

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
Jeffrey Baumann
Max Calder
Steve Musselman
David Seeger

Manager
Matt Kulhanek

www.dewitttownship.org

“MEET” THE NEW GRANGER MEADOWS PARK



The newest addition to the Township’s park system, Granger Meadows Park, will be opening to the public with a bang of fireworks on July 22, 2005. To kick off this opening and introduce the public to the park, the Township, Granger and the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) will be hosting the Meet the Meadows event on July 22nd and 23rd. The Meet the Meadows brochure is included in this newsletter and lists all the entertainment and activities scheduled for these two days. It takes many hands to put on an event like Meet the Meadows. If you are interested in volunteering some time to help out, please call the Township at 668-0270. Some activities for this event require pre-registration. Please contact DARA at 482-5117 to see what activities still have openings.

This 75 acre park, located at State and Wood Roads, is unlike any other recreational facility in the area. Designed to provide year round use, the park reflects the agrarian history of the Township. Rolling berms covered in natural meadow grasses, a small orchard, and the earth tone colors of the buildings all suggest you’re still on the farm.

Granger Meadows Park, which has been constructed and generously donated by Granger to the Township, will provide family fun for years to come. A gift of such magnitude once again shows the commitment that Granger has made to the DeWitt community. Come help us enjoy one of the finest park facilities in the area. See you in the Meadows!

*** DEWITT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ***

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2nd 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

DEWITT SPORTS PARK, HERBISON AND DEWITT ROADS

DEWITT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Having volunteer firefighters in close proximity to a fire station helps to ensure that emergency response times are as short as possible. Ed Brandon and John Braska are two firefighters “close-by” that work to deliver emergency services to residents that need the help of the Fire Department. Ed and John have been with the DeWitt Township Fire Department for 4 ½ and 3 years, respectively. Here is a snapshot of these men that volunteer their time for DeWitt Township.



Ed and his wife, Jennifer, along with their two young daughters, Samantha and Erin, have made DeWitt their home for over five years. The Brandon household is also home to their dog, Buddy, two cats, two rabbits, a guinea pig, a frog and four aquariums stocked with tropical fish. This pet-extended household is lovingly referred to as the “Brandon Zoo.” Ed works full-time as a printer for the John Henry Company, and enjoys hunting, motorcycles, classic cars and tropical fish. Ed’s big project is the restoration of a classic 1969 Ford Mustang. Ed enjoys volunteering for the Fire Department and is especially interested in educating young children about fire safety.



John and his new bride Carrie were married in May of this year and together they make their home with two Golden Retrievers, Taylor and Koda, and Turbie the cat. John and Carrie honeymooned for two glorious weeks in Hawaii, returning with tales of airline mishaps, a helicopter trip into a volcano, snorkeling with exotic fish, an all-day luau, horseback riding and many more wonderful experiences. John is a licensed builder and owner of Braska Construction Company, located in DeWitt. He has been in business for the past 5 years building new homes, additions and remodeling projects. John enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing golf and poker, as well as watching NASCAR on television. John is also a volunteer firefighter with the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority.

HOW AFCI AND GFCI ELECTRICAL DEVICES PROTECT YOU

Many of you are probably familiar with an electrical device known as a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter). This device is designed to stop the electrical current in the event an appliance you are holding shorts out while you are in water or is accidentally dropped into water. The device protects you from serious injury by electrical shock and possible electrocution. The current code requires GFCI’s in many areas of your home including bathrooms, kitchens, basements and garages.

You may not be as aware of a relatively new electrical device known as an AFCI (Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter). This device is designed to prevent the possibility of electrical fires starting in your home. The AFCI stops electrical current when it detects arcing across a break in a wire. All outlets located in bedrooms are now required to be protected by an AFCI device which would be located in your electrical panel box. This device is intended to protect your home from the possibility of a fire starting when materials surrounding a break in a wire are ignited from arcs.

Newer homes will have both of these protective devices, but they can also be installed in older homes that were built before these devices were available or required. In short, no pun intended, you may wish to consider having these devices installed as part of your next home improvement project.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Township Board and Planning Commission have completed a draft of the updated Comprehensive Development Plan. On May 19th, the Township hosted a Town Meeting to share the draft with the public. We thank all of you who took time from your busy schedules to share your comments. If you were unable to attend the Town Meeting, feel free to submit any written comments you may have about the draft Plan to the Planning Department through the end of July.

Pursuant to State law, the Township is required to distribute the draft to the Planning Commissions of each government entity within, or contiguous to the Township, and to the Clinton County Planning Commission. Each has 65 days to review and provide advisory comments. The County Planning Commission is afforded up to 95 days for its opportunity to review and comment. The Township completed the distribution in late April.

Once input on the draft plan has been completed, the Township will incorporate any necessary changes and hold a public hearing before the plan is adopted. This public hearing is scheduled for August 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Copies of the draft Comprehensive Development Plan are available on the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org. Click on the link to the Planning Department, and then click on Comprehensive Development. Copies are also available in the Township Planning Department. Anyone with questions can contact the Planning Department at 669-6576.

SUMMER TAX BILL AND SUMMER DEFERMENT INFORMATION

The summer tax bills are being processed and will be mailed out by July 1st. If you do not receive one, and should have, please let us know. If your taxes are in an escrow account, the tax bill will be mailed to the requesting financial institution. The due date for payment without additional interest is September 14, 2005.

You may qualify to defer your summer tax bill until February 14th, 2006 without interest or penalty fees. To qualify you must meet the following guidelines: household income less than \$25,000.00 for the prior calendar year, and one of the following listed:

1. Senior Citizen (62 years or older)
2. Paraplegic, quadriplegic
3. Eligible serviceman, veteran, widow-widower
4. Blind person
5. Totally and permanently disabled

Those that farm agricultural real property may also qualify. For an application, please call the Treasurer's Office at 668-1411. Residents that defer summer taxes must complete the application and return it before September 14th, 2005.

FALL CLEAN SWEEP IS HERE!!!

Get rid of the junk taking up space around your house and haul it down to Granger Landfill on Saturday, September 24th for the annual Fall Clean Sweep Project. This is a free program to DeWitt Township residents that allows you to haul a load of junk to the landfill with DeWitt Township picking up the bill. **You must be a Township resident and must make an appointment to participate.** We will start taking appointments on August 1st. For more information or to make your required appointment, please call the Township Hall at 668-0270. Space is limited, so don't wait too long to make your appointment.

ELECTION DAY – AUGUST 2, 2005

August 2nd is a scheduled Election Day for all of Clinton County, which of course includes DeWitt Township. The August 2nd election ballot will contain only two items, two County Proposals. The County Proposals are:

RENEWAL OF 911 OPERATING SURCHARGE ON PHONE BILLS

Proposal to renew 911 Operating Surcharge on Phone Bills, which reads: “Beginning on December 31, 2006 and continuing until December 31, 2011, shall the Clinton County Board of Commissioners be authorized to renew the monthly surcharge of up to sixteen (16%) of the lesser of \$20.00 or the highest monthly flat rate charged by a service supplier for basic local exchange service within the geographic boundaries of Clinton County for the purpose of paying for the operating cost of the 911 emergency telephone answering and dispatch system operated by and within Clinton County?” Yes ____ No ____

Questions on this proposal should be directed to Jim Fyvie at 989-224-6792.

CLINTON AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Clinton Area Transit System Millage Proposal, which reads: “Shall the public authority, Clinton Area Transit System (CATS) as provided for by Public Act 196 of 1986, for the purpose of operating a public transportation system, which includes public transportation for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, levy a tax of up to .20 mill (that being \$0.20 per thousand dollars of state equalized value, or taxable value, if applicable) on real and personal property located within the County of Clinton for a period of four (4) years, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008? If the millage is approved and levied in its entirety in the 2005 calendar year, it will raise approximately \$385,000.00.” Yes ____ No ____

Questions on this proposal should be directed to Steve Leiby at 989-224-8127.

NEW VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARDS were mailed in early April of this year due to changes that occurred because of the new HAVA Election Laws and Election Consolidation. These new laws provide for electors to be allowed to vote for school elections and governmental elections at the same polling location, hence no further confusion as to where you go to vote on Election Day because you will now vote at the same location for all elections. If you have not received a new voter identification card yet, call the Clerk’s Office at 668-0270. Please discard your old card when your new one arrives. Your new voter card will show which one of the Township’s three polling locations you will vote at; Herbison Woods School, the Township Herbison Road Fire Station, or the Township Community Center.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS are available at the Clerk’s Office. If you are sixty years of age or older, or expect to be absent from the community, or will be working in the polls on Election Day, you qualify to vote by absentee ballot. You can make arrangements to get an Absentee Ballot by calling or visiting the Clerk’s Office. 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, you should have already received an Absentee Ballot Application for the August 2nd Election. If you believe you have requested to be on the list, but have not yet received an application, please call the Clerk’s Office.

IF YOU PLAN TO VOTE IN THE POLLS, it is often useful to view the ballot before Election Day. Sample ballots are available from the Clerk’s Office. As always, polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE AUGUST 2, 2005 ELECTION:

July 5th Last day to register and qualify to vote in the August 2nd election
July 13th Absent Voter Ballots must be available for issuance to voters
July 30th Last day absentee ballots can be mailed out. Clerk’s Office open 8am to 2pm
August 1st Absentee voting in the Clerk’s Office until 4:00 p.m.
August 2nd ELECTION DAY

ALL ELECTION AND VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE. See the first page of this Newsletter. For assistance call 668-0270.

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 the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org.

Youth Golf at Hawk Hollow

Tee it up and get ready for this year's youth golf program held at Hawk Hollow. Kids will learn golf fundamentals including: stance, set-up and swing in a fun environment led by Kirk Sherman-Hawk Hollow's Head Golf Professional. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday sessions from 6:00-7:00 p.m. are available for kids ages 8-11 and a Tuesday night 7:00-8:00 p.m. session is available for kids ages 12-15. Five week classes begin on July 19th/20th/21st. The cost per golfer is \$50 and class size is limited so register early.

Concerts in the Park

Take a journey back in time and join us for a great night of music and fun. Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band will perform at Riverside Park in Downtown DeWitt on Tuesday, August 9th at 6:30 p.m. This entertaining and interactive concert will be fun for all ages. Bring your family down to the park and enjoy a free and exciting show while cooling off with an old-fashioned root beer float or ice cream treat sold by ScoopyDoo's.

Come join us for a night of memories from the 40's and 50's. The Medley of Memories duet will perform a mosaic of songs from the Big Band Era, along with country and rock at Pavilion #3 of the new Granger Meadows Park on Monday, September 12th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The Medley of Memories concert is open to the public and free for all ages. Be sure to bring your family and lawn chairs for this fun-filled evening.

Fall Adult Softball Leagues

Our Fall Adult Softball Leagues, for Men's Class D and below and Open Coed teams are just around the corner. Men's League games will be played on Monday nights and Coed League games will be played on Sunday afternoons at the DeWitt Sports Park, Valley Farms Park and Granger Meadows Park adult softball fields beginning on August 14th (coed) and August 15th (men). Leagues will run for 5 weeks with a double header each week for a total of 10 games. The cost is \$200 per team for 10 games and includes the following: team fee, player fee, game balls, score book, line up cards and sponsor trophy for the League Champion and League Runner-up. We schedule the ASA certified umpires. Teams will be responsible for paying \$15 to the umpire at the beginning of each game. Registration for the fall coed and men's leagues begins July 15th. The coed and men's leagues are limited to eight teams each so register early to save your team's spot.

Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick

The local level of this nation-wide skills competition is available to kids ages 8-15 (as of December 31, 2005) on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the DeWitt High School Football Field. Kids will be tested in punting, passing and kicking skills and our local champions will advance to a Sectional Competition with the chance of competing at Ford Field. There is no cost to compete and pre-registration is not required. All participants must bring a **COPY** of their birth certificate to the competition. Awards will be given to the top three boy and girl scorers in each age group and all participants will receive a certificate of participation and football cards. **No cleats are allowed and this event will begin at 6:00 p.m.** Late arrivers will not be allowed to participate.

MRPA Drive, Pitch and Putt

This local level of a state competition tests your skills in driving, pitching and putting. The competition is open to boys and girls ages 8-14 (age as of July 1, 2005). This year's event will take place on Thursday, August 11th at 1:00 p.m. at the DeWitt Family Golf Center. Pre-registration is not required. Registration will take place on the day of the event from 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m. This event is free to all participants. The winner of each division will advance to the state competition. A copy of your child's birth certificate will be required if he/she advances.

"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 run for a 6 week session this fall beginning on Saturday, September 10th. Players will have one Saturday game and a one-hour practice each week of the season. The cost is \$28 for DeWitt City/Township residents and \$33 for all others. Every player receives a team t-shirt and participation medal. Every player is required to provide shin guards. Registration runs from July 29th - August 19th. Late registrations will be accepted through August 26th and will include a \$10 late fee.

Youth Flag Football

Football season is approaching quickly and DARA is offering a youth flag football league for boys and girls grades K-5 as of Fall 2005 (teams will be age appropriate). This 6-week program will begin on Saturday, September 10th. Games will be played on Saturday afternoons to accommodate those also playing soccer. The cost is \$28 for DeWitt City/Township residents and \$33 for all others. Every player receives a team t-shirt and participation medal. Every player is required to provide a mouth guard. Registration runs from July 29th - August 19th. Late registrations will be accepted through August 26th and will include a \$10 late fee.

DNR Hunter Safety Class

Back by popular demand, this DNR sponsored course will be offered to anyone 12 years and older on September 12th, 13th, 14th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the DTCC and September 17th at the shooting range. Get a head start on the next hunting season by getting your certification now. The cost is only \$10.00 per person which includes all of your materials and the day at the shooting range. Register early because space is limited. Registration begins July 29th.

Drop Your Kids Off

Drop your kids, ages 4-12, off at the DTCC for a night of fun and games. This fall's "drop your kids off" nights will be held on September 16th, October 14th and November 18th from 6:00-11:00 p.m. 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. Pre-registration at least one week in advance of the program date is required.

Pre-School Sports Starter

This six-week program will allow your youngster to try out three of our more popular programs. Boys and girls ages 3-5 will learn basic skills in soccer, basketball and floor hockey. This starter program will teach participants the basic fundamentals and rules to prepare them for our school-age programs. This program will run on the following Saturdays: 10/22, 10/29, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3 and 12/10. The cost is \$28 per participant for DeWitt City/Township residents and \$33 for all others. Every participant receives a t-shirt and participation medal. Registration runs from September 16th - October 7th. Late registrations will be accepted through October 14th and will include a \$10 late fee.

Youth Basketball - Grades 1-2

This 6 week instructional league is available to boys and girls in grades 1-2. Games begin on Saturday, October 29th (no games on November 26th-Thanksgiving weekend) and finish up on December 10th. All games will be played at DeWitt Elementary Schools. Registration runs from September 16th- October 7th. The fee is \$28 for DeWitt City and Township residents and \$33 for all others. Registration fee includes a team t-shirt and participation medal.

Pre-School Halloween Party

Bring your youngster to the DTCC for the 2nd annual Pre-School Halloween Party. Boys and girls, ages 3-5, will enjoy an evening of arts and crafts, Halloween games, a coloring contest and a best costume contest. Best of all, all participants will get a chance to trick-or-treat before the big night. The Pre-School Halloween Party will run from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 24th. Registration begins on September 23rd and pre-registration by Monday, October 17th is required. The fee is \$6 for DeWitt City and Township residents and \$8 for all others.

25th Annual Arts and Craft Show

The 25th Annual Arts and Craft Show in the DTCC will take place on Friday, November 4th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Over 50 booths are available for vendors or for shopping. The cost per booth is just \$25, including one 8-foot table and the cost to shop is FREE! Concessions are available throughout the show. Support our local recreation programs by purchasing a raffle ticket for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. A minimum of one prize per hour is awarded with a homemade quilt for the grand prize. Registration begins on September 2nd and booths will be awarded on a first come/first serve basis.

Open Volleyball

Open Volleyball will be available on Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for those ages 18 and up. Open Volleyball begins on Wednesday, September 14th at the DTCC. The cost is just \$2.00 per person.

Dining Site

This year-round program is offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the DTCC. The meals are brought in through the Tri-County Office on Aging Meals on Wheels program and are always well balanced. Prior to the meal, participants play shuffleboard, cards, exercise and socialize. After the meal, there is often bingo or special programming. This program is geared towards senior citizens, but everyone is welcome to participate. The cost of a meal is a suggested donation of \$2.25 for those over 60 years or \$4.00 for those 60 years and younger.

Park and Community Center Reservations

The DARA office accepts reservations for the DTCC, Valley Farms Park pavilions and Granger Meadows Park pavilions. If you would like to make a reservation, please call the office at 482-5117 to check on available dates and to request the necessary paperwork.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to Freida Felzke, Jean Heathman, Carr and Ethel Baldwin, Koreen Smith, Al Harrison, Lora Mae Higbee, Ilse King and Helen Parker for their help labeling and sorting the Newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.

FATAL VISION PROGRAM

In co-operation with the City of DeWitt Police Department, Officers Lott and Terrill, Lt. Traub and Chief Russell assisted with the "Fatal Vision Program" at DeWitt High School on May 5th. Students drove golf carts down a narrow path (wide enough for a golf cart) or tried to do sobriety tests (walk a straight line) while wearing special goggles simulating an impaired or intoxicated condition. This was a great learning experience on the dangers of drinking and driving while impaired or being in a motor vehicle with someone who is in that condition. This event was held two days before the DeWitt High School Prom.



BIKE RODEO

A "Bike Rodeo" was held on May 26th at the Schavey Elementary School with Officers participating from the City of DeWitt and DeWitt Township Police Departments. Helmets, stickers, reflectors, pizza, popcorn, and a lot of good information was handed out. The event was well organized and attended by 100 to 150 parents and kids. It really was a lot of fun. Even the Police Chiefs had a lot of fun.

DEWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W HERBISON ROAD
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