

## POLICE/FIRE MILLAGE UP FOR RENEWAL!

### VOTE AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup>

On April 24, 2006, the DeWitt Charter Township Board approved Resolution #060406 which proposes that the Police and Fire Millage Renewal question be submitted to the voters of DeWitt Charter Township at the Primary Election to be held **August 8, 2006**. Since 1977, Township voters have approved a special voted millage for police and fire protection services. This millage levy is broken down as one mill for police services and one mill for fire services. These millage requests have always had an expiration date on them, usually three or four years. The most recently approved millage was for four years, from 2002 to 2005 inclusive. The millage renewal, as proposed for the ballot, would be in place from 2006 to 2009, inclusive. This is the same levy that has been approved by voters in each millage request since 1977.

The revenue raised by this millage goes towards funding the Police and Fire Departments of DeWitt Charter Township. For 2005, the millage funded approximately 36% of the fire budget and 30% of the police budget. The millage rate has never been increased from the one mill for police and one mill for fire that was originally approved in 1977. One mill of levy equals \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value of property.

The Police Department has 15 full-time sworn police officers and an administrative staff of three (one full-time and two part-time). The Department provides coverage to residents and businesses in the Township on a 24 hour-a-day, 365 day-a-year basis. The Police Department coordinates the Neighborhood Watch Program, National Night Out, Operation Safe Prom, McGruff the Crime Dog, traffic and bicycle safety programs, and other services such as vacation and business checks, liquor inspections, home safety and security checks, fingerprinting and alcohol enforcement.

The Fire Department staff consists of 33 volunteer Firefighters, a full-time Fire Chief, one full-time Firefighter, a part-time Fire Marshal, and one part-time Secretary. The Fire Department responds to fires, personal injury accidents, and emergency medical calls. They also provide commercial fire inspections, a residential smoke detector program, and fire prevention education which includes the Fire Pup Program and the Fire Safety House. The Township operates and maintains two Fire Stations which house a total of five pieces of fire apparatus and two emergency medical vehicles. All Township Firefighters are certified to the State's minimum of Firefighter I, and each is also trained to the higher standard of Firefighter II.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL "MEET THE MEADOWS" CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>** for a day of family fun and a night of entertainment and fireworks at Granger Meadows Park for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Meet the Meadows Celebration. Look inside this Newsletter for an event flyer listing all the exciting activities. The date is right around the corner; hope to see you there.

### ADMINISTRATION

Twtp 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

## NEWS BITES

**THANK YOU** to Al Harrison, Koreen Smith, Helen Parker, Lora Mae Higbee, Chuck & Molly Ruble, Jean Heathman, and Carr & Ethel Baldwin for their help labeling and sorting the Newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**LEGAL PUBLICATIONS:** Township policy recognizes the DeWitt Bath Review as the major publication for all Township legal notices and general information. A synopsis of Township Board action, legal notices for rezonings and public hearings, and notices for ordinance adoptions, are just a few examples of legal publications you will find in the DeWitt Bath Review. Due to circulation changes for the DeWitt Bath Review, Lansing Community Newspapers is also used when beneficial.

**INTERNET ACCESS:** On-line property information can be accessed through the Township's website, [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org). Click on "Assessing Department," then "Property Records." Follow the link that says "Go to Property Records." You no longer have to enter a username or password. You are able to browse basic property record information, such as sale information, assessment and taxable value data, legal descriptions, and general tax information. Parcel information is now updated daily to reflect the most recent transfers and current sales.

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.

## MORE ABOUT DTFD MEMBERS

When experienced firefighters relocate to DeWitt Township and want to become a part of the DeWitt Township Fire Department, everyone benefits. That is just what happened when Craig King rolled into town in 2005. Craig's 19 years in the fire industry brings heaps of experience to our Fire Department. What follows is a closer look at Craig, his family and his interests.



Craig is happily engaged to Dorothy Simmons and has two adult daughters, Jamie and Leslie. Craig is employed by Eaton Aeroquip Corp. as a Quality Technician. Prior to moving to DeWitt Township, Craig lived in Jackson County where he was on the School Board in the Michigan Center School District for 10 years, serving two of those years as President. Craig also served with the local Red Cross for four years where he was a CPR instructor and Vice Chairperson of the local Disaster Team.

Craig's interests include NASCAR, and his favorite driver is #24 Jeff Gordon. In fact, Craig owns a 2003 limited edition, signature series Jeff Gordon Monte Carlo. Craig has had the thrill of driving his Monte Carlo on the MIS track where he works part-time. Craig has also toured on his motorcycle with the Christian Motorcycle Association. The group has toured around northern Michigan and on a Michigan covered bridge tour among many of their motorcycling adventures. His outdoor interests also include hunting and riding snowmobiles.

As his years of service to the communities he has lived in can attest to, Craig is passionate about helping people. He is a wonderful asset to the DeWitt community and this Fire Department. We are pleased to count Craig among our numbers!

## **ESTIMATING PROPERTY TAXES FOR NEW OWNERS**

Many changes were made to Michigan's property tax system when Proposal A was approved by Michigan voters in 1994. One of these changes was to add stipulations to protect current property owners from large increases in the property tax base from one year to the next. The increase in taxable value is limited each year to the lesser of 5% or the inflation rate, unless a transfer of ownership took place in the previous year. The inflation rate has ranged between 1.5% and 3.3% each year since the passage of Proposal A.

When a transfer of ownership takes place, such as a sale of the property, the taxable value on the property becomes uncapped in the year following the sale. This means that the taxable value shall be revised without limitations, to match the property's assessed value. Michigan law requires that assessments be at 50% of the property's true cash (market) value.

Purchasers of property who wish to estimate the future property tax bills should look beyond the tax amounts currently being paid by the existing property owner. In many cases, taxable value increases have been limited to the inflation rate for a number of years while actual market value of the property has increased at a much faster rate. In the year following a transfer of ownership, the taxable value is uncapped and could result in a significantly different tax bill than those paid by the previous owners.

Often times realistic estimates of future property taxes would be to use 50% of the sale price as an estimated taxable value multiplied by the appropriate tax rate. On construction projects, using 50% of the cost of the land and buildings as a taxable value could help to arrive at a realistic estimate of future tax bills.

Physical improvements (such as new buildings, additions, finished basements, and porches) not previously included in the assessor's calculations are added. The Assessing Department will revise property values to reflect the market values added by any improvements.

The Assessing Department is happy to assist new purchasers on property tax estimates. Please call us at 669-6494 if you have any questions.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**

Neighborhood Watch is a community based program that has been proven to deter crime. It has been around since 1972. It unites law enforcement agencies, local organizations and individual citizens in a community-wide effort to reduce crime. The Township currently has three very active Neighborhood Watch Groups: Stoll & Turner Road, Valley Estates, and Cadgewith Farms. Members learn how to make their homes safe and secure, watch out for others in their neighborhood, and report suspicious activity to the police. Crime prevention increases when you know who is in your neighborhood.

If you'd like to join a group in your area, rekindle a group, or start a group and need more information, contact Chief Brian Russell at 669-6578.

## **CITIZEN'S FIRE ACADEMY**

Have you every wondered just what a firefighter does or what your Fire Department does? Now may be your opportunity to learn the answers to your questions. A new program called the Citizen's Fire Academy will be able to answer those questions for you.

The Citizen's Fire Academy does not train citizens to become firefighters. Rather, it is an opportunity to see first hand what the duties and responsibilities of a firefighter are. Program attendees will learn about the hiring process, fire ground procedures, fire prevention, fire investigation, emergency medical service, receive CPR certification, hazardous materials instruction and much more. Classes will be taught by DeWitt Township Fire Department personnel. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss issues, learn the daily responsibilities of a firefighter, and participate in some hands-on activities.

The Citizen's Fire Academy will begin September 13, 2006 and conclude with a graduation ceremony on November 13, 2006. The classes will be held once a week on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Herbison Road Fire Station located at 1445 W. Herbison Rd.

The class size will be limited to 15 students and will require a commitment from the participants to attend all sessions. Attendees should wear casual clothing. Requirements for attendees are that you live or work within DeWitt Charter Township and be a minimum of eighteen years of age.

If you would like to apply, please call the Fire Department at 669-0071. An application will then be mailed to you. You may also monitor the DeWitt Township web site for Citizen's Fire Academy information and to obtain the application. The web site can be found at [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org)

## **SAFEGUARDING YOUR HOME WHILE ON VACATION**

Recently, a DeWitt Township resident asked how he could safeguard his home while he and his family were on vacation. He was not aware that the DeWitt Township Police Department has a property check program and will check his home while he's on vacation. Please contact the Police Department at 668-6578 for more information or to participate in the property check program. Here are some other things to consider:

- ❖ Have someone pick up your mail or have the post office hold it for you.
- ❖ Have someone mow your lawn and water your plants.
- ❖ Stop your newspaper delivery.
- ❖ Lock all doors and windows.
- ❖ Use timer lights.
- ❖ Don't leave a message on your answering machine telling people you won't be home.
- ❖ Shut down and unplug your computer.

Now that your house is safe and secure, have a great vacation!

**2006 Election Dates**  
**Primary Election - August 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**General Election - November 7<sup>th</sup>**

Following are the **Elected Offices which will appear on the 2006 Primary Election ballot in August:**

Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Judge of Probate, County Commissioners District 5 and 6, County Drain Commissioner (to fill vacancy) and DeWitt Township Precinct Delegates for Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (Republican and Democrat), and State and Local Proposals (if any).

**Elected Offices to appear on the 2006 General Election ballot in November:**

Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Judge of Probate, County Drain Commissioner, County Commissioner (precincts 5 & 6), and State and Local Proposals (if any).

**Absentee Ballots:** If you qualify to receive an absentee ballot (i.e. you plan to be absent from the community or are 60 years of age or older), please contact the Clerk's Office at 668-0270 to make arrangements to receive an absentee ballot. The absentee ballot application you will be receiving is a dual application, which allows you to apply for both the August Primary and November General Election ballots. Please be sure to check the appropriate boxes on the application for which election(s) you wish to receive a ballot. Also, please note that the Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday before any election to allow for absentee voting.

Sample ballots are available in the Clerk's Office prior to each election. Several propositions may be on the November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot, and it is often useful to read the propositions before election day. These ballots should be available from the Clerk's Office thirty (30) days prior to each election.

Dates to remember for the August Primary Election:

1. July 10, 2006: Last day to register to vote in the August Primary Election.
2. August 5, 2006: Clerk's Office will be open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for absentee voting and any other election business. Last day to have an absentee voter ballot mailed to you.
3. August 7, 2006 until 4:00 p.m.: Last day to obtain an absentee voter ballot and vote in person at the Clerk's Office.
4. **Election Day – August 8, 2006      Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Dates to remember for the November General Election:

1. October 10, 2006: Last day to register to vote in the November General Election.
2. November 4, 2006: Clerk's Office will be open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for absentee voting and any other election business. Last day to have an absentee voter ballot mailed to you.
3. November 6, 2006 until 4:00 p.m.: Last day to obtain an absentee voter ballot and vote in person at the Clerk's Office.
4. **Election Day – November 7, 2006      Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

## SO WHERE DOES ALL OF THAT WATER GO, ANYWAY?

We have all seen the grates at the edge of the curb or in the ditch beside the road. When it rains or snow and ice melts, these drains take stormwater away quickly through underground pipes to assure that roadways will not flood. What we might not realize is that this stormwater is not treated at a treatment plant. Instead, these pipes empty into creeks and streams that feed the wetlands, lakes, and rivers in the Township and County. This means that the actions we take in our own yards and driveways can have a very direct impact on these natural resources.

**Sediments** are soil particles that erode from bare earth, yards, construction sites, and crop land and then wash into the storm drains. Once they make it to streams, lakes, and rivers, they can cloud the water and block the sunlight that encourages healthy plant growth. They also deposit on stream and river beds, covering the gravel that many fish and aquatic insects use to spawn. Accumulated sediment deposits fill streams and rivers, reducing their capacity and increasing flooding problems. Pollutants can attach themselves to sediments, increasing the chances that they, too, will make it to creeks and streams.

To reduce the erosion of sediments:

- ✓ Stabilize bare soil with grass seed and mulch as soon as possible.
- ✓ Direct downspouts to grassy areas and use splash blocks.
- ✓ Sweep paved areas instead of hosing them down to prevent dirt and other debris from washing into storm sewers.
- ✓ Wash cars, boats, and other recreational vehicles on grassy areas to assure that sediments are not washed away. It also allows the ground to act as a natural filter for detergents and chemicals such as gasoline and oil.

**Nutrients** come from pet and yard wastes (including grass clippings and leaves), and misapplied fertilizers. They can result in the over-fertilization of lakes, streams, and rivers and in the growth of undesirable weeds and algae. Excess algae can block sunlight. When bacteria decompose pet and yard wastes, it consumes oxygen and can make it more difficult for fish to survive.

To reduce nutrients:

- ✓ Test your soil before applying fertilizer; some soils already contain the proper nutrients for plant growth.
- ✓ Calibrate fertilizer applicators to make sure that they are applying appropriate amounts.
- ✓ Avoid applying fertilizer before or during rain when it can be washed off lawns and into streets and creeks.
- ✓ Keep pet and yard wastes away from storm drains; yard wastes can always be composted.

**Household products** can contain chemicals that will pollute creeks, lakes, and rivers, killing plant and animal life. Household products should be properly disposed of. Never dump cleaning materials or automotive fluids, such as motor oil or antifreeze, into storm drains or onto the ground. Motor oil and other automotive fluid leaks can be cleaned up with kitty litter or other absorbent material, and disposed of in a waste container.

These are small steps, but when a whole community participates, they can make a big difference.

## **SUMMER TAX BILL AND SUMMER DEFERMENT INFORMATION**

The summer tax bills are being processed and will be mailed out by July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not receive one, and should have, please call the Treasurer's Office at 668-1411. If your taxes are in an escrow account, the tax bill will be mailed to the requesting financial institution. Taxes are due on September 14, 2006. After that date, interest will accrue. You may qualify to defer your summer tax bill.

For qualified residents, you may defer your summer tax bill until February 14, 2007 without interest or penalty fees. To qualify you must meet the following guidelines: household income less than \$37,500 for the prior calendar year, and one of the following.

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 our office. Residents who wish to defer summer taxes must complete the application and return it before September 14, 2006.

### **DEWITT FARMER'S MARKET Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**Located at the intersection of Main Street and Bridge Street, Downtown DeWitt.**

The Farmer's Market will be open on the following dates:

May 13, 20	July 8, 15, 22, 29	September 9, 16, 30
June 10, 17, 24	August 5, 12, 26	October 7, 14

The market has a wide variety of produce, nursery stock, baked goods, gourmet food items, and crafts all from the local area. Every Saturday of operation there will be a bounty of fresh vegetables and fruits and gorgeous plants to choose from. The selections of dried spices, seasonings, and the bottles of maple syrup at several of the stands, are outstanding. It is a great family oriented atmosphere, a lively and vibrant Saturday morning destination. If you are a local crafter, artist, or gardener/farmer, there is an information booth each week with all the materials you would need to become a vendor at the market as well. Visit us online at [www.dewittfarmersmarket.com](http://www.dewittfarmersmarket.com).

## **HOME IMPROVEMENTS HIRE A CONTRACTOR OR DO THE WORK YOURSELF?**

There are two main permit options for a homeowner to consider when contemplating going ahead with their home improvement project. The first is to hire a licensed professional and let him take care of permits. The second is to tackle the project and take care of the necessary permits yourself. The decision might get easier by weighing the pros and cons of each option.

For the inexperienced, tackling the project yourself can be quite intimidating. Hiring a licensed professional may be the best option because they usually are able to provide the following:

1. They should be knowledgeable of the codes and know the proper procedures to follow for obtaining a permit that a homeowner might struggle with (i.e. preparing documents and plans that need to be submitted).
2. They should have the skills necessary to do the work properly, which should give you a better quality finished product that you will be happy with.
3. They should be able to more accurately estimate costs, which should help you to assess whether you can afford and want to do the project.
4. They should be able to complete the project more quickly, which means less inconvenience to you.
5. They have a responsibility to you to complete the work correctly and in compliance with all building codes; and therefore, you have recourse if something is not right.

In summary, the licensed professional option will probably not be the least expensive up front, but could be the least expensive in the long run if you have underestimated the cost and scope of the project you tackle as a homeowner.

In the second option of tackling a home improvement project yourself, the main attraction is the labor and profit costs that you can save if you do your own work. You can save money, but the decision to do so should be weighed carefully with these considerations:

1. It is fine to pull a permit as a homeowner, but you are required to do all your own work. A friend or relative with a skill or knowledge you lack is only permitted to advise you.
2. Since you probably have never done the work before, it will probably take you longer to complete it.
3. You may not do things correctly the first time which could result in extra costs, if material cannot be reused, or in extra inspection costs.
4. You will be taking on the responsibility to provide all documents necessary for obtaining required permits and this includes construction plans. The Building Department can and will help you, but their function is to review what you submit, not design the project for you.
5. You may incur higher costs than you anticipated, simply because you did not estimate costs correctly or as accurately as a more experienced individual would have.
6. You will want to consider what tools will be necessary to perform the work properly, whether you will need to purchase them or be better off renting them because it is unlikely you'll use them again.
7. There is no recourse if the project doesn't turn out right. You are responsible for the work and ensuring the project complies with building codes.

These points are not intended to paint a dismal picture of the homeowner option or to suggest that a homeowner cannot do his own work and do it well. The important thing is to properly assess the complexity of the project and be aware of all that it entails so there are no surprises that make you wish you had not elected the do-it-yourself option.

**Finally, no one likes the fact that permits are required; but please remember, the building codes were enacted to provide for the public health, safety and welfare which cannot be achieved unless we all do what is required by law. Permits & licensing regulations protect ..... You!**

## **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.*

Let's clear up some confusion regarding issues related to PRIMARY ELECTIONS AND HOW TO VOTE A PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT.

This is an attempt to discuss Primary Elections in layman terms, by forgetting election law and proper terminology and talking about the issue in language that any voter can understand. Confusion about Primary Elections is understandable because the law has changed so many times.

Think of your ballot in three sections:

1. the partisan section
2. the non-partisan section
3. the proposal section

The partisan section is usually the section that causes voter confusion. The partisan section in the August Primary Election is used by the political parties to determine which candidates will advance to the General Election Ballot in November. If you choose to vote the partisan section of the ballot, you must help only one party select candidates to be placed on the November Ballot. If you cross over from one party's candidates to vote for another party's candidate, your ballot will be returned as a cross-voted ballot. If you vote absentee, then the partisan portion of your ballot will not be counted if you vote for candidates within more than one political party.

Voters often tell the Clerk's election staff that they do not vote in Primary Elections. Discussion often determines that the voter objects to the requirement to "declare" their party preference. This is no longer required in Michigan. The only requirement for voting in the partisan section of the Primary Election Ballot is that you must keep all of your votes within one party. There is also no requirement that a voter complete or vote in any particular section of the ballot. A voter could leave the partisan section of their ballot blank and only vote the non-partisan section or the proposal section.

Many races are determined by the Primary Election vote. Also, local issues are often on the Primary Election Ballot. Yet in DeWitt Township, Primary Election voter turn-out is historically very low. We encourage all voters to participate in every election. Hopefully, the above information will help you understand why Primary Elections are important, and assist you in understanding procedures for voting in the upcoming Primary Election.

## **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](http://www.dewitttownship.org).

**Fall Adult Softball Leagues** - Our fall adult softball leagues will be offered for both Coed and Men's teams. Fall leagues will play 5 weeks of double headers from August 13-September 18 (no games Labor Day weekend). Coed league will play on Sunday afternoons and Men's league will play on Monday evenings. Games will take place at the DeWitt Sports Park, Valley Farms Park and Granger Meadows Park. The team fee of \$200 includes all game balls, team score book, line up cards and awards for the league champions and runners up. Both leagues follow ASA rules and will use ASA certified umpires. Registration for fall softball leagues begins June 30<sup>th</sup>. Each league is limited to the first 8 teams to register.

**Summer Day Camps** - DARA is excited to announce the addition of summer day camps to our summer programs. There will be 5 weeks of summer day camps for kids ages 5-12, each with a different camp theme. The remaining day camps will be held the weeks of: July 10, July 17 and July 24. The camps will run from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, with drop off times beginning at 7:30 a.m. and pick up times ending at 5:30 p.m. Your child will participate in themed events and bring home arts and craft projects associated with the weekly theme. There will be a Friday field trip each week. The cost will be \$85 per child for the entire week. Morning and afternoon snacks will be provided. Pre-registration, at least one week prior to the start date of the camp, is required. Registration is limited to the first 25 participants registered per week so register early.

**Youth Golf at Hawk Hollow** - DARA and Hawk Hollow have teamed up to offer a youth golf program for those 8-15 years of age. Instruction is geared toward those with beginner/intermediate golf skills. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening sessions beginning on July 18/19/20 are available. The program will run for 5 weeks from 6:00-7:00 p.m. with a 12-15 year old only class on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per participant and registration is on-going. Class size is limited. Rental clubs are available if needed. Kirk Sherman, Hawk Hollow's golf professional and members of his staff will be instructing the class.

**Fall In-Line Hockey Leagues** - Lace up your skates and join us at the Granger Meadows Park In-Line Hockey rink for the DARA fall hockey leagues that will take place August 7-October 6. Leagues will be divided into age divisions of 6 and under, 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under, 18 and under, 18 and up and 30 and up. Each league will consist of 8 regular season games and a minimum of one tournament game. The cost to residents will be \$45 per player for U6 and U8 leagues, \$50 per player for U10-U18 leagues and \$60 per player for 18+ and 30+ leagues (non-residents add \$5 to fee). All players must provide their own helmet with face mask, elbow pads, hockey style gloves, shin guards and in-line skates. Registration will run from 6/9-7/14 with a late fee of \$10 applied after 7/14. All age divisions will play Monday-Thursday evening games.

**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 2006 (teams will be age appropriate). This 6-week program will begin on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 28<sup>th</sup> - August 18<sup>th</sup>. Late registrations will be accepted after August 18<sup>th</sup> until teams are full and will include a \$10 late fee.

**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.

**Magician in the Park** - Hold onto your hats and don't blink an eye. Gordon Russ, magician to the world, is coming to Riverside Park in Downtown DeWitt. Gather the kids and be there on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Be prepared to be amazed. Gordon and his trusty sidekick, George the Raccoon, have traveled the globe in search of smiles, laughs and fun. A master at audience involvement, Gordon "invents" magic on the spot, using the most ordinary items imaginable. Couple this with a limitless array of tried and true tricks of the trade, and you have a performance second to none. Bring your family down to the park and enjoy an exciting show while cooling off with an ice cream treat. This event is free to all.

**"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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 28<sup>th</sup> - August 18<sup>th</sup>. Late registrations will be accepted after August 18<sup>th</sup> until teams are full and will include a \$10 late fee.

**Pre-School Sports Starter** - This six-week program will allow your youngster to try out three of our 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: 10/21, 10/28, 11/11, 11/18, 12/2 and 12/9. 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 15<sup>th</sup> - October 6<sup>th</sup>. Late registrations will be accepted after October 6<sup>th</sup> until sessions are full and will include a \$10 late fee. Space is limited, register early.

**DNR Hunter Safety Class** - Back by popular demand, this DNR sponsored course will be offered to anyone 12 years and older in mid-September (please call for dates) from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the DTCC and a Saturday morning at the shooting range. Get a head start on the next hunting season by getting your certification now. The cost is only \$10 per person which includes all of your materials and the day at the shooting range. Register early because space is limited. Registration begins July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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, 2006) on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> (tentative date-please call to confirm) at the DeWitt High School Football Field. Kids will be tested in punting, passing and kicking skills. Our local champions will advance to a Sectional Competition with the chance of competing at Ford Field. There is no cost to compete. 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. All participants will receive a certificate of participation and football cards. **No cleats are allowed. This event will begin at 6:00 p.m.** Late arrivers will not be allowed to participate.

**Discounted Amusement Park Tickets** - DARA is offering discounted tickets to Cedar Point and Michigan Adventure from May 8<sup>th</sup> - September 5<sup>th</sup>. Save money on your ticket cost while supporting the DARA Scholarship Program which helps youth participate in programs during tough financial times. Tickets will be available at the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.) and DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main St.), Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. No credit or debit cards will be accepted for payment. Please call the DARA office for additional information or for a list of prices.

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

PRST STD  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 66  
LANSING MI

**TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER**