




ILLUMINATING IDEAS


Jerry Tidwell, President of the National Newspaper Association said the following in a recent **Sunshine Week** editorial. "I have two messages for newspapers and their readers. One is: remind public servants that we trust them the most when we know the most about what they are doing. The other is: read the newspaper. It's the best way to enjoy the sunshine."


Sunshine Week begins this Sunday, March 11. Hopefully all of Michigan's newspapers will be participating and using their publications to inform the public about the importance of open government during the course of the week.


Thank you in advance to all who participate.

IDEAS

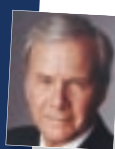
 The Michigan Press Association and the *Lansing State Journal* would like to remind you Attorney General Mike Cox will be hosting a FOIA/OMA seminar in Lansing at the State Library of Michigan on Wednesday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. This seminar would be a great resource for newsrooms to help educate reporters about government access in Michigan.

 Have a special section on your Web site all week highlighting open government.

 Go to SunshineWeek.org to see what other newspapers around the country do to promote sunshine. Also check out this site to see some recently developed house ads featuring Tom Brokaw, Ben Bradlee and Judy Woodruff.

 Go to MichiganPress.org after Sunshine Week 2007 to see some of the highlights from Michigan newspapers.


Information is
FREEDOM



"If we present ourselves to the world as patrons of democracy, then we must be vigilant stewards at home of the oxygen that it requires - access to what our government is doing and the right to speak freely about it. The Greatest Generation fought valiantly to preserve and protect those freedoms. It is up to us to ensure during Sunshine Week and all year that their sacrifices were not for naught."


Tom Brokaw, NBC News

KNOW MORE. In our democracy, information belongs to the people. Information enlightens. It empowers. During Sunshine Week, celebrate your Right to Know. And insist on it all year.



www.sunshineweek.com


Information is
ESSENTIAL



"Open government laws are absolutely essential to getting the information officials might prefer to see locked away. When you're seeking information, you know that with these laws you're on the side of right. Sunshine Week is an opportunity for journalists, the public and government officials to reinforce the importance of these laws and their foundations."

Ben Bradlee, The Washington Post

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Information is
STRENGTH



"Government decision making in the United States should be as transparent as possible. Ours is a democratic system - of, by and for the people - and we ought to know what's going on. We're a stronger society because information - good and bad - flows freely."

Judy Woodruff, PBS NewsHour

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

Protecting your right to know



Daniel Zakroczeni / The Buffalo News

"Secrecy is the beginning of tyranny."

— AMERICAN AUTHOR ROBERT HEINLEIN

take advantage of house ads