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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **BENTLEY TO INTRODUCE VISION TO ATTAIN FULL POTENTIAL OF NATIONAL PARK IN MONROE COUNTY**

MONROE, Mich. – Superintendent Scott J. Bentley will introduce a proposed community vision and planning project to attain the full potential of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe County during a presentation on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. at Monroe County Community College.

The presentation is free and open to the public and will take place in the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater on the college's Main Campus, which is located at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd. in Monroe.

Based on his experiences as superintendent of San Antonio Missions National Park, Bentley will detail the potential for the development of a River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan – a joint community development initiative to achieve the greatest possible impact from the new park on the economy and quality of life of the region.

The River Raisin Heritage Corridor runs through heart of Monroe County and includes landmarks such as the national park, Frenchtown Industrial Park, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (Ford Marsh), Sterling State Park, La-Z-Boy Inc. and its museum, the River Raisin Heritage Trail, the Custer Equestrian Monument, Historic Downtown Monroe, the Monroe County Historical Museum, the Mall of Monroe, Horizon Outlet Center and more.

(more)

Some of the goals of the River Raisin Heritage Corridor plan would be to:

- Revitalize the River Raisin Corridor through economic development that is focused on community heritage and natural resources, business creation, new industry and education;
- Ensure the protection and effective use of investments and maximize their return;
- Promote and preserve the region's greatest natural and cultural assets;
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of shared leadership and coordination; and
- Leave a legacy of future economic vitality.

The goals of the plan would extend regionally to incorporate nearby War of 1812 historical sites such as Fort Detroit; Historic Amherstberg, Ontario; Fort Meigs in Perrysburg Ohio; and Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

The River Raisin Heritage Corridor also has numerous regional and national connections on which the plan would capitalize, including U.S. Westward Expansion, the Trail of Tears, Gen. Custer's involvement in the Civil War and Indian wars, and automotive history.

At Congressman John Dingell's request, Scott Bentley has given this presentation to a broad spectrum of the community leadership in Monroe County. The presentation spurred broad commitments to pursue a coordinated planning process.

"I am pleased that the Monroe County Historical Society and Monroe County Community College are offering a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to be informed and inspired by the enormous potential in the future development of the River Raisin Heritage Corridor," said U.S. Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Dearborn).

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“With the strong support and guidance of the community, the River Raisin National Battlefield Park will be able to maximize its utmost potential and have the greatest positive impact in our entire region. I was inspired by Scott’s presentation, and I am sure that others will be too.”

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