




ILLUMINATING IDEAS

Sunshine Week 2007 is fast approaching. We will be celebrating openness in Government from March 11-17.

In upcoming weeks we will be inserting this newsletter into the Bulletin to give our members ideas to implement during **Sunshine Week**. Our goal is to educate the public about the importance of open government in their everyday lives.

If your newspaper has an idea from years past or for this year, please e-mail lisa@michiganpress.org to let other MPA members know what you're doing.

IDEAS:

-  During **Sunshine Week** mark stories in your newspaper that use public records information with a special icon. This will help your readers understand how important access to these records is in providing them with information about their communities.
-  Editorialize about the importance of openness. In the new era of high security it is imperative that the public understands that sunshine is a disinfectant and helps keep our government officials honest.
-  Write stories that provide good examples of open government. Did a school district reveal that a bus driver was caught for drunk driving? Did your County Commission conduct a very open and candid public meeting about a zoning issue? Did the DNR release lake quality reports?

