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VOLUME 3

ILLUMINATING IDEAS

Governor Jennifer Granholm has declared March 11-17, **Sunshine Week** in Michigan.

The proclamation issued by the Governor emphasizes the importance of the citizen's right to know how they are being represented and how their tax dollars are being spent.

To view the proclamation you can go to:

michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442_25488-161063--,00.html.

If you have any ideas for promoting openness in government please contact Lisa McGraw by e-mail at lisa@michiganpress.org.

IDEAS



The San Jose Mercury News opened **Sunshine Week** with a resounding call to its City Council to enact an open government law. The paper not only editorialized in favor of the measure, it also drafted a carefully crafted model law as a starting point.

If your local government does not have an OMA or FOIA law follow the Mercury News lead and urge them to do so.



The County Courier, Enosburg, Vt.: In his editorial in advance of **Sunshine Week**, Editor Ethan Dezotelle of the weekly *County Courier* made his point both visually and with words by redacting portions of the text. "There's always room for more sunshine in our lives. When it comes to government, we just have to be willing to stand up in the darkness and demand it," he wrote.

Sending copies of an editorial with redacted text to local government officials would be a great follow-up for the above idea. It would give them a sense of what it is like to have information withheld.



Put a quiz in your paper to see how much people know about what kind of access they have to their government.

