

TOWNSHIP BOARD SUPPORTS RECOGNIZING US-27 AS A HISTORIC HIGHWAY

If you are from this area, you probably remember a trip “Up North” on US-27. Before the Township was crisscrossed by expressways, the US-27 highway carried travelers through the Township to summer vacations in places like Clare and Houghton Lake...that is, if you could manage to get through those stop lights in St. Johns. While you might know that the highway played a key role in expanding tourism throughout the State, you might not know that the road was critical to recreation and commerce to much of the eastern United States.

When the highway was first designated in 1926 (the same year as its famous cousin, Route 66), it connected Charlevoix, Michigan to Cincinnati, Ohio. It expanded over time, passing through Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida, eventually ending in Miami. So in its heyday, the highway connected the tip of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula to the tip of the Florida peninsula.

Although the highway has been replaced by newer expressways, much of the old route still exists. The Township Board recently approved a resolution supporting the efforts of an area resident, Craig Parrish, to recognize Old US-27 as a historic highway. Craig is working with communities in all seven states that the highway crosses through to obtain support for the historic designation. This designation will help bring renewed awareness to the historic highway and to the communities along the route, including DeWitt Township. With events already planned, including a motor tour of the highway in Michigan to be held in August, the local economy will benefit from the designation in the very near future.

There is a wealth of information on the Internet for anyone interested in the history and development of US-27. For more information on the motor tour of US-27, visit www.old27tour.com. If you are interested in the history of the highway in Michigan, you can visit www.michiganhighways.org/listings/HistoricUS-027.html. Links on this website will take you to more information about the history of the highway as it extended beyond the State to Florida, including maps showing the entire route.

WELCOME TO BRIAN ROSS, TRUSTEE

Brian Ross was appointed to fill a vacant Township Trustee position in September of 2006. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Michigan State University and is employed by the City of Lansing as the Wastewater Division Superintendent. Being an Association Director for the Michigan Water Environment Association, the Chair of the Clinton County Public Works, the Chair of the MDEQ Certification Board of Examiners, and a former DeWitt Township committee member, Brian has a history of local and statewide community service. Brian, his wife of 21 years Margaret, and their three children, Rachel, Bridget and Luke, have resided in the DeWitt community for 13 years.



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

Interim Manager
Jeffrey M. Gray

NEWS BITES

WELCOME ABOARD to Steve Murphy and Don Rochford, both new officers of the Police Department.

THANK YOU to Kathy Foley, Jean Heathman, Lora Mae Higbee, Al Harrison, Koreen Smith, Helen Parker, Robert Miller, Isle King, and Elizabeth Walsh 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.

Project **CLEAN SWEEP** is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007. Appointments can be made beginning April 9, 2007. Watch the DeWitt-Bath Review for more details.

The annual **MEET THE MEADOWS** event is scheduled for Friday, July 21, 2007. Mark your calendars. Details will be published in future editions of the Newsletter and the DeWitt-Bath Review.

Our **DROP BOX** is located around the corner to the right of the main entrance. You may drop payments off after hours. Please be sure to pay by check/money order. Do not deposit cash.

2007 ASSESSMENT NOTICES - Residents and taxpayers should receive their 2007 assessment notices the first week in March. Unless there has been construction or a transfer of ownership during 2006, your taxable value will not increase more than **3.7%**, which is the rate of inflation for the 2007 assessment year. The notice will show an equalized value and a taxable value for your property. The **equalized value** is adjusted annually to reflect 50% of fair market value. The **taxable value** is the actual amount on which your property taxes are based.

BOARD OF REVIEW will meet the week of March 12, 2007. The specific times for appointments will be printed on the assessment notice, as well as published in the paper. 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 669-6494 after March 1, 2007. Often we are able to answer your questions and an appointment isn't necessary.

2007 ELECTIONS - This is an attempt to pass along what we know – so please remember - this information is not carved in stone. May 8th is the Election Day for the following School Districts: DeWitt, Bath, East Lansing, and St. Johns. November 6th is Election Day for Lansing School District and Lansing Community College. No information is yet available about election issues for the two Intermediate School Districts within the Township. If needed, they will be on one of the two above dates. So, if you live in the DeWitt School District, you will likely vote in both May and November.



JAPAN IN THE SUMMERTIME JULY 21–AUGUST 3, 2007



If you desire to engage in the cross-cultural experience of a lifetime, WE have the trip for YOU!! The City of DeWitt and DeWitt Charter Township invite DeWitt area residents to accompany other Michigan citizens on the 2007 Goodwill Mission to Koka City, Shiga, Japan. Individuals, families, and groups are welcome. The cost for the trip is \$2,900 with a deposit of \$300 due no later than February 9, 2007. Please call Larry Arbanas (668-1239) or Lisa Grysen at City Hall (669-2441) for more information and an application packet.

MORE ABOUT DTFD MEMBERS

As the old adage goes – “give a busy man something to do and it will get done.” Doug Bowers can be counted on to get it done for the Fire Department and has proven this for 35 years. DeWitt Township is fortunate to have, and is better served, because of Doug.

Doug is retired from GM after 35 years of service and is nearing his 35th year of service with the DeWitt Township Fire Department. During his many years of working on the Fire Department, Doug has made more than his share of emergency calls of all types. Since 1994 (*when records were automated*) emergency records report that Doug has responded to 40% of all calls. Doug also continues to work a part-time job during the summer months, making his high emergency response rate even more astounding.



Doug and Mary, his wife of 45 years, have three children and four grandchildren who keep them busy with extra-curricular school activities and sporting events. Both Doug and Mary work DeWitt Township elections and volunteer at their church.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provides free income tax preparation for low income families, senior citizens and students. Many clients depend on VITA to provide their income tax preparation and many depend on any credit (earned income credit) they are entitled to receive as a critical source of income. Tax returns are prepared by volunteer students from MSU and are reviewed by a professional accountant.

VITA representatives will be at the DeWitt Charter Township Community Center (16101 Brook Road, Lansing) on Thursday evenings (6:00 – 9:00 p.m.) from February 8, 2007 to March 1, 2007. Call the Township Hall at 668-0270 to schedule your required appointment. VITA also has sites around the Lansing area on different weeknights. Call the Capital Area United Way at 337-8211 for additional information regarding these additional locations.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE SAFETY

What do you do if you see an emergency vehicle approaching you from behind with its lights and siren on? Don't panic, but do pull your vehicle over to the right side of the road if possible. If you can't pull to the right, try to leave room for the emergency vehicle to get by you. If you have already stopped, stay put. After the emergency vehicle has passed, re-enter the roadway with caution—often there are more emergency vehicles coming. Keep intersections clear as you never know which way the emergency vehicle will go.

What do you do if you see a stopped emergency vehicle? It's now the law; slow down and move over a lane if possible. If traffic or other conditions prevent you from changing lanes, you must slow down and proceed with due caution.

The DeWitt Township Police, Fire and EMS appreciate your support in this matter.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UP-DATE

The Meijer Supercenter & Gas Station w/Convenience Store project just north of Herbison Road on the east side of US-27 continues to remain on schedule and plans are on track for an opening in April of 2007.

The Country Walk Condominiums of DeWitt project is under way on the south side of Stoll Road, just west of US-27. The project will eventually provide a total of 96 units which will be in six buildings and each building will contain 8 - two bedroom and 8 - three bedroom units. The project also includes detached buildings that will provide 11' x 24' garage storage space for each condominium unit.

Finally, in the first phase of the new Crouner Farms Subdivision on E. Howe Road, three new single family dwellings are up and two more are under construction. The first phase contains 38 lots and the project will eventually contain a total of 128 lots. Residents of this project also get to enjoy a beautiful Community Center which has an outdoor swimming pool.

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. In future Newsletters we hope this section will be useful to our residents, clearing up those misunderstandings, eliminating confusion or just providing useful information.

If information is the key, how do I get information? Let's start with the internet. Below is a list of web sites that Township staff believes could be useful to Township residents.

DeWitt Area Websites

www.dewitttownship.org – DeWitt Township Website
department services & responsibilities; meeting dates, times, agendas, minutes; census & population info; property record information; frequently requested forms; street maps. Links to the following: school districts, state/federal elected officials, county services (roads, health dept, waste management), district library, State of Michigan, Greater Lansing Association of Realtors and Convention and Visitor's Bureau, City of DeWitt, Sewer Authority

www.dewittmi.org – City of DeWitt Website
city services, elected officials, parks information and much more

www.dewittrecreation.org – DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) Website
program information (dates, ages for participation, etc); registration forms; league schedules; scholarship and volunteer applications; DARA contact & policy information; links to facility use & facility rental

www.dewittlibrary.com – DeWitt Public Library Website
District Library (DeWitt Township, DeWitt City, and portions of Watertown Township) located on Schavey Road; hours, programs, and lots more

www.sccmua.com – Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority Website
information on the operation and maintenance of the Sanitary Sewer System for DeWitt Township, City of DeWitt, Bath Township, and Watertown Township; how to deal with a sewer backup and disease prevention, emergency numbers, meeting dates, and municipal standards

Clinton County Websites

www.clinton-county.org – Clinton County Website
online aerial photos of all parcels in the County, election results by government unit, info on County farmland preservations efforts and the Green Space Commission, County Sheriff, MSU Extension, Waste Management, Animal Control, Drain Commissioner, and Health Department

www.ccrcc-roads.com – Clinton County Road Commission Website
snow plowing schedules and priorities, online driveway permit applications and more

www.clinton-county.org/911/central_dispatch.htm - Clinton County Central Dispatch
provides information regarding Clinton County's 911 dispatch system

www.mdot.state.mi.us/ptd/providers/clinton/cfm - Clinton Area Transit
provides info and contact phone numbers for pubic transportation and curb to curb services

Emergency Preparedness Websites

www.ready.gov – A division of Homeland Security
learn how you and your family can be prepared for emergencies

www.redcross.org – Red Cross Website
information on services provided by the American Red Cross.

www.fema.gov – Federal Emergency Management Agency Website
provides information for business, emergency personnel, government, individuals, institutions, kids, news media, home owners, parents and teachers, pet owners, volunteers, and more regarding disaster planning and assistance

State of Michigan Websites

www.michigan.gov/emd - information on emergency management for the State of Michigan

www.michigan.gov/ag - to report internet abuse against children, consumer alerts, and more

www.michigan.gov/msp - current road conditions, identity theft resources, and ICHAT to request criminal history checks

www.michigan.gov/tax_trib - property tax appeal procedures and forms for the Tax Tribunal

www.michigan.gov/treasury - (under local government services) forms & Instructions, Principle Residence Exemption forms, Property Tax forms, 2007 Real & Personal Property Statements

www.state.mi.us/dit/directory.aspx - State employees contact directory where you can search by name for State employees' phone numbers or e-mail addresses

www.michigan.gov/dnr – season and licensing information for hunting and fishing

www.mapquest.com – MapQuest Website
maps and directions to anywhere

NEED TO LEARN HOW TO USE THE INTERNET? The DeWitt Public Library offers classes. Call 669-3156 to get a class schedule or to put your name on a waiting list for future scheduled classes. Colleges, local adult education, and even the internet itself, offer classes for beginners through advanced users. Likely, you are in one of two categories. I'd really like to learn more about the world wide web . . . or How did I ever find out about anything before I used the Internet?

DARA RECREATION NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) is located at the DeWitt Township Community Center (DTCC), 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, MI), DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt, MI) or the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI).** Registration forms are also available on DARA's website, www.dewittrecreation.org.

Drop Your Kids Off(DYKO) -

Nights-Drop your kids, ages 4-12, at the DTCC for a night of fun and games. Upcoming DYKO nights will be held on February 23rd, March 9th, and April 20th from 6:00-11:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Kids will play gym games, complete arts and crafts projects, watch movies, and have pizza and pop for dinner. The cost is \$15 for one child or \$25 for two children. Your kids will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to leave the building.

All Day-Schools out and your kids need something to do? Drop your kids, ages 4-12, at the DTCC for an entire day full of programmed activities and games. All Day DYKO will be offered on March 30th and April 27th when the DeWitt Schools are closed to students. Kids can be dropped off anytime after 7:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 5:30 p.m. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. The cost is \$25 for one child and \$40 for two children. Pre-registration by one week in advance is required.

Easter Egg Hunt - The Easter Bunny will be visiting Valley Farms Park on Saturday, March 31st for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids ages 1-10 should bring a basket for collecting eggs and prizes. The Egg Hunt begins promptly at 3:00 p.m. so don't be late! The Egg Hunt will be at Valley Farms Park if the weather cooperates or inside the DTCC in the case of bad weather.

Open Volleyball - Open Volleyball is available on Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for those ages 18 and up. The final date for open volleyball is Sunday, May 27th at the DTCC. The cost is \$2 per person.

Wiggle Worm Olympics - Boys and girls, ages 3-5 years old, are invited to test their skills in events like the marshmallow shot put or the paper plate discus throw in a 7-event mini Olympics. The Wiggle Worm Olympics will take place on Wednesday, February 21st from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the DTCC. The cost is \$5 per DeWitt Township/City resident and \$8 for all others. Registration fees include a medal and snack for all participants with special prizes for event winners. Registration is on-going. Register early so you don't miss your chance to compete.

MRPA Hoop Shoot - The Hoop Shoot is a free competition open to boys and girls, ages 8-15 (as of 12/31/07). Participants will have 60 seconds to score as many points as they can from designated shooting spots. Top scorers in each age group will advance to a sectional competition and possibly a state competition. The Hoop Shoot will take place on February 12th, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the DTCC gym. Participants may register at the competition and need to bring a copy of their birth certificate for age verification.

Spring Break Camp - With the great success of our summer day camps, we are excited to offer a day camp during the DeWitt School District Spring Break. Camp will take place Monday, April 2nd through Thursday, April 5th (no camp on April 6th-Good Friday) for 5-12 year olds. Camp will run from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. with drop off times beginning at 7:30 a.m. and pick up times ending at 5:30 p.m. Campers will participate in gym games, team building games, arts and craft projects and more. Campers must bring a sack lunch. Morning and afternoon snack and drink will be provided. The cost is \$60 per camper for Township/City residents and \$65 for all others. Pre-registration is required by March 23rd. Space is limited to the first 25 campers to register and pay. Registration begins February 16th.

Spring Indoor Yard Sale - Are you tired of things piling up in the basement and garage and worried that bad weather will ruin the early yard sale? Haul your items down to the DTCC on Saturday, April 14th for the fifth annual indoor yard sale. The sale will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and is free to shoppers. Registration begins February 16th. Space is limited so register early. 8' X 16' area with one 8' table provided is \$10.

Adult Golf at Hawk Hollow - DARA and Hawk Hollow have teamed up to offer an adult golf program for those 18 years and older. Instruction is geared toward those with beginner/intermediate golf skills. Wednesday night and Thursday night sessions beginning April 18th/19th are available. The program will run for 5 weeks from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$60 per participant. Rental clubs are available. Kirk Sherman, Hawk Hollow's golf professional and members of his staff will be instructing the class. Registration begins March 2nd.

"Little Kickers" and Youth Zone Soccer - Our youth soccer programs for ages 4-6 are fun and instructional programs designed to teach our youngsters the basics of soccer. "Little Kickers" for age 4 and Youth Zone for ages 5-6 will be offered for 6 weeks this spring beginning on Saturday, April 14th. Players will have one Saturday game and a one-hour practice each week of the season. The cost is \$28 for DeWitt Township/City residents and \$33 for all others. Every player receives a team t-shirt and participation medal. Players are required to provide their own shin guards. Registration runs from February 16th - March 9th. Late registrations will be accepted after March 9th with a \$10 late fee.

Adult Softball Leagues - Our spring/summer adult softball leagues will be offered for both Coed and Men's league teams. Coed teams will play 12 games on Wednesday evenings beginning on May 9th and will end with a single-elimination league tournament in mid-July. Men's league teams will play 12 games beginning on May 10th and will end with a single-elimination league tournament in mid-July. All games will be played at the DeWitt Sports Park, Valley Farms Park and Granger Meadows Park. The team fee of \$260 includes all game balls, team score book, line up cards and awards for both the league and tournament champions and runners-up. Both leagues follow ASA rules and will use ASA certified umpires. Registration for adult softball leagues begins on March 16th. Register your team early as space is limited.

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

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