

March, 2017

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
David Fedewa
Steve Musselman
Brian Ross
David Seeger

Manager
Rodney H. Taylor

www.dewitttownship.org

SPOTLIGHT ON SGT. WILLIAM "BILL" DARNELL

Many residents know Sergeant William (Bill) Darnell since he started his career with the DeWitt Township Police Department early in 2006. On November 6, 2008, (then) Officer Darnell was working a night shift when he responded to an assist in the City of DeWitt on a suspicious circumstance. He was ambushed and shot in the face at point blank range with a 9mm handgun. Officer Bill Darnell, who gave so much to our community, suddenly found himself on the other side of giving, when the DeWitt community rallied to give him their support.



A year later, after several surgeries and rehabilitation, he returned to work, back on the night shift. In 2013, he tested for Sergeant and was promoted after finishing first in the process.

Bill is always eager to assist with extra assignments, especially when it comes to giving back to our community. He volunteers for the annual "Shop with a Cop" and "Fill a Cop Car" programs. In summer and fall, he coaches youth football. Bill says that he appreciates the community's continued support, and that he "plans on sticking around for a while."

Sergeant Bill Darnell continues to hear "Thank You" from the public he serves. He has many commendations, stays positive, and is an asset to the Department. In addition to working as a road patrol Sergeant, he is currently in charge of the Department's Evidence Room and is one of three trained Evidence Technicians.

WELCOME DAVE FEDEWA NEW TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER



Dave was elected to the Board in November of 2016. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University and went on to get his DMD degree from Washington University School of Dental Medicine in 1989. Dave has been practicing as a general dentist in DeWitt for 26 years and has volunteered with the DeWitt Township Fire Department since 1992. Dave and his wife, Mary Jo, have lived in DeWitt since 1990 and raised their three children who graduated from DeWitt High School.

SPRING NEWS – CEMETERIES

Foundations – All foundations for headstones are required to be installed by Township staff. These installations are typically done twice each year, once in the spring and once in the fall. The deadline for ordering foundation placement for this spring's installation is May 1st. Arrangements for installation of a foundation are made through the Clerk's Office, either by the owner of burial rights or by a monument company.

Removal of Winter Ornamentation – No winter ground ornamentation is allowed between March 15th and November 15th so this is the time to remove your grave blankets, wreaths, etc. If we remove the ornamentation, it is disposed of and cannot be returned.

Prohibited Items – Woodchips or decorative stone; edging; shepherds hooks; fences and unapproved benches; plants or shrubs with thorns; glass, plastic, or clay containers are all prohibited in Township cemeteries. The Township reserves the right to remove and dispose of (without notice) any unsightly, deteriorated, neglected or prohibited item. Cemetery Rules and Regulations are available on the Township's website. It is recommended that you review the rules before planting in the cemetery.

If you have questions regarding the cemeteries, please contact the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270.

ATTENTION BATH SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS

Bath School District has filed to place a ballot proposition before its voters on May 2, 2017. For Bath School District Voters on the Automatic Absentee Application List, you should have already received your application for an absentee ballot. In the upper left hand corner of the application, it will say "May Consolidated" as required by law. Just complete and return this application so we can send your ballot. If you are a "snow bird" and out of the state, the application for the ballot will be forwarded to you if you are on the automatic absentee list. However, when you return the form, you must provide an address where to send your ballot, since ballots cannot be forwarded. The actual ballots should be mailed by mid-March, so provide the address where you expect to be in mid-March.

Bath School District voters who will be voting in the polls on May 2, 2017, will get a letter from us soon, telling you where to go to vote. We will be consolidating precincts for this election, so you will not vote in your usual precinct. Consolidation of precincts for these smaller elections saves thousands of dollars for the taxpayers and school districts. If you have any questions as this election date approaches, feel free to call the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270.

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. You will be responsible for unloading your own items.

Vouchers will be available at the Township Hall starting April 3rd. You must provide proof of residency when picking up your voucher and when dropping off your items. Vouchers are valid from May 1st to May 13th. You are allowed to drop off one time during this two week period. One voucher per household. **One pick-up truck and one utility size trailer (4'x6') is allowed. If you bring a U-Haul or have a load larger than 4'x6', you will be charged on-site for extra items.**

Senior citizens and persons with disabilities needing assistance with unloading their items should request help when picking up your voucher. For these persons, help will be available on Thursday, May 11th at 10 a.m.

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

SAYING THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE – YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Salary Comp. Commission	Dick Byelich, Bill Bupp, Scott Hummel, Tim Brannan
Zoning Board Of Appeals	Kristen Krol, Dave Fedewa, Bob Reese, Andrew Richards, Don Riel, Jeff Carpenter, Steven Goodwin
Public Safety	Dave Seeger, Tom Hendrickson, Bonnie Oetman, Joe Galardi, Mary Buzzie
Planning Commission	Steve Musselman, Bruce Keilen, Adam Bertram, Kristen Krol, Marsha Zimmerman, Dale Dailey, Tim Fair, Abby Lorenzen, Mike Nolen
Board of Review	Al Harrison, Concetta D’Agostino, Lois Omundson, Ted Reuschel
Sewer Authority	Brian Ross, Diane Mosier, Mark Helinski, Rod Taylor, Jim Kurt
Library Board	Wayne Summers, Brian Byars, Matthew Boeve
DeWitt Area Recreation	Steve Musselman, Doug Simon, Cynthia Robinson
Sister City	Peggy Brown, Kily Buta, Steve Musselman, 1 vacancy (contact the Clerk’s Office if you are interested)
Corridor Improvement	Rod Taylor, Chuck Allen, Rich Kelley, Butch Mohre, Johanna Balzer, Tonia Olson, Scott Randall, Max Calder

PROPERTY VALUE CHANGES FOR 2017

As you read this Newsletter, if you are a property owner, you should have received your 2017 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 2017 assessment/tax year, the State of Michigan has set the inflation rate at .09%. This means that, in most cases, your taxable value would increase by no more than .09% (9/10ths of 1%). Please review your assessment notice carefully. 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%.

If you have any questions or concerns about your assessment notice or feel your assessment is incorrect, please contact the Assessing Office at 517-669-6494. If after speaking with the Assessing Office you still have concerns, you do have the right to present your argument to the Board of Review, who has the authority to make adjustments to your assessed value if information presented supports a change. The Board of Review will meet the week of March 13, 2017. Please see the specific times for appointments printed on your assessment notice, as well as published in the DeWitt-Bath Review. To schedule an appointment with the Board of Review, please call the Assessing Office at 517-669-6494.

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

March 15	Quarterly Sewer Bill Mailed
May 2	Bath School Election
May 1 – May 13	Clean sweep



DeWitt District Library introduces Hoopla Digital™ downloads

Patrons are invited to enjoy free digital movies, TV shows, music and audiobooks.

The DeWitt District Library (DDL) is excited to announce the public availability of thousands of movies, television shows, music albums and audiobooks, all available for mobile and online access through a new partnership with hoopla digital. All patrons need is a valid library card.

DDL card holders may download the free hoopla digital mobile app on their Android or IOS device or visit hoopladigital.com to begin enjoying thousands of titles – from major Hollywood studios, record companies and publishers – available to borrow for instant streaming or temporary downloading to their smartphones, tablets and computers. Patrons are able to borrow up to five hoopla selections per month with their DDL cards. Movies and television shows are available on patrons' devices for three days after check out. Music is available for seven days. Audiobooks are available for 21 days.

Hoopla digital's interface and sign-up process are simple to navigate, so it's easy to get to the collection of listening and viewing materials. There's also no waiting to borrow popular movies, TV shows, albums or audiobooks. And hoopla digital's automatic return feature eliminates late fees.

To access the system on a mobile device, patrons need to visit hoopladigital.com or download the free hoopla digital app from the App Store on an Android or IOS device. Simply select 'Sign Up' to get started. There is no need to download an app or extension for your internet browser.

For more information or to get a library card, visit the DeWitt District Library at 13101 Schavey Rd., DeWitt, MI 48820 or the library's website at www.dewittlibrary.org.

2017 SEWER PROJECTS

In 2012, the Township applied for and received a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) called "S2." This grant was intended to help municipalities gather additional information to address their sanitary sewer wastewater system needs. An area of focus of the Township's S2 Grant was the southern section of the Township. This area of the collection system includes some of the oldest parts of the sewer system. The S2 grant report recommended the replacement of the 102 pump station, the replacement of approximately 2,000 feet of force main, and enhancements to the 501 pump station.

The 102 pump station is west of Old US-27 and south of Stoll Road. This pump station is critical in that a series of other lift stations, five in total, connect to this station before moving flows to the north toward the sanitary sewer plant located on Herbison Road. This pump station, along with the interceptor sewer, services the entire southern tier of the Township (everything south of I-69). This pump station is 46 years old. The cost to replace this pump station and the 2,000 feet of force main is expected to be just over \$1,200,000.

The flows from the 102 pump station then flow to the 501 pump station, which is located on Herbison Road, just west of the Prairie Creek Drain. This station is 40 years old. Repairs will include rerouting of flows into the station, repair or replacement of existing piping, replacing the roof, upgrading the flow meter, improving access to the wet well, and other repairs. This station is also critical. Not only do flows

from 102 travel to this station, but also the flows from homes and business to the east, including Bath Township. This rehab project is expected to cost around \$500,000. Bath Township will share in a portion of the cost. This project will be coordinated with the Herbison Road paving/pathway project.

If you have any questions on these projects, please contact the Manager's Office at 517-668-0270.

2016 MEDICAL INCIDENT REVIEW – FIRE DEPARTMENT

The DeWitt Township Fire Department responded to 1,343 calls for service in 2016. Approximately 80% of the calls were for medical incidents.

Approximately 16% of these medical incidents were for falls and lift assists. Age and gender were factors in these incidents. Approximately 60% were females that ranged in age from 53 to 101 years of age. The majority of the falls were in the bedroom (46). This was followed by 34 falls outside and 34 falls in the living room. The top three injuries were: 49 head, 16 hip, and 9 leg. These injuries did result in the patient being transported to a hospital for treatment.

There are many factors that lead to trips and slips. Age and muscle weakness are among them. Other items contributing to the falls are loose rugs, loose carpet, slippery socks, and thresholds from one room to another. The outside injuries are caused from uneven surfaces and cracks in the pavement. We ask family members to survey your relative's home to eliminate trip hazards and the potential injury to our senior loved ones.

DEWITT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce two scholarship programs for 2017, "Trades" and "Medical Services."

The DeWitt Chamber recognizes the need for skilled and certified electricians, plumbers, carpenters, mechanics and a variety of other trades people. These professions are seriously lacking entry of graduates seeking a career path in these areas. Skilled trades people are essential to our lifestyle and the earning power in these careers is increasing every year.

Like the trades, a wide array of medical services programs are in need of participants; from EMTs to doctors, opportunities are abundant. Our daily lives depend on qualified medical staff at every level of care; from the local firefighter trained in medical treatment to the emergency room personnel, we look to these people to help us in the most critical times of our lives.

For these very reasons, the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer \$1,000 scholarships in these two very important career paths offered at numerous schools.

Full details and scholarship application forms can be found at www.dewittareacc.org or can be obtained at the Chamber Office located at 113 S. Bridge Street, DeWitt.

Having a family reunion? a birthday party? an open house? a 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 on your preferred date and to make your reservation.

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).

Program Name	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Cardio Drumming	Mondays & Wednesdays 3/1-4/26	6:15 pm	Drop-in	18+	\$2 per visit
March Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	3/24	6:00 pm -11:00 pm	2/17-3/20	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
March Drop Your Kids Off (all day)	3/31	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	2/24-3/27	5-12 yrs.	\$25/one child \$15/ each additional
Fun Appetit: PreK Cooking	Thursdays, 3/16-4/16	9:15 am-10:00 am	2/9-3/9	2-5 yrs.	\$25/res \$40/non-res
Teddy Bear Tea Party	3/11	12:30 pm-1:15 pm	2/4-3/5	3-10 yrs.	\$10/ pair \$2/each additional child
Father/Son Bowling Night	3/14	6:00 pm-7:30 pm	2/7-3/6; registrations after 2/28 may not receive t-shirt	K-6 th grades	\$25/ pair \$10/ each additional child
DARA Egg Hunt	4/8	3:00 pm sharp @ DeWitt Sports Park	Not required	1-10 yrs.	Free
Spring Break Fun Club	4/3-4/7	7:30 am - 5:30 pm	2/27-3/27	5-12 yrs.	\$115/res \$130/non-res
Adult Golf Lessons	Wednesdays, 4/5-4/26 Thursdays, 4/6-4/27	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Hawk Hollow)	3/1-3/29 (Wed.) 3/2-3/30 (Thurs.)	18 yrs. & Up	\$60 straight fee
Men's & Coed 3 v 3 Basketball Leagues	Mondays, 4/10-5/22 (Men's) Tuesdays, 4/11-5/16 (Coed)	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm (times vary within)	3/6-3/27 (Men's) 3/7-3/28 (Coed)	18 yrs. & Up	\$150/team + individual fees (\$5/res; \$20/non-res) and referee fees
Sports Starter Spring Session	Wednesdays, 4/12-5/17	Wed. 5:30-6:15 pm & 6:30-7:15 pm or Wed. 10:00-10:45 am	3/8-3/30	3-5 yrs.	\$34/res \$49/non-res
Basketball University	Thursdays, 4/13-5/4 (session 1) Thursdays, 5/11-6/1 (session 2)	5:45 pm – 7:45 pm (times vary by grade)	3/9-4/6 (session 1) 4/6-5/4 (session 2)	1-7 grades	\$35 per session straight fee
April Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	4/21	6:00 pm-11:00 pm	3/17-4/17	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Little Kickers Soccer League	Saturdays, 4/22-6/3	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/11-3/31	4yrs – K	\$34/res \$49/non-res
1 st Grade Soccer League	Saturdays, 4/22-6/3 and 1 practice night/week	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/11-3/31	1 st grade	\$34/res \$49/non-res
2 nd -6 th Grade Soccer League	Saturdays, 4/22-6/3 and 1 practice night/week	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/11-3/31	2 nd -6 th grades	\$40/res \$55/non-res
Adult Softball Spring/Summer League	Wednesdays, 5/3-7/26 (Coed) Thursdays, 5/4-7/27 (Men's)	Evenings Men's Upper/Lower & Co-Ed Leagues	3/29-4/26 (Coed) 3/30-4/27 (Men's)	18 yrs. & Up	\$325/team + Ump Fee Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
May Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	5/19	6:00 pm-11:00 pm	4/14-5/15	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Summer Fun Club & Double Digit Day Camp	Begins Monday, June 12, 2017	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Registration opens on Monday, April 3	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

DARA Mission: DARA promotes community and quality of life through leisure services provided for the residents of the DeWitt Area. You can register for most DARA programs online by visiting their website at 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. Follow DARA on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation> to receive the most up to date information.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

DeWitt Community Showcase – Thursday, April 13th 5-7:30 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 6th 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 on the following upcoming events 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 or visit on-line at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management.

Medical Disposal Programs - Saturday, March 11th Saturday, April 8th and 22nd

RecycleRama! - Saturday, April 8th

Clean Community Event - Saturday, April 22nd

Document Destruction Day - Saturday, April 22nd

ADOPT YOUR CATCH BASIN



Catch basins are storm sewer inlets that filter out debris such as leaves and litter. They are typically located next to street curbs or in the rear yards of residential areas. It is important to maintain catch basins to prevent storm sewer blockages and minimize the amount of pollutants entering storm sewers. Storm sewers usually discharge directly into streams. Clogged catch basins can also cause water to pond along streets and in yards. This flooding can be a nuisance to motorists and homeowners.

Stormwater drainage systems are typically designed to remove water from a developed area as quickly as possible during a storm. While these systems are convenient for urban residents, they also carry pollutants to surface waters at a "rapid transit" pace. **Contrary to popular belief, pet wastes, oil and other materials dumped into storm sewer grates do not go to the waste water treatment plant, but flow directly into streams and lakes.** For example: dumping oil into a storm sewer grate has almost unthinkable consequences. When it reaches the water, five quarts of oil can create a slick as large as two football fields and persist on mud or plants for six months or more.

How can you adopt your catch basin?

Remove debris from grates - the grates of catch basins can become clogged with litter or leaves, especially in the spring and fall. Regularly inspect the grate and remove debris. Encourage neighbors to adopt the catch basins in front of their homes, and keep them free of debris.

Ensure regular cleaning - catch basins should be cleaned out before the storage area is half full. Once this level is reached, debris begins to wash into sewer pipes. Cleaning these storage areas should be performed by your local jurisdiction or a private contractor. Contact the Drain Commissioner if you are concerned about the catch basins in your neighborhood.

Label your storm drains - stenciled signs or applied decals that read "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" are a good reminder that nothing but water should enter a storm drain. Contact the Clinton County Drain Commissioner's Office at 989-224-5160.



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. *This article was adapted from a fact sheet prepared by the Washtenaw's County Drain Commissioner's*

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NEWS BITES

BICYCLE SERIAL # - Did you know that most bicycles have a serial number? The majority of serial numbers are located under the bottom bracket where the two pedal cranks meet. Simply turn your bike upside down and record the number. If there is no serial number there, then check places like the headset at the front of the bike or the rear stays. In case your bike is lost or stolen, give the serial number to the police.

MERCURY HEALTH THERMOMETER EXCHANGE – The Clinton County Dept. of Waste Management accepts old mercury health thermometers year round at their office located at 1307 E. Townsend Road, Suite 102 in St. Johns (MMDHD Building). Residents are encouraged to transport their old mercury thermometers in a plastic Ziploc baggie. The DWM will exchange your old mercury health thermometer for a new digital thermometer. You can also drop off your mercury thermometers at the Township Hall and exchange it for a digital one. **Limit one digital thermometer per person.**

PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS - The Township regulates most peddlers or solicitors who come to your door. Applicants are screened with criminal history background checks and vehicles used within the community are documented. If a peddler or solicitor comes to your door, and you decide to answer your door, always ask to see his or her Peddlers/Solicitors Permit, issued by the Township. Rules require that they have the permit on their person. If the person at your door has no permit, politely tell them you are not interested in their product/issue and close and lock your door. Do not be confrontational. Then call 911 to report this activity. An officer will respond to speak with the solicitor and handle the situation.

Never let a stranger into your home, and always report suspicious activity to the police by calling 911. Children fundraising, political activity, and religious affiliation door to door activity is exempt from Township Ordinance.

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.

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.

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.

TOWNSHIP E-NEWS – You can sign up to receive the Township's E-News which provides monthly Township and community news. Register your e-mail address at www.dewitttownship.org.

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

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

