

March, 2016

## ADMINISTRATION

Twp Hall - 668-0270  
Cemetery  
Clerk  
Information  
Manager  
Supervisor

Assessing - 669-6494

Building - 668-0278

DARA – 482-5117

Fire - 669-0071  
Administration

Planning/Zoning  
669-6576

Police - 669-6578  
Administration

Treasurer - 668-1411

## CLINTON COUNTY

1-888-224-2450  
Toll Free

## POLICE & FIRE ASSISTANCE

Fire - 9-1-1  
EMT/Ambulance  
Police - 9-1-1  
State Police – 322-1911

## TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor  
Rick Galardi  
Clerk  
Diane Mosier  
Treasurer  
Phyllis Daggy  
Trustees  
Johanna Balzer  
Steve Musselman  
Brian Ross  
David Seeger

Manager  
Rodney H. Taylor

[www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org)

## SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY

An important part of the local government process is provided by residents just like you who serve on Committees and Commissions. These individuals are making decisions about how our community develops, are considering variances to local regulations, and are even making decisions about local property values. When you see them out and about in our community, tell them "Thank You" for their service. Everyone benefits from the service of these dedicated residents/property owners.

**Planning Commission:** Adam Bertram, Dale Dailey, Tim Fair, Bruce Keilen, Kristen Krol, Abby Lorenzen, & Marsha Zimmerman

**Board of Review:** Concetta D'Agostino, Lois Baumer, Al Harrison, Ted Reuschel

**DeWitt District Library Board:** Matthew Boeve, Brian Byars, Wayne Summers

**DARA:** Cynthia Robinson & Doug Simon

**Sister City Community Board:** Peggy Brown, Kily Buta, James Sinnamon

**Corridor Improvement Authority:** Chuck Allen, Max Calder, Rich Kelley, Butch Mohre, Tonia Olson, Scott Randall

**Salary Compensation Commission:** Tim Brannan, Bill Bupp, Dick Byelich, Scott Hummel

**Board of Appeals:** Jeff Carpenter, Kristen Krol, Bob Reese, Andrew Richards, Don Riel

**Next Michigan Development Corp:** Bob Showers

**Public Safety Committee:** Mary Buzzie, Joe Galardi, Tom Hendrickson, Bonnie Oetman

**Sewer Authority Members:** Mark Helinski, James Kurt

There are others who meet infrequently, as needed, and many ad hoc committee assignments that are of a temporary nature. All are important to the local government process. Most committees and commissions have a Township Board member representative also serving.

Currently, there are vacancies on the Planning Commission, the Board of Appeals, and the Salary Compensation Commission. We have some applications on file for these appointments; however, we always keep a file of applications from interested parties so that when a vacancy occurs, we are in a position to fill it. Some statutory committees or commissions have additional requirements, but generally, you need to be a registered voter within DeWitt Township.

If you are interested in applying, see Page 4 for the application or use this web address <http://tinyurl.com/jv4ouoh> to complete an on-line form. You can also access a form on the Township's web site under documents and forms. If you have questions, contact the Clerk's Office. Appointments are made by the Township Supervisor and confirmed by the Township Board. Terms vary as do meeting dates and times.

*"As both a business owner and residential property owner, it has been a pleasure to serve and help improve our community." Butch Mohre*

## DARA RECREATION NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) is located at the DeWitt Township Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing, MI 48906. Information regarding any event or program can be obtained by calling the DARA office at 517-482-5117. You may register for programs in person at the DARA office, the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) or DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt).

**DARA Mission: DARA promotes community and quality of life through leisure services provided for the residents of the DeWitt Area.**

Program Name	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
March Drop Your Kids Off (all day)	3/11	7:30 am–5:30 pm	2/15-3/7	5-12 yrs.	\$25/one child \$15/each additional
Fun Appetit: PreK Cooking	3/10-3/31	9:15 am-10:00 am	Late registration 2/29-3/6	2-5 yrs.	\$25/res \$40/non-res
Teddy Bear Tea Party	3/12	12:30 pm-1:15 pm	Late registration 2/29-3/6	3-10 yrs.	\$10/pair \$2/each additional child
Father/Son Bowling Night	3/15	6:00 pm-7:30 pm	2/5-3/7	K-6 <sup>th</sup> grades	\$25/pair \$10/each additional child
DARA Egg Hunt	3/19	3:00 pm sharp @ DeWitt Sports Park	No registration	1-10 yrs.	Free
Lacrosse League	3/14-6/4	Two practices each week Game on Saturdays, 4/16-6/4	Late registration 2/29-3/6	3-4 grades	\$50/res \$65/non-res
April Drop Your Kids Off (all day)	4/1	7:30 am–5:30 pm	3/4-3/28	5-12 yrs.	\$25/one child \$15/each additional
Spring Break Fun Club	4/4-4/8 Mon-Fri	7:30 am-5:30 pm	3/4-3/27 or when full	5-12 yrs.	\$105/res \$120/non-res
Adult Golf Lessons	4/6-4/28 Wed or Thurs	6:00 pm-7:00 pm (Hawk Hollow)	2/29-3/27	18 yrs. & Up	\$60 straight fee
Men's & Women's 3 v 3 Basketball Leagues	4/11-5/17 Mondays-Men's Tuesdays-Women's	6:00 pm-9:00 pm	3/4-3/27	18 yrs. & Up	\$100/team + individual and referee fees
Sports Starter Spring Session	4/13-5/18	Wed. 5:30-6:15 pm & 6:30-7:15 pm or Wed. 10:00-10:45 am	3/14-4/3	3-5 yrs.	\$34/res \$49/non-res
Basketball University	4/14-5/5 session 1 OR 5/12-6/2 session 2 Thurs. Nights	5:45 pm–7:45 pm (times vary by grade)	3/14-4/3 session 1 4/11-5/1 session 2	1-7 grades	\$35 per session straight fee
Little Kickers Soccer League	4/16-5/21 Sat. Games	9:00 am-1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/4-4/1	4yrs – K	\$34/res \$49/non-res
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Soccer League	4/16-5/21 Sat. Games	9:00 am-1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/4-4/1	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	\$34/res \$49/non-res
2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer League	4/16-5/21 Sat. Games	9:00 am-1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/4-4/1	2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grades	\$40/res \$55/non-res
Mid-Michigan Family Theatre: Fairy Tale Theatre	4/9-5/14	10:00 am-10:45 am	3/4-4/3	4-8 yrs.	\$35
Mid-Michigan Family Theatre: Actor's Workshop	4/9-5/14	11:00 am-12:00 pm	3/4-4/3	9-14 yrs.	\$45
April Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	4/22	6:00 pm-11:00 pm	3/21-4/18	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Adult Softball Spring/Summer League	First week of May-late July 12 games + tourney	Evenings Men's Upper/Lower & Co-Ed Leagues	Begins 3/1 until full	18 yrs. & Up	\$325/team + Ump Fee Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
Summer Fun Club & Double Digit Day Camp	6/13-9/2 (12 weeks)	7:30 am–5:30 pm	Begins 4/4 & open until full	5-9 yrs. 10-14 Yrs.	\$115/res per week \$130/non-res per week
Adult Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Ongoing	7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Drop in	18 yrs. & Up	\$2 per visit

You can register for most DARA programs online by visiting their website at [www.dewittrecreation.org](http://www.dewittrecreation.org). DARA accepts Visa and MasterCard payments for online registrations. You may also print a registration form by clicking on the newsletter link from the home page and then mail it with payment to 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. Registration forms can be dropped off at the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.) and DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street) as well. Call the DARA office at 517-482-5117 if you have any questions. Follow DARA on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation> to receive the most up to date information.

Having a family reunion? birthday party? open house? family picnic? Now is the time to reserve your park pavilion at Granger Meadows Park or Valley Farms Park. Contact the Treasurer's Office at 517-668-1411 to check availability for your preferred date and to make your reservation.

## PROTECTING THE WATER'S EDGE



The way we take care of the land has a huge impact on water quality. As landowners and citizens, it is important that we take care of the land immediately surrounding the river in a way that is beneficial to the river and the wildlife that depend on it. Riparian zones are areas of vegetation between the river and the surrounding land use, usually a lawn or field. Riparian zones have the capacity to buffer rivers and other waters from polluted runoff from agricultural, urban, residential or other land uses. Healthy riparian zones can absorb sediments, chemical nutrients, and other substances contained in polluted runoff. They also provide for groundwater recharge, diverse habitats and water storage and release. A healthy, functioning riparian area and associated uplands dramatically increase benefits such as fish and wildlife habitat, erosion control, forage, late season stream flow and water quality.

### What Can YOU Do to Protect the Water's Edge?

By creating a healthy riparian zone on your property, you can help improve water quality.

- **Reduce Turf Grass** - Shoreline and stream bank property planted with turf grass is really an unnatural landscape. While turf grasses slow runoff, their root systems are too shallow to stabilize stream banks or shorelines.
- **Don't Mow to the Water's Edge** - Lawns mowed to the water's edge will do little to control shoreline erosion. In fact, removing native vegetation and replacing it with turf grass usually results in accelerated stream bank and shoreline erosion that degrades water quality. A buffer between 15-25 feet is usually suitable, the more the better.
- **Plant Native Michigan Plants** - Native Michigan plants actually help improve water quality, and they're an attractive alternative to turf grass. Native plants generally have deeper roots which absorb runoff and break down pollutants that would otherwise go straight to the river. Native plants can be found at your local nursery.

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water - and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater clean. For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit [www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org).





DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP/COMMITTEE & COMMISSION APPLICATION

Standing Committees: Recreation Authority(m); Board of Appeals(an); Public Safety(ar); Planning Commission(m); Board of Review(ar); Library(m); Salary Compensation(ar); Construction Board of Appeals(an); Sewer Board of Appeals(an); Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority(m)

Meetings held: m-monthly ar-as required an-as needed Please print or type the following application

NAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFO \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Optional) such as family, number of years of residency, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, MEMBERSHIPS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PARTICULAR COMMITTEE OF INTEREST \_\_\_\_\_

REASONS FOR APPLYING \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL REFERENCE (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL COMMENTS, if any \_\_\_\_\_

I declare the foregoing statements to be true. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Return to: DeWitt Charter Township, Clerk's Office, 1401 W Herbison Rd, DeWitt, MI 48820

## IT'S CLEAN SWEEP TIME

Get rid of that junk taking up space around your house and haul it to the Granger Landfill on Wood Road. This is a free program for DeWitt Township residents only. Dropping off junk is easier through the voucher system. The program will run May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>. You will be responsible for unloading your own items.

Vouchers will be available at the Township Hall starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. You must provide proof of residency when picking up your voucher and when dropping off your items. Vouchers are valid from May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 14, 2016, with drop off times from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities needing assistance with unloading their items should request help when picking up your voucher.

For more details of the program and information on items that will be accepted, please call the DeWitt Township offices at 517-668-0270.

## NEWS BITES

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY** - In an effort to increase transparency and accountability, the Township has created a number of systems and documents that are designed to visually review the status of our government. It is intended to help the user quickly evaluate key indicators. Over time, it helps citizens, business owners, staff, and elected officials measure and monitor the overall health and direction of our local government. These documents can be found on the Township's website at [www.dewitttownship.org/OurDepartmentsServices/ManagersOffice/TownshipFinances](http://www.dewitttownship.org/OurDepartmentsServices/ManagersOffice/TownshipFinances).

**NEW BUILDING CODE** - The State of Michigan has adopted the 2015 Michigan Residential Code (MRC). This became effective on February 8, 2016. DeWitt Township started administering and enforcing this Code as of that date. All current building plans that were approved prior to this date will still be inspected to the 2009 Michigan Residential Code (MRC).



**REMINDER** - take your valuables out of your cars at night and lock them up. If you see a suspicious vehicle or people in your neighborhood, call 911 and ask for the police to check the area. Don't be worried about calling at 3:00 in the morning. We have some of the BEST dispatchers in Clinton County and they are eager to assist you.

**CEMETERIES** - Winter ornamentation needs to be removed from gravesites in Gunnisonville and Hurd Cemeteries by March 15<sup>th</sup>. After that date, cemetery staff will remove ornamentation and dispose of items that are unsightly or on the ground, such as grave blankets or wreaths.

**2016/BUSY ELECTION YEAR** - If you are over 60 years of age, you qualify to vote by absentee ballot at any election. This year, there may be longer lines to vote at the polling locations, so you might want to have us automatically send you an absentee ballot application. Contact the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270 and we can help you make arrangements to vote by absentee ballot. Reminder: the Clerk's Office is open from 8 am until 2 pm on the Saturday preceding Election Day to conduct election business, including absentee voting.

**COMMUNITY INPUT** - If there is an issue/topic you would like us to address in future Newsletters and/or the E-News, contact the Manager's Office at 517-668-0270 with your request.

**DOGS IN PARKS** - Per Chapter 30-22, Section (V) of the Township's Codified Ordinances - Dogs and other household pets cannot be brought onto park property, unless it's posted otherwise. The only areas posted to allow dogs are Padgett Park and in the non-paved section of Granger Meadows Park (located on the south side of Granger Meadows Lane). Dogs must be on a leash of not more than six feet and be under control. Pet owners are responsible for immediately removing feces.

**PROTECT OUR WATERSHED** - There are many ways to ensure that the Looking Glass and Grand River watersheds are free of pollutants. One of the easiest is to use phosphorus free fertilizer. For more tips and information visit [http://www.mywatersheds.org/public\\_education.html](http://www.mywatersheds.org/public_education.html).

**TOWNSHIP E-NEWS** - You can sign up to receive the Township's E-Newsletter which provides monthly Township and community news. Register your e-mail address at [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org).

**LEGAL PUBLICATIONS** - DeWitt Township utilizes the DeWitt-Bath Review for legal publications. Also, the Township's website, [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org), is a good source for information about public hearings, zoning issues, and general information.

**FOLLOW US** - [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org), [www.facebook.com/dewitttownship](https://www.facebook.com/dewitttownship), [http://twitter.com/DeWittTownship](https://twitter.com/DeWittTownship), [http://flickr.com/DeWittTownship](https://www.flickr.com/photos/DeWittTownship/). Find Township agendas, minutes, community events, job openings, event photos, election information, ordinances, planning notices and much more.



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

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## Chuck Rau

The Township is pleased to introduce our new Chief Building Official, Chuck Rau. Mr. Rau comes to us from the City of Owosso and has been a state certified Building Official, Plan Reviewer, SESC and Fire Inspector for the past 17 years. In addition, he has performed code enforcement for over 22 years.



## Ethan Rennaker



The newest officer of the DeWitt Township Police Department is Ethan Rennaker. Ethan graduated from DeWitt High School and the Mid Michigan Police Academy. He previously worked part time at the City of DeWitt. Ethan believes “DeWitt Township is a great fit for me and I look forward to protecting and serving the community I grew up in.”

## Chris Grewe

Chris Grewe has been a paid-on-call member of the DeWitt Township Fire Department since 2003. He has attended all the necessary classes for officer training as well as several specialized training classes including Ice Water Rescue and Fire Pump Engineering. Chris is one of our senior firefighters and is a mentor to the new members. In this role, he assists probationary firefighters in learning the duties required of a firefighter in DeWitt Township with all the equipment and apparatus as well as the normal duties that help to keep the fire department running smoothly.



Chris' full time job as a Communications Analyst for Michigan State University keeps him busy with project management, tech support and customer support. He has been with Michigan State University for over 5 years in the Telecommunications division. Chris and his wife, Kristine, have three children. When he is not working, coaching, or responding to calls at the fire department, he loves to go camping and enjoy the outdoors, attend local sporting events and help out with the numerous activities that involve his kids.

## Firefighter of the Year Tom Sullivan



Tom Sullivan, selected by his peers, is DeWitt Township Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year for 2015.

Tom joined our department for the first time in 2003; however, he left after a couple years to work overseas as a contract firefighter. He then returned to DeWitt Township in 2010 and served two more years before going overseas again. In 2014, Tom returned to the department and has served since. He has almost 20 years in fire service, holding positions from firefighter to Assistant Chief of Training.

Tom currently is a mentor for our new firefighters, working with them to learn fire/rescue operations. He also assists in instructing some monthly training sessions. Tom is a great asset to the department and community. Tom is married and has one son.

## HISTORY TIDBIT OF THE DAY

Submitted by Ken Coin

A common question is "Where did DeWitt get its name?"

DeWitt Clinton was a political dynamo of the early 19th century. He was Mayor of New York City, Governor of New York and a repeat U.S. Senator from New York. That alone probably wouldn't have gotten a one-horse town in the Michigan Territory named in his honor; his real claim to fame was the instigator and driving force behind the building of the Erie Canal.

The Erie Canal had an enormous impact on Michigan and the entire West. Prior to its opening, there was virtually no reason for settlers to move to Michigan to grow wheat. What's the sense in growing crops if you have no access to a market? Detroit, at the time, wasn't large enough to create a lucrative market and Chicago in the 1830s was barely larger than DeWitt.

Shipping to New England involved a costly portage at Niagara and further transportation all the way out the St. Lawrence Seaway and down the Atlantic coast. Prior to the opening of the Erie Canal, it was New Orleans, not New York, that was considered the marketplace for goods to and from the Ohio River Valley and the Great Lakes region. The Canal changed that mindset and allowed for investment in Michigan and turned New York into the national powerhouse that it became.

While many of Michigan's original south-central counties were named for members of President Andrew Jackson's cabinet and cronies, Clinton County was named for DeWitt Clinton. The residents of the Scott settlement furthered that honor by naming their settlement after Clinton's given name, DeWitt.

Besides the grains grown in DeWitt and shipped to New York City, area residents could also count on selling other goods via the Erie Canal such as furs, hides and maple sugar. Likewise, the Canal also made available Eastern goods which would otherwise be too costly to ship west like glassware, china, textiles, nails and tools.



## OPEN BURNING

Spring will be here soon and residents will want to begin yard clean-up including burning fallen branches and leaf piles. So, how does a resident dispose of this debris? Options include chipping up the branches and composting the leaves. Wood chips can be reused in landscaping and composting the leaves can put valuable nutrients back into the soil.

Another option is burning. If this is the option you choose, then you need a burning permit for open burning. A burning permit may be obtained at three locations: the Township Hall, the fire station on W. Herbison Road or the fire station on E. Wieland Road. Permits are free and explain the rules and regulations for open burning.

One type of fire you do not need a permit for is a recreational campfire. This is a fire classified as no larger than three feet in diameter and the flames are no higher than three feet from the ground. It is used for cooking or social gatherings.

No matter what type of fire you have, please burn responsibly. Be conscious of your neighbors and the smoke you generate. Many people have respiratory problems and the smoke generated by these fires can affect their breathing. Make sure the wood or leaves are completely dry. Material that is wet will not burn freely and will generate a great deal of smoke because of incomplete combustion.

Enjoy your summer. Enjoy your family. ***Be a responsible neighbor.***

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Below are a number of new businesses and developments that are in progress for 2016.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Stage</u>
• 1101 E. Herbison Rd	Taco Bell	Open
• 3505 W. Clark Road	Quarry Apartments Phase II (190 units)	Construction
• 13020 S. US 27	Walgreens	Site Plan Approval
• 1031 Northcrest Road	Boynnton Fire Safety Service Addition	Construction
• 1120 Commerce Park Dr.	Veterinary/Pet Grooming facility	Open
• Mesa Verde Boulevard	B-Strong Fitness (Sports Performance)	SUP Approval
• 1125 Mak-Tech Drive	Commercial/Industrial Building	Application Received
• Shadybrook	Planned Unit Development Amendment	Special Use Approval
• 16795 S. US 27	Compounds and Crossbows Family Archery	Permits
• 16999 S. US 27	Bello's Thrift Store	Open
• 15557 S. US 27	Stardust Floral Shop	Open
• 711 E. Sheridan Road	Affordable Auto Sales	Open
• 12821 Crossover Drive	Huntington Bank (Meijer)	Open
• 12821 Crossover Drive	Bellin Health Medical Clinic	Construction
• 12970 S. US 27	Lansing Urgent Care	Open
• 12900 S. US 27	Bella Couture	Open
• 13105 Schavey Road	DeWitt District Library Programming Space	Open
• 15694 S. US 27	IUEC Local 85 (Elevator Constructor's Union)	Use Approval
• 1161 E. Clark Road	Celink (Call Center- Clark Corners)	Use Approval

## SCCMUA OPEN HOUSE

The Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCCMUA) will be holding their annual Open House on Thursday, May 26, 2016 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at 3671 W Herbison Rd. in DeWitt. This free event will host facility tours, information booths, demonstrations, games for the children with prizes, and snacks. Please join us for a fun event and learn what happens at the Cleanwater Plant. We have more information on our website at: [www.sccmua.com](http://www.sccmua.com) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sccmua](http://www.facebook.com/sccmua).



### Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

<b>March 7</b>	<b>Vote by Absentee Ballot until 4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Presidential Primary</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Community Showcase</b>
<b>May 2-14</b>	<b>Clean Sweep</b>
<b>April 19</b>	<b>File Petitions to run for Twp. Board/Partisan until 4:00 p.m.</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Lansing School District Election</b>
<b>May 26</b>	<b>SCCMUA Open House</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Summer Taxes Mailed</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Granger Meadows Celebration</b>
<b>August 2</b>	<b>Primary Election</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Summer Taxes Due</b>
<b>November 8</b>	<b>General Election</b>



## 2016 ROAD PROJECTS

The Clinton County Road Commission (CCRC) and DeWitt Township have begun planning for transportation projects to be completed in 2016. Below is a tentative list of projects:

### Resurface (mill and asphalt overlay)

- Springbrook Hills - Delfinna, Hidden Springs Trail, Canopy Drive, Hardwood, Prestle Court, a portion of Hidden Ridge
- Northway - Ontonagon, Houghton, Calumet, Isle Royale

### Gravel

- Herbison Road (east of Wood Road)

### Schavey Road

- Resurfacing of Schavey Road, Clark to Howe
- Adding bike lanes south of Schavey School
- Adding a 10 foot pathway from Herbison Road to Pride Drive on the east side of Schavey, then crossing the road and continuing the pathway west to Padgett Park and on to Clark Road
- Adding a turn lane at Schavey School - tentative
- Adding curb and gutter on the south section of Schavey Road
- Filling in missing sections of sidewalk down Schavey Road

### Herbison Road

- The CCRC, the City of DeWitt and the Township have applied for grants to resurface portions of Herbison Road between Schavey Road and Old US-27. Additionally, the project would include adding a 10 foot wide non-motorized pathway from Panther Drive to Old US-27. This tentative project would begin in 2017 and finish in about 2019. The CCRC, the City and the Township will hold meetings with residents before this project is considered and moves forward.

### US-27 Sidewalk/Pathway Update

- The ten foot pathway and five foot sidewalk down Old US-27 is mostly complete. There are a few sections of sidewalk that still need to be installed because the contractor had to wait for utilities to be moved. These sections, as well as the final grading, will be completed in the spring.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

Over the last few years, the Township has begun to see the benefits of increased investment and a change in philosophy related to maintenance of the Township's local roads.

There are three types of roads in the Township:

- MDOT Roads such as I-69 and Old US-27
- Primary Roads such as Herbison, Webb, Wood, State, and Turner
- Local Roads - These are roads that don't fall into one of the other categories and are most generally subdivision roads and other non-major roadways.

MDOT and Primary Road maintenance and repair is supported 100% from funds from the Federal Government, the State Government or the Clinton County Road Commission. Local roads are supported by funds from the Township and the Road Commission.

Since 2008, the Township, working with the Road Commission, has focused more on preventative maintenance of our local roads. This helps extend the life of the roads, and thus, saves money.

As the price of asphalt has increased (\$22 per ton in 2004 to \$55 per ton in 2015), it has simply become cost ineffective to wait until roads are bad and then just pave over them.

While some preventative maintenance techniques such as chip sealing are not popular, they are the most cost effective way to maintain the integrity of a road and extend its useful life. Chip sealing costs approximately \$25,000 a mile while an asphalt overlay costs \$125,000 to \$150,000 per mile. If the road needs to be rebuilt, the cost can be as high as \$250,000 to \$300,000 a mile.

Roads are rated on a standardized system known as "Paser." The scale is 1 to 10, with 10 being a brand new road. Below is a summary of the Township's local road ratings:

- 2010 - 4.32
- 2011 - 4.60
- 2012 - 4.69
- 2013 - 4.79
- 2014 - 4.85
- 2015 - 5.27

While the Township still has 41% of its roads with a rating of 4 or below, overall, the conditions of the local roads are slowly improving and we are making an impact. When the funding for roads increases in approximately 2018/19 based on recent legislative changes, the quality of primary roads should begin to see improvements.

For further questions about the Township's roads, please contact the Road Commission at 989-224-3274 or the Township Manager at 517-668-0270.

Mark your calendars for the third Friday in July! The 2016 Meadows Celebration will take place on July 15. This year's event will be a little different than in previous years, beginning in the evening and focusing on live entertainment and fireworks. Stay tuned for details.

## PROPERTY VALUE CHANGES FOR 2016

As you read this Newsletter, if you are a property owner, you should have received your 2016 Assessment Notice which was mailed the last week in February. Unless there has been new construction or improvements made to your property, Proposal A, enacted in 1994, limits your taxable value increase to 5% or the rate-of-inflation, whichever is less. For the 2016 assessment/tax year, the inflation rate multiplier is 1.003 which means your taxable value could increase 0.3% (3/10 of 1%). However, if your assessed and taxable values are the same, and the assessed value decreases, the taxable value will also reflect the same decrease. The notices also show the following changes for the 2016 tax year: increase or decrease in the property assessment, change in taxable value, an approximate change in property taxes based on the new 2016 taxable value and also the percentage of Principal Residence (Homestead) /Agricultural Exemption that the property is receiving.

**BOARD OF REVIEW** will meet the week of March 14, 2016. Please see the specific times for appointments printed on the assessment notice, as well as published in the DeWitt-Bath Review. If you have a question regarding your assessment or wish to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review, please call the Assessing Office at 517-669-6494. Residential property owners should also verify that the "**% Exempt as Homeowners Principal Residence**" is also correct. If your residential property is your primary residence, the percentage should read 100%.

## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP'S SEWER

While government provides a number of services to our community, one that is not thought about much is sanitary sewer. Once the water goes down the drain, we, as users of the system, tend not to think about this critical underground utility. The Township's collection system is over 40 years old in many areas, and the current sewer plant is 35 years old. With any utility, as it ages it requires more and more repairs to keep the system in acceptable operating condition.

In 2008, the Township started a proactive process creating long term Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for both the collection system (pipes in the ground, manholes, & pump stations) as well as the sewer plant. This plan looks at areas within the system and estimates when certain repairs or upgrades should be made. The value of a CIP program is it allows you to evaluate defects in the system and come up with a long range plan for the most cost effective way to address the issues. This approach is so valuable to the smooth operation of public utilities that the State of Michigan is now requiring local governments to adopt similar programs.

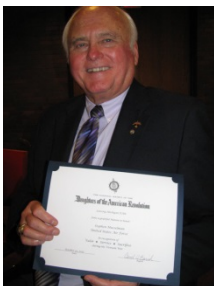
Without necessary repairs, sewer mains will collapse and pump stations will fail which will cause sewage to back up into homes and/or flow into our drains and rivers. Additionally, defects in the system increase the amount of ground and surface water that enter the system and this increases the costs in treatment at the plant.

Unfortunately, with good planning also brings the realization that you have repairs that need to be made. In DeWitt Township's case, it is estimated that over the next 10 years, the Township will have over \$13,000,000 in repairs to make within the collection system or at the sewer plant.

With the anticipation of these large repairs, the Township has been focusing on maintaining healthy reserves in the sewer fund for years. Even with over \$6.5 million in reserves, it is still necessary for the Township to finance some of the needed repairs. In early 2016, the Township is planning on bonding for a portion of the repairs that need to be completed. The bond issuance is expected to be \$3-\$4 million. In 2022, it is expected that an additional smaller bond will be issued to make additional repairs in the collection system as well as the sewer plant.

When many jurisdictions issue bonds, it also means an increase in sewer rates to pay for the new bond payment. Luckily, because of the planning done over the last several years, sewer rates are not being proposed to be increased to pay for the bond payment, other than the normal inflationary increase.

It is also important to note that the sewer system runs as an "enterprise" fund. This means that the rates paid by the users of the system fund the operation and repair of the system. The general fund (ie tax dollars) does not contribute financial support to the sewer fund.



### TRUSTEE STEVE MUSSELMAN - AWARD

Trustee Steve Musselman was recently honored by the Lansing Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for his service in Vietnam. 2015 was the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the war.

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**TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER**

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**DeWitt Community Showcase – Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 5-8 pm – A Free Community Event** - DeWitt Charter Township, DeWitt Public Schools, the City of DeWitt, the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce and our sponsors proudly present our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual DeWitt Community Showcase. This event, in partnership with other community supporters, highlights our community's businesses and service organizations, student achievements, student music & dramatic performances, and much more. For more information, visit <http://www.dewittschools.net/home/community-showcase>

The **Clinton County Department of Waste Management** is actively planning for spring events. For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, call 989-224-5186, send an email to [recycle@clinton-county.org](mailto:recycle@clinton-county.org) or visit on-line at [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org) and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management.

**Medical Disposal Programs**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 2 pm** at the Bath Township Senior Center, 14480 Webster Road in Bath

**April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 2 pm** at Recycle Rama! Ingham County Health Department, 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing

**April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8 am - 2 pm** at the Clean Community Event in St. Johns (appointments required)

**Recycle Rama!**

**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 2 pm** at the Ingham County Health Department at 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing. This event is FREE. **All area residents** are encouraged to take part in this tri-county recycling effort.

**Clinton County Department of Waste Management Clean Community Event**

**April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 2 pm St. Johns**

This valuable event assists residents to recycle or properly dispose of just about any household generated waste item. Most materials are collected for free; however, there are fees for some items. The event is also open to small businesses; but, additional fees do apply for hazardous and electronic waste items. Disposal fees are waived for volunteers! To make your required appointment or to volunteer, call 989-224-5186 or email [recycle@clinton-county.org](mailto:recycle@clinton-county.org).