primary care physician.
  - You need to travel by air, boat, or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to your house.
  - You face an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to the closest VA medical facility based on a geographic challenge, environmental factor, medical condition, or other specific clinical decisions. Staff at your local VA medical facility will work with you to determine if you are eligible for any of these reasons.
  - You reside in a State or a United States Territory without a full-service VA medical facility that provides hospital care, emergency services and surgical care, and reside more than 20 miles from such a VA medical facility. Note: This criterion applies to Veterans residing in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also note that some Veterans in New Hampshire reside within 20 miles of White River Junction VAMC and are therefore not eligible for the Veterans Choice Program.

### 2. What if I think I am eligible?

- Call the VCP Call Center at 866-606-8198 or visit the Veterans Choice Program website to verify eligibility and set up an appointment here.

### 3. Can I call my non-VA doctor to make an appointment?

- No, please call the VCP Call Center at 866-606-8198 to verify eligibility and set up an appointment.

### 4. How is the 40 mile calculation determined?

- This calculation is based on the driving distance from your permanent residence (or active temporary address) to the closest VA facility, including Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and VA Medical Centers. You are eligible if you live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility that has a full-time primary care physician.

### 5. If I am eligible for the Veterans Choice Program, can I receive

**5. If I am eligible for the Veterans Choice Program, can I receive Beneficiary Travel for travel to appointments with a VCP provider?**

- Yes, the Choice Act does provide funding to pay for travel to VCP providers for Veterans who are eligible for Beneficiary Travel. However, it did not provide any new Beneficiary Travel eligibility

**6. If I didn't get my Choice Card or I lost my Choice Card, what do I do?**

- You do not need your Choice Card to access the VCP. If you didn't receive a Choice Card or lost your Choice Card, simply call 866-606-8198 to find out if you are eligible and to make an appointment.

**7. How do I get my prescription filled if I use the Veterans Choice Program?**

- The community provider you see through the VCP can issue a prescription for up to a 14 day supply of a national formulary drug. You may have the 14 day supply filled at any non-VA pharmacy of your choosing.
- Prescriptions can be reimbursed through the Business Office/Non-VA Care Coordination Office at VA facilities. This reimbursement may take 30-45 days to process, and requires a copy of the prescription and the original receipt. Veterans cannot be reimbursed at the VA Pharmacy.
- For prescriptions needed past 14 days, please follow standard procedures to fill a prescription at the VA pharmacy.

**8. If I use the Veterans Choice Program, does that affect my VA health care?**

- No, not at all. You do not have to choose between the two. The VCP is here to make it easier to access the care you need. VA is building a high-performing integrated health care network to deliver the best of VA and the community. This integrated network will give Veterans more choices to access care and ensure care is delivered where and when you need it.

**9. What is my responsibility for copayments to my other insurance?**

- Nothing. VA is now the primary coordinator of benefits for VCP, so you are only responsible for your VA copayment.
- Your VA copayment will be determined by VA after the care is provided. VA copayments will be billed by VA after the appointment.

**10. How does the new VCP extension law affect me?**

- A new law, enacted April 19, 2017, made three key changes to help improve the VCP. The law removed the expiration date for the program, made VA primary coordinator of benefits for services provided to you, and it removed barriers with sharing necessary health information with community providers.

# **DRIVERS NEEDED**

**THE SHIAWASSEE COUNTY DAV VAN NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS  
TO TRANSPORT VETERANS TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL  
APPOINTMENTS.**

**CALL SHIAWASSEE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS AT  
(989) 743-2346 OR ASK STAFF FOR AN APPLICATION**



# **WE WANT YOU!**

**DONATE YOUR TIME AND HELP A VETERAN IN NEED.**

American Legion Elsie

Post #502

**43rd Old Time**

**Country Jamboree**

**April 11, 2018**

**6pm-9pm Donation Only**

Anyone that plays a stringed instrument  
can

join the player singers.

Open mike MC Mr. Tim Evans.

There is a sign up sheet and this deter-  
mines

when you sing or play at the Jamboree.

Maybe you would just like to sit and listen  
to

people play. Come on out, many people  
do!

**American Legion**

**220 South Ovid St.**

**Elsie, MI 48831**

**(989)834-2438**

**Every  
Sunday  
Break-  
fast  
8am-Noon**



VFW

519 S. Chipman St.  
Owosso, MI 48867

(989)723-8655



# The 34th Annual Farm City Dinner

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Memorial Healthcare Auditorium

Social Time: 6pm Dinner: 6:30pm

**\$15.00 Per Person**

Spouses & Guest Welcome



## Bill Schuette

Attorney General

Bill was first elected Attorney General in 2010 and was re-elected to a second term on November 4, 2014. From the beginning, Bill Schuette has been a powerful Voice for Victims. He formed the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking and engineered the plan to fund the testing of thousands of long-abandoned DNA evidence boxes to provide justice to victims of sexual assault.

### Proceeds go to sponsor Ag Scholarships

#### Co-Sponsors:

- Shiawassee MSU Extension Service
- Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee
- Kiwanis of Owosso
- Shiawassee-Owosso Kiwanis Club
- Printing compliments of The Independent Newspapers / 160 media

Mail This Form and Your Check By April 6, 2018

TO: Kiwanis/Farm City Committee • Shiawassee County Farm Bureau  
915 N. Shiawassee, Corunna, MI 48817

OR register with this link: <https://tinyurl.com/farmcity2018>

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for me at the Farm City Dinner on Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Check enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15.00 per person)

Payable to: Kiwanis/Farm City Committee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations Serving the Needs of Farm and City Brought Together For An Evening of Exchange

# Welcome Home Veterans **GOLF FUNDRAISER** **ANNUAL**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2018**

*11 am Shotgun Start*

*Twin Brooks Golf Club, Chesaning, MI*

## **SIGN UP**

*Early Bird Sign up by August 3rd*

*\$55 Player / \$220 Team of 4*

*Sign up by Monday, August 14th*

*\$60 Player / \$240 Team of 4*

*Best Ball Scramble Singles*

*Can be matched up.*

## **PRIZES**

*1st, 5th, 8th & Last Place*

*Door Prizes*

*50/50's*

*Longest Drive - Male/Female*

*Closest to the Pin - Men/Seniors*

*Longest Putt - Female*

## **BETTING HOLE**

*\$5 / 3 Putts - Each ball in hole is one entry into drawing.*

## **WHAT'S FOR DINNER?**

*N.Y. Strip Steak • Potato • Dessert • Extras*

## **HOT DOG AT THE TURN**

*Skins - \$20 Team*

*Mulligans - \$20 Team (1 per player)*

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*Questions regarding sign up or donations please contact:  
Kim Bowen: kimmybo@chartermi.net or 989-277-9292  
Robert Hardy: romarhardy67@frontier.com or 989-277-5173*

VET CENTER  
SERVICES ARE FREE TO  
ELIGIBLE SERVICE  
MEMBERS

Need to speak with  
someone now? Call the  
Combat Call Center:  
1-877-WAR-VETS



## Vet Centers in Michigan

Dearborn: (313) 277-1428  
19855 Outer Drive, Ste 105W

Detroit: (313) 822-1141  
11214 E. Jefferson Ave.

Escanaba: (906) 233-0244  
3500 Ludington St., Suite 110

Traverse City: (231) 935-0051  
3766 N US 31 S

Grand Rapids: (616) 285-5795  
2050 Breton Rd, S.E. Suite 100

Macomb County: (586) 412-0107  
42621 Garfield Road, Suite 105

Pontiac: (248) 874-1015  
44200 Woodward Ave., Suite 108

[WWW.VETCENTER.VA.GOV](http://WWW.VETCENTER.VA.GOV)

Saginaw Vet Center  
5360 Hampton Place  
Suite 200  
Saginaw, MI 48604  
(989) 321-4650



# Vet Center

## READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES



## Welcome Home

In Crisis? Call:  
1-800-273-8255

## Who we are...

The Vet Center program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era Vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Over time Congress extended eligibility to encompass other war-era Veterans, but maintained the premise of "Combat" Veterans. Recent legislation now authorizes Vet Centers to provide Readjustment Counseling Services to certain Active Duty Service Members and their families.

Vet Centers are community based programs, and part of the Veterans Health Administration.

The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services to eligible Service Members to assist them in making a positive post deployment readjustment to life. There are now 53 Vet Centers in the Midwest District.



## Confidentiality and Privacy

Vet Center Staff members respect the privacy of all Veterans and hold in the strictest confidence all information disclosed during the counseling process is private. Information is not released without the clients written permission except in certain circumstances to avert an imminent crisis.

## Eligibility for Services

**Active Duty Service Members** - members of the Armed Forces, including a reserve component, who:

- served on active duty in a theater of combat operations or
- served in an area at a time during which hostilities occurred in that area or
- remotely controlled an unmanned aerial vehicle engaged in combat with an enemy of the United States or against an opposing military force in a theater of combat operations or
- provided direct emergency medical or mental health care, or mortuary services to the casualties of combat operations or hostilities within or outside the theater of combat operations or area of hostilities.

**Family Members of Active Duty Service Members** - an individual who is a member of the family of the Service Member including spouse, child, step-family member and extended family member or a person who lives with the Service Member but is not a member of the family of the Service Member. Family services are provided when found to aid in the readjustment of the Service Member.

**Sexual Trauma/Harassment Counseling** - Male or female Service Member who experienced sexual assault and/or sexual harassment.

**Bereavement** - Parents, spouses and children of Armed Forces personnel who died while in service to their country. Family members of Reservists and National Guardsmen who die while on duty are included.



## Our Mission

Provide Outreach, Readjustment Counseling, and Referral Services

## Our Values

Easy Access  
Quality Services  
Client Satisfaction  
Financial Stewardship

## Available Services...

Individual Counseling  
Group Counseling  
Marital and Family Counseling  
Bereavement Counseling  
Sexual Trauma Counseling  
Education and Outreach  
Referral for VA Benefits Assistance  
Referral to Medical Services  
Alcohol/Drug Treatment Referral  
Employment Referral  
Referral to Community Resources

# Health

Take a confidential screening test on MyHealthVet at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov). Click on the mental Health button for alcohol use and substance abuse screenings.

Talk to your health care team about your results and how to get help.

Instead of ordering alcohol at a restaurant, choose a healthy, low-calorie drink, such as water with lemon or unsweetened tea.

## PUSH BACK THE DRINK

**Alcohol dependence is a serious health issue that affects many people, including Veterans. You or someone you know may suffer from this if they:**

- ◆ **Have a strong craving for alcohol**
- ◆ **Continue to use alcohol despite harm or personal injury**
- ◆ **Aren't able to limit their drinking**
- ◆ **Feel physically ill when drinking stops**
- ◆ **Need to increase the amount of alcohol they drink to feel the effects**

## Veterans encouraged to start conversation about mental health with online tool

“How are you feeling?”

It's a question sometimes asked in the midst of casual conversation, but for veterans it could be the start of an important conversation about their mental health – and how they can seek help.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency encourages all veterans to ask themselves that very question. Mental health is a sensitive yet important subject, and for this reason, MVAA has collaborated to offer veterans an online tool to screen for mental health concerns such as depression, bipolar, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, alcohol and drug abuse and eating disorders.

In conjunction with Screening for Mental Health, a nonprofit organization providing innovative mental health and substance abuse resources, MVAA created the free online mental health and substance abuse screening tool in October. Encouraging veterans to get a “checkup from your neck up,” the anonymous online screening is available 24/7.

“Mental health is key to overall health, and MVAA wants to make sure all Michigan veterans have the tools they need to care for themselves both mentally and physically,” MVAA Director James Robert Redford said. “With this online tool, veterans can complete a quick and easy mental health screening and get the help and information they need when necessary.”

The screening begins by asking veterans to select a statement that best fits how they have been thinking or behaving recently. Based on the first response, veterans then answer a brief set of questions about themselves and how they are feeling. The survey ends with general explanations about their moods and behaviors as well as available mental health care support and where to find care closest to them.

The majority of veterans who used the mental health screening tool between October 1, 2015 and April 30 were aged 65-74 (25 percent), 25-34 (20 percent) and 35-44 (19 percent). Seventy-

seven percent of all veterans who went through the screening were male.

Forty-three percent of participants served Post-9/11 and 35 percent served during the Vietnam War era.

In an effort to promote the online mental health and substance abuse screening tool, MVAA created business cards for benefits counselors and Veterans Treatment Court personnel to distribute to local veterans and their families. The card lists the screening tool website in addition to the veterans crisis line phone number.

Benefits counselors who would like additional business cards for the mental health screening tool are encouraged to call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838).

Veterans can find their nearest benefits counselor by visiting [MichiganVeterans.com](http://MichiganVeterans.com). To take the online survey, go to [MichiganVeterans.com/Mental-Health-Screening](http://MichiganVeterans.com/Mental-Health-Screening).