

Spring, 2008

COMMUNITY CENTER – COMMUNITY ASSET!

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
Max Calder
Steve Musselman
Brian Ross
David Seeger
Manager
Rodney H. Taylor

www.dewitttownship.org

Anytime you complete a project that has been ongoing for seven years there is reason to celebrate! So, we've scheduled an Open House at the DeWitt Township Community Center, located at 16101 Brook Road, to be held on May 12, 2008, to celebrate the culmination of work on the facility and surrounding park area. If you have visited the Community Center to vote, or because you have children participating in sporting events or recreation activities, then you have watched this seven year process produce a community asset of which we can all be proud. Either way, you may be unaware of the opportunities available at the renovated facility.

The recent kitchen remodel, new activity rooms with uses ranging from birthday parties and funeral luncheons to Hunter Safety Classes, a gymnasium, and a satellite library complete with public access computers, are all available for public and community uses and events.

The May 12th Open House will have activities for all ages from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. A dedication ceremony has been planned for 6:00 p.m. Come on out to the Community Center to see the renovated facility, enjoy free food, and participate in or observe the following fun events:
•Library sponsored events for 8-12 year olds •photos with McGruff the Crime Dog and the Fire Pup •a presentation by Wayne Summers on the history of DeWitt (and maybe some Valley Farms pictures) •DeWitt Area Recreation Authority sponsored events •a look at the Genealogy records room •a demonstration by the Great Parents/Great Kids program sponsored by Clinton County RESA.

In addition to all residents, the Township would like to extend a special invitation to former community leaders and elected officials who have utilized this facility in the past. If you attended school at the Valley Farms Elementary, you might be pleasantly surprised how this facility has evolved into a great community asset. **Mark your calendar and bring your family to the DeWitt Township Community Center on May 12th!!**



The 4th Annual Meadows Celebration *A Blast in the Moonlight* is scheduled for Friday, July 18th at Granger Meadows Park. Activities for all ages and interests will begin at 4:00 p.m. and conclude with a spectacular fireworks display, best viewed from the sledding hill, immediately following the concert. Ask your neighbors and they will confirm that this fun family event is worth attending. Plan on bringing the whole family, from kids to grandpa and grandma; they are sure to find an exciting event to view or even participate.

The event is sponsored by DeWitt Township, Granger and DARA. Watch for an event brochure in the next issue of this Newsletter. For questions, or to volunteer, call the Township at 668-0270.

GUNNISONVILLE & HURD CEMETERIES

A few cemetery rules worth mentioning in the spring:

- driving off the established roadways is prohibited
- all trash, dead flowers, etc., are to be disposed of in the containers provided
- no artificial ground ornamentation is allowed between March 15th and November 15th
- planting of trees or shrubbery requires pre-approval by cemetery staff
- placement of any of the following is prohibited: woodchips or decorative stone; any type of edging; shepherd's hooks, fences and benches; thorned plants; glass, plastic or clay containers
- flowers may be planted in urns or on the ground within 12 inches of a monument or marker, but never outside the boundaries of the owner's burial space
- the Township reserves the right to remove and dispose of, without notice, any unsightly, deteriorated, neglected, or prohibited item
- anyone who plans to do planting in the cemetery should contact the Clerk's Office to request a complete copy of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Foundations: All foundations for headstones in the Gunnisonville and Hurd Cemeteries 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.

CLINTON COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OFFICE NOW OPEN

The Clinton County Economic Alliance office is now open for business, right here in DeWitt Township. The office is located at 12800 Escanaba Drive, Suite D, north of Blockbuster Video.

Led by Chief Executive Officer, John B. Czarnecki, the Clinton County Economic Alliance was organized in 2006 by business and community leaders from across Clinton County. It is an economic development organization whose mission is to promote and nurture economic growth within the County. DeWitt Township and several businesses in the Township are members of the Alliance.

As CEO, John is responsible for the Alliance's mission, marketing the strengths of Clinton County to attract new businesses to locate here and to help existing businesses to stay and grow. John is the former Director of Program Administration with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and assumed his responsibilities as the first CEO of the Clinton County Economic Alliance on January 1, 2008.

For more information about the Clinton County Economic Alliance, visit their website at www.clintoncountyeconomicalliance.org. For assistance in growing or locating your business in Clinton County, including information about state and federal economic development grant and loan programs, contact John at 669-1345.

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

Progress continues on the South Central Area Plan. The Plan is a study of the area roughly bounded by Sheridan Road at the southern border of the Township, and Stoll Road at the north end. The east and west boundaries of the area are Wood Road and DeWitt Road. The purpose of the study is to identify the “positives” and the “negatives” in the southern area of the Township. Our goal is to develop a plan to build on the positives and reduce the negatives so that new investment will grow, helping to protect and enhance the property values of the homes and businesses in this part of our community.

The consultant hired to assist the Township with the Plan has begun the process of identifying policies and initiatives that would address the issues and concerns presented by the many residents and business owners that participated in the community visioning session. The consultant made a preliminary presentation to the Board of Trustees and Planning Commission in early March, and has been encouraged to expand the report to investigate every available program, including state and federal economic development programs.

If you were unable to attend the community visioning session, be assured that you will have an opportunity to have your voice heard. There will be additional meetings to hear community input, including a public hearing prior to the adoption of the Plan. Keep an eye on this Newsletter and the “News and Information” section of the Township’s website, www.dewitttownship.org, for future meeting dates. Of course, if you have any questions about the South Central Area Plan, please call the Planning Department at 669-6576.

ELECTION DAY – MAY 6, 2008 – Bath School District Only

May 6th is Election Day for DeWitt Township residents who live within the Bath School District. If you are a resident living within the Bath School District in DeWitt Township, your polling location, *for this election only*, has been changed. On May 6, 2008, for the Bath School Election, you will vote at the Bath Charter Township Hall, 14480 Webster Road, Bath, Michigan. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: The Township maintains a list of voters who have requested to automatically receive an Absentee Ballot Application prior to each election. If you are on this list, and are registered to vote in the Bath School District, you should have already received an Absentee Ballot Application for the May 6th Election. If you believe you have requested to be on the list, but have not yet received an application, please call the DeWitt Township Clerk’s Office at 668-0270. Please note that if you are sixty years of age or older, or expect to be absent from the community, you qualify to vote by absentee ballot.

For in-person absentee voting, please go the Bath Township Clerk’s Office at the above address.

Have you ever thought of becoming an Election Worker and working on Election Days? An application is available at http://www.dewitttownship.org/web/forms_docs.htm, or give the Clerk’s Office a call for more information.

INFORMATION IS THE KEY

Sometimes it's those little assumptions that confuse us. The things we don't really think about that may lead to misunderstandings or confusion. We hope this section will be useful to our residents, clearing up those misunderstandings, eliminating confusion or just providing useful information.

A new and valuable service is available to all Township residents. 2-1-1 is an easy to remember free phone service that links people with the human service information they need. By dialing 2-1-1, callers are connected with an information referral specialist who can discuss the caller's needs and give them the information and/or agencies they can contact for assistance. You can also call 2-1-1 if you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities available in your area. It's never too early to call and get help or give help.

Central Michigan 2-1-1 is committed to providing the highest level of community service. If you encounter difficulty reaching the service, go on-line to www.centralmichigan211.org or call (866) 561-2500. It's free, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and it's confidential. Here is a sample of just some of the needs that 2-1-1 can help with:

- rent and utility assistance
- food pantries
- shelter
- low-cost health clinics
- volunteer opportunities
- support groups
- transportation
- substance abuse

A Township resident recently used this new resource to inquire about services available for her senior citizen mother. She reports that the help she received was invaluable in helping her find assistance for her aging mother.

What a great new resource in Central Michigan 2-1-1™ Get Connected. Get Answers.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review met the week of March 10th. A big THANK YOU to Board members Norm Farnum, Al Harrison and Concetta D'Agostino for their time and commitment given in service to the residents of the Township.

The most frequently asked question at this year's Board of Review was, "Why did my Taxable Value increase if the real estate market is down?" As State Equalized Values begin to reflect current market values and sale prices, the gap between State Equalized Values (assessed value adjusted annually to reflect 50% of fair market value) and Taxable Values (the actual amount on which your property taxes are based) for many homes remains significant. Taxable Values will continue to rise annually at the rate of inflation (2.3% for 2008) as long as the Taxable Value is less than the State Equalized Value. As a result of Proposal A, assessments can be significantly reduced and the Taxable Value will still continue to rise because the Taxable Value is capped and only increases annually at the rate of inflation.

2008 Assessment Roll – shows 5,504 real, 399 personal and 243 exempt parcels. The Township's State Equalized Value (SEV) grew from \$527,873,700 in 2007 to \$528,659,300 in 2008.

PAVILION RENTAL INFORMATION

As the weather breaks, and our long winter comes to an end, plans for summer events are being finalized. With this comes an increase in calls for pavilion rentals. If you need to rent space this summer, call early, as some dates are already booked and space is limited.

The Township rents 5 park pavilions for graduations, reunions and other gatherings. There are 3 pavilions at Granger Meadows Park and 2 pavilions at Valley Farms Park. All are very nice and have locations close to restrooms and playgrounds. Each pavilion has 10-12 tables which can seat 8 people each. All pavilions have electrical hook-ups and grills available to use.

To reserve a pavilion, first call the Treasurer's Office at 668-1411 and check availability. Then you can pick up a rental form at the Township Hall from the Treasurer's Office or on-line using this link http://www.dewitttownship.org/web/forms_docs.htm. You may also call the Treasurer's Office and request the form to be mailed to you. Complete the form and return it to the Treasurer's Office along with the \$20 security deposit. The security deposit will hold a confirmed reservation until 10 days prior to the rental at which time the rental fee is due. If the rental payment is not received as of 10 days prior, the reservation will be cancelled. Your deposit will be returned after your rental date if rental conditions have been met. Rates are as follows:

Facility	Category	Resident Fee	Nonresident Fee	Security Deposit
Pavilion	1- Twp Sponsored	No Charge	N/A	N/A
	2- Non-Profit	\$15.00 (4 hours)	\$20.00 (4 hours)	\$20.00
	3- Business/Family	\$35.00 (4 hours)	\$40.00 (4 hours)	\$20.00

*Fee structure is subject to change.

Basic rules to know when reserving a pavilion:

- No alcoholic beverages allowed
- No pets allowed
- Leave the pavilion in the same condition you found it (put your trash in the containers provided)

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Movies now showing on Tuesdays at Riverside Park in DeWitt! Movies will start at dusk. There will be entertainment in the park prior to the start of the movies. All movies are free.

Refreshments will be available from local non-profit organizations. So bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy a relaxing outdoor film. The following shows will be playing:

Date	Movie
June 24	Transformers
July 8	An American Tail
July 22	Back to the Future
August 5	Beethoven (also open mike night)
August 19	Ghostbusters

If the movie is cancelled due to rain, it will be held Thursday the same week at the same time. This program is sponsored, in part, by local businesses and local non-profit organizations.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO AVOID BLOCKAGES IN YOUR PLUMBING AND THE SEWER SYSTEM

Residents can help the environment and the effectiveness of their sewer system by taking several steps when handling and disposing of household cooking oils and cooking grease:

1. Never pour liquid grease or oil into a drain. Collect cooled cooking oils and grease in a glass or metal, sealable container and allow it to solidify. It can then be disposed of in your regular trash.
2. Inform and encourage all members of the household to follow proper grease handling steps. Household cooking oils and cooking grease can cause major problems for you and your neighbors if not handled properly.

Harmful effects of cooking oils and cooking grease discharged to your plumbing and the sanitary sewer system:

- Grease build-up causes blockages to occur in both the household plumbing and public sewer system.
- Household plumbing may become clogged with grease and require the expense of calling a plumber to clear the lines or your lateral (the line from your home to the main line sewer).
- Excessive grease can build up in sewer pipes and sewage pumping stations. This can cause mechanical problems that can result in sewage backing up into homes or a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO), where untreated sewage flows onto the ground creating an environmental and public health issue.
- Increased costs of maintenance and repair of sewer pipes means higher sewer bills to all users.
- Excessive grease that enters the treatment facility causes interference and operational problems, which in turn increases costs.
- Sewer lines become coated with solidified grease and have less capacity to convey wastewater. During heavy rain events this can lead to increased occurrences of sewage backing up into homes or an SSO.

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

May 3	Clean Sweep
May 6	Bath School Election
May 12	Community Center Open House
May 13 (4:00 pm)	Last day to file Partisan Nominating Petitions for Local Office for August Primary
May 13	Last Day to file Precinct Delegate Affidavit for August Primary
July 1	Summer Taxes mailed out
July 7	Last day to register to vote and qualify to participate in the August 5 th Primary
July 18	Granger Meadows Celebration
August 5	Primary Election
September 15	Summer Taxes Due
October 4	Clean Community Event
October 6	Last day to register to vote and qualify to participate in the November 4 th General
November 4	General Election Day
December 1	Winter Taxes mailed out

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 482-5117. You may register for programs in person at the DARA office (16101 Brook Road, Lansing), the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) or DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt). Registration forms and program descriptions are also available on DARA's website, www.dewittrecreation.org.

Program	Dates	Time	Registration	Age	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Pitch, Hit & Run DeWitt Sports Park	4/19	10:00 am	On site	7-14	Free (age as of 7/17/08)
Big Truck Day DeWitt Public Service Bldg. (907 W. Main St, DeWitt)	5/10	12:00-1:30 pm	n/a	All	Free
Youth Cheer Camp	5/27-5/29	5:30-6:30 pm 6:45-7:45 pm	4/11-5/16	3-5 6-11	\$42
Adult Softball- summer	5/7&8- 7/30&31	Evenings	Begins 3/14	18+	\$290/team + ump fees
Drop Your Kids Off- Night	4/25	6:00-11:00 pm	3/14-4/18	5-12	\$15/1 child \$10 each addl. child
T-ball/Pee Wee Baseball	6/9-7/10	Evenings	4/18-5/9	4-7	\$38/\$43
Adult Tennis Leagues	6/9-8/1	Schedule on own time	5/9-5/30	18+	\$12/\$15-singles \$17-mixed doubles
Summer Day Camps	6/16-8/15	7:30 am-5:30 pm	Begins 4/4	5-12	\$90/\$95
Youth Golf @ Hawk Hollow	7/15-8/14	6-7 pm or 7-8 pm	Begins 5/30	8-15	\$50
Adult Softball-fall	8/10&11- 9/14&15	Evenings	Begins 6/27	18+	\$200/team + ump fees
Open Volleyball	Wed. & Sun. thru 5/25	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop In	18+	\$2
Discount Cedar Point Tickets	Sold 5/5-8/29	Use during 2008 season	n/a	All	\$14.95-\$67.25
Discount MI Adventure Tickets	Sold 5/5-8/29	Use during 2008 season	n/a	All	\$23.50

DARA has updated its online registration program. To register online, you must first call the DARA office to receive a username and password. Visit our website at www.dewittrecreation.org, select the sports, special events or classes tab on the home page, select your program and complete the required information. DARA accepts Visa and MasterCard payments online. You may also print registration forms and mail them in by clicking on the forms tab. Complete program descriptions can also be found on-line.

BIKE SAFETY

It's getting to be spring time and bike riding is a great way to get exercise, fresh air and share time as a family. But before you and the kids rush out and start pedaling, there's an important factor that you need to consider — safety:

- ✓ Make sure you have a bike helmet and that it fits securely.
- ✓ Pant legs shouldn't be too loose-fitting or flared. These can get caught up in the chain while riding.
- ✓ Stop at all stop signs and obey traffic lights just as cars do.
- ✓ Yield to pedestrians, stop at red lights, and be especially careful at intersections.
- ✓ Always ride in the same direction as cars do; never ride against traffic.
- ✓ Use bike lanes or designated bike routes whenever you can – not the sidewalk.
- ✓ Watch traffic closely for turning cars and don't ride too close to parked cars – doors can open suddenly.
- ✓ When riding at night, make sure you wear light colored clothing and have a bike light and rear reflectors.
- ✓ When riding in a group, always ride single file on the street; never share the seat with a friend or ride on the handlebars —it's easy to lose balance or suddenly swerve into traffic when riding with a passenger.
- ✓ Never change directions or lanes without first looking behind you.
- ✓ Always use the correct hand signals. Use your left arm for all hand signals. **Left turn:** After checking behind you, hold your arm straight out to the left and ride forward slowly. **Stop:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, pointing your arm downward in an upside down "L" shape and come to a stop. **Right turn:** After checking behind you, bend your elbow, holding your arm up in an "L" shape, and ride forward slowly. Or, hold your right arm straight out from your side.

SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

The sanitary sewer collection system of DeWitt Township is deteriorating due to age. In many places the sewer pipes in the ground are over 30 years old. Over time, the effects of hydrogen sulfide gas, tree roots, construction methods, pipe technology, and unstable soils have a negative effect on the integrity of this critical infrastructure.

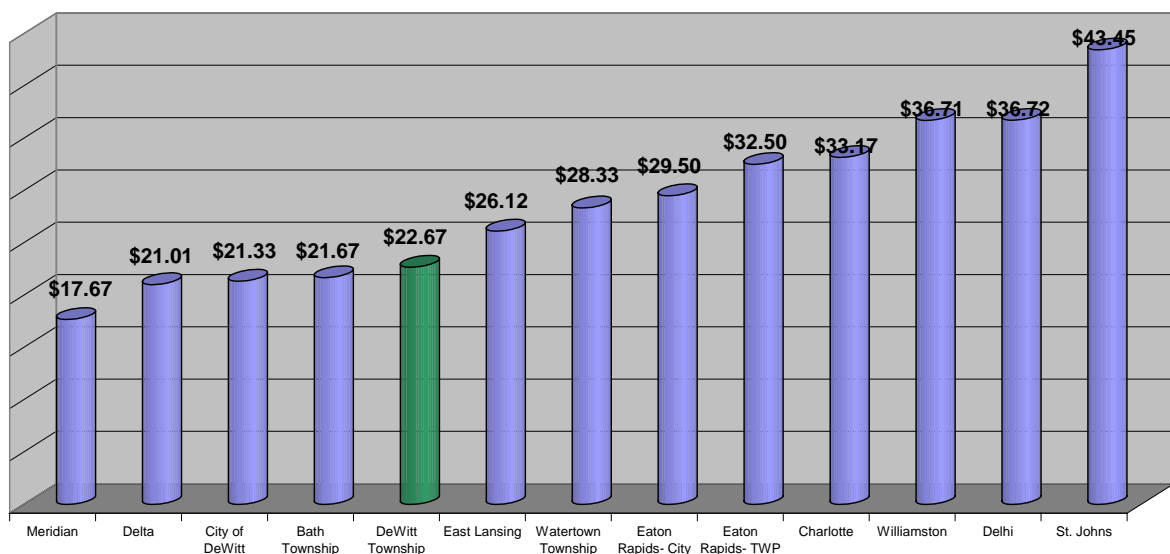
When these issues occur, they can cause a significant problem for the collection system. Cracks and defects can allow ground water to enter the system. The sewer plant then has to treat this water when it gets to the plant, thus increasing the cost of the plant operation. When the pipe is not completely smooth and round it can create obstructions. These obstructions can lead to SSOs or Sanitary Sewer Overflows. These are basically barriers in the collection system that can let raw sewage backup into people's homes or out manhole covers into the street and the environment. If enough of these occur, it can lead to fines and additional oversight by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. If defects in the system go untreated for a long enough time, they will eventually lead to a sewer collapse. These can lead to an even larger SSO event and more expense to mobilize construction crews to fix this unexpected unbudgeted repair.

To help prevent this problem, the Township recently had SCCMUA (Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority) and our Township Engineer C2AE evaluate our sanitary sewer collection system. From this review, they were able to create a sanitary sewer rehabilitation

plan. This plan will help the Township proactively address issues in the system before they have significant impact on our residents or the financial stability of our sewer fund balance. The total estimated construction, design, and contingency cost for repairing all the defects found is \$1,368,000. From this information, the Township has created a five year plan to try to repair all the top priority defects in the collection system.

Along with the sewer rehabilitation plan, the Township and SCCMUA are taking a hard look at the other aspects of our system. It is believed that this proactive approach will allow the Township to make better decisions and plans for the maintenance and operation of the sewer system. Ultimately, this will help ensure that we maintain reasonable sewer rates for our customers. Below is a comparison of the current monthly sewer rates in the area.

Comparison of Monthly Sewer Charges (5000 Gallon/mth)



It is important to note that the expenses for the Sanitary Sewer Collection System are completely funded by the users of the system. No general fund tax dollars are used to support the sewer fund. If you do not have a connection to the collection system, then none of your property taxes go to pay for sewer related expenses.

NEWS BITES

In partnership with the **REDEEMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DEWITT'S FOOD BANK**, you can now drop off non-perishables any time of the year at the DeWitt Township Hall. A box is located in the Police Department's lobby. The lobby is open 24 hours.

RECYCLE –Drop boxes for used alkaline batteries, cell phones, ink jet and laser toner cartridges, hearing aids and eye glasses are available in the lobby of the Township Hall. Mercury thermometers can also be exchanged in the Clerk's Office.

OUTDOOR FACILITY RENTALS – If you would like to rent a park picnic pavilion, softball field, inline skating rink, or soccer field, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 668-1411.

INDOOR FACILITY RENTALS - (Community Center gym or activity room) are handled through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority at 482-5117.

THANK YOU to Chuck and Molly Ruble, Bob Miller, Patti Lehman, Jean Heathman, Ione Berg, Elizabeth Walsh, Kathy Foley, Ilse King and Roy Peterson for their help labeling and sorting the Newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, contact the Township at 668-0270.

FIRE HAZARD REMINDER – Is your dryer lint trap clean? The fire department would like to remind residents to make sure your dryer lint traps and vents are lint free. The short time it takes to clean them out could save you hundreds or thousands of dollars in damage should a fire occur.

CONSUMERS ENERGY – STREETLIGHT PROBLEMS – customers should report streetlight problems directly via Consumer’s (800) 477-5050 number or on-line at www.consumersenergy.com, under “For Home” drop-down menu. Select “Report an Outage” and then “Report a Streetlight Problem.” You can also use this link:
<https://www.consumersenergy.com/contact.asp?Products/Index.asp?SSID=320&lasturl=/Content.asp>.

BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT – STREETLIGHT PROBLEMS – Call (517)702-6006 and speak to a customer service representative.

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION’S (MTA’s) ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP – Help ensure that today’s youth become involved in local government tomorrow! Students (juniors, seniors or graduate students enrolled in a Michigan college or university and pursuing a career in local government administration) are encouraged to apply for MTA’s Robert R. Robinson Memorial Scholarship by May 31, 2008. The scholarship is a one-time award determined on a competitive basis by the applicant’s academic achievement, community involvement and commitment to a career in local government administration. For more information contact MTA Public Affairs Liaison Jennifer Hoff at (517) 321-6467, ext 247, or e-mail Jennifer@michigantownships.org, or visit www.michigantownships.org/rrrschol.asp.

2010 DECENNIAL CENSUS PROGRAM

For the past three and one half months, the DeWitt Township Building Department has been working diligently to complete the first of three very important phases to prepare for the 2010 Census. The first is our participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses known as the LUCA Program. This program is of paramount importance to you as a taxpayer and resident of DeWitt Charter Township.

Why is it important? This phase is where we have the opportunity to update the Census map information to make sure each and every address is listed on the map and will receive a Census questionnaire.

How important is it? It is extremely important because the accuracy of the 2010 Census will determine the amount of State Revenue Sharing funds that will be returned to the Township for use by your elected officials to provide essential services to the residents of DeWitt Charter Township.

How is Census information used? It is used at state and local levels to allocate funds for the construction of schools and other public buildings (i.e. libraries), lunch programs for the elderly, child care centers, public transportation systems and emergency services such as police and fire, to name just a few.

The federal government also uses the information to determine the allocation of billions of dollars annually for community programs and services in education, housing, health care services and job training, etc. Census figures can be used as the basis for planning and marketing at all levels, in both the public and private sector. The information can also be an important tool for determining the direction and character of community growth and employment opportunities in our area.

In the second phase, between April and October of this year, the Census Bureau will be canvassing, or out in the field checking, the accuracy of what we have submitted as the latest complete list of addresses for our area.

The third and most important phase is your participation in the 2010 Census when you'll fill out and return your questionnaire. A questionnaire will be sent to you a couple of weeks before April 1st in 2010. **Your responses and the return of these questionnaires are extremely important.** Your answers are absolutely confidential and you should not be afraid to answer Census questions.

So the bottom line is, each and every one of you needs to be counted in order for your Township's fair share of federal revenue sharing dollars to be returned back into our community for use in providing essential services.

HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE

The deadline to be eligible for a 2008 Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption is May 1st. This means that according to State of Michigan tax law, you must own and occupy by this date.

What is a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption? Not to be confused with a Homestead Credit (which is a credit available to senior citizens and filed with income taxes), the Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption program, more commonly known as a homestead exemption, allows eligible homeowners to receive an exemption from their local school district operating taxes. This exemption was first introduced with the passage of Proposal "A" in 1994.

Am I Eligible for an Exemption? To be eligible for a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption, a person must own the property, occupy it as their principal residence, and file a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit with the Assessing Department by May 1st of the year they are seeking the exemption. Property owners who currently have an exemption do not need to re-file. Once filed, an exemption remains in effect for as long as the property continues to act as the principal residence for the persons filing the affidavit.

What does Principal Residence mean? It is the home you occupy and intend to return to whenever you go away. It is the address on your driver's license or voter registration card and the address from which you file your income tax returns.

A property does not qualify as a principal residence if the property owner claims a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption on another home in Michigan, a similar exemption on property out of state, files a Michigan income tax return as a non-resident, or files an income tax return for another state as a resident. Military personnel relocated on active duty may still qualify for exemption.

How do I Apply? Most often when you purchase a home, a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit is among the documents signed at closing. The closing agent then files this affidavit with the Assessing Department on your behalf. When building a new home or purchasing a home on a private sale, this is not always the case. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to obtain and file this form with the Assessing Department in order to apply for the exemption. This form can be acquired from the Township offices, or on-line at www.dewitttownship.org.

If you purchased a property with an existing exemption after the May 1st filing deadline, the exemption from the previous owner will remain in place for the balance of the calendar year.

What if My Residency Status Changes? Should you sell, move, or change the use of your primary residence, you are required to file a Request to Rescind Homeowner's Principal Residence form with the Assessing Department to rescind (remove) your current exemption. If you plan to file an affidavit for exemption on a new residence, you must rescind your previous exemption at the same time. Forms are available in the Assessing Department or on-line.

Is My Exemption Correct? The exemption percentage, typically either 0% or 100% is indicated on the annual assessment notice and on all tax bills issued by DeWitt Charter Township. If you feel you qualify for an exemption, but one is not specified, please contact the Assessing Department.

If it is found you are eligible and did not receive the Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption, this may be corrected at DeWitt Township's July and December Board of Review meetings. Corrections are limited to the current and three preceding years, and can only be adjusted at the indicated review sessions.

If you feel you qualify for a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption, but are unsure if you have filed or are receiving the exemption, you may contact the Assessing Department at 669-6494, or confirm your status on-line at www.dewitttownship.org under the Assessing Department, property records link.

DEWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W HERBISON ROAD
DEWITT MI 48820-7900

PRST STD
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TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER