

July, 2011

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

MIRACLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD

Every child deserves a chance to play baseball.

For a number of years, the Township has planned to replace the restroom facility at Valley Farms Park. This building is over 40 years old and is severely inadequate to service the public. Because of the restroom's layout, it is very difficult for people with or without disabilities to access it. A few years ago, a local charity called CASE Cares approached the Township with an idea to do a larger project. CASE Cares wanted to build a "Miracle League" Baseball Field in the Greater Lansing Region. They looked at other local jurisdictions in the area and ultimately decided they would like to partner with DeWitt Township. Therefore, the Township delayed the replacement of the restroom building.

A Miracle League Field is a special rubberized surface that allows children and adults with mental and/or physical challenges to enjoy the game of baseball! The grassy turf of a typical baseball field is very difficult for wheelchairs, walkers, and braces to navigate; and, bumps and irregular surfaces make moving around awkward and dangerous. The special field provides a level-playing field where physically and mentally challenged children can hit, run, and catch. The motto of the Miracle League is that every child deserves a chance to play baseball. The surface will also allow it to continue to be used as a t-ball field.

In 2010, DeWitt Township applied for and received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant. By leveraging the grant and a donation from CASE Cares, the Township is not only building the restrooms as planned, but also the Miracle League Baseball Field and trail lights along the path between the Community Center and Granger Meadows Park. The total cost of the project is \$657,000 with the Township's contribution to replace the bathrooms being \$212,800.

It is anticipated that construction will begin in mid summer. The project is scheduled to be completed by May, 2012. To volunteer or make a donation, contact CASE Cares at 517-393-7710 ext. 1049.

7th ANNUAL MEADOWS CELEBRATION *A BLAST IN THE MOONLIGHT*



The 7th Annual Meadows Celebration is set for **Friday, July 15th**. It's sure to be an afternoon of family fun and a night of entertainment and fireworks at Granger Meadows Park. Look inside this Newsletter for an event flyer listing all the exciting activities. Check out our blog: www.meadowscelebration.blogspot.com. This event is funded, in part, by sponsorship donations. We would like to thank Granger and other sponsors for their donations that make this event possible. If you or your business would like to make a donation, please let us know. Volunteers are still needed. If you would like to come join the fun and help out, contact Judy Martiny at 668-0270.

NEW PUMPER NOW IN SERVICE



Thanks to a Fire Act Grant from the Department of Homeland Security, DeWitt Charter Township purchased a new pumper fire truck. The new pumper has a chassis that was built by Spartan Motors located in Charlotte, Michigan. The body of the pumper was built by Rosenbauer located in Lyons, South Dakota. This pumper replaces a 1986 Spartan/Grumman pumper. The federal grant monies received covered \$261,250 of the \$357,708 total cost of the pumper.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

One of the recommendations of the Township's South Central Area Plan was to consider the implementation of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). The IPMC is a standardized code used by numerous jurisdictions throughout the United States. The Code establishes minimum standards for safety and blight related issues that can affect the value of neighboring properties. Because the Code is a standard code, the Township Board wants to make sure the IPMC will work for our community.

The Township has been working on evaluating the Code for implementation for well over a year. At the end of 2010, the Township Board established an ad-hoc committee to review it. The 11 member committee is made up of citizens, business owners, Board members, and Township staff. The committee represents people who both support the Code and people who are skeptical of its implementation. The committee is reviewing every single section of the Code ensuring that it meets the needs of our community. The committee established the following criteria to use while evaluating each area:

1. Establishes standards for the health and safety of non-owner occupied properties (residential and commercial).
2. Addresses external issues (blight) that negatively impact neighborhood property values.
3. Addresses all properties that create a safety issue for neighboring properties (e.g. trees that can fall on a neighbor's house) or a general public safety concern (e.g. unsafe structure or abandoned building).

The committee expects to have their evaluation completed in the next several months. At that time, the committee will report their recommendations to the Township Board. If you have any questions on the Code, please contact Community Development Director Rich Trent at 517-669-6576.

ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE OFFICER



The Township has contracted with Bath Township for the use of their ordinance compliance officer. Gary Cypher will also perform ordinance compliance duties for DeWitt Township. By utilizing a contract employee, the Township uses this person only on an as-needed basis.

OUTSTANDING CITIZENS

The Board recently acknowledged Bruce Angell, Albert Harrison, and Dale and Susan Glynn as Outstanding Citizens. Supervisor Galardi presented a Resolution of Appreciation, which was adopted by the Board, honoring each individual.



Bruce Angell received recognition as an Outstanding Citizen for his contributions to the community. Bruce was elected to the Lansing Board of Education and the DeWitt Township Board. He also served as the first Chief of Police of DeWitt Township; was appointed to the Planning Commission, Public Safety Committee, and SCCMUA; and provides oversight to Gunnisonville Cemetery. Congratulations, Bruce!!

The Township Board recently recognized Albert Harrison as an Outstanding Citizen. Al serves as a member of the Board of Review, is an election inspector, is an active member of the Police Department's Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and has given numerous hours of service to the Meadows Celebration. Congratulations, Al!!



The Township Board also recognized Dale and Susan Glynn as Outstanding Citizens for their contributions to the Township and community. Dale and Susan have each served more than 20 years on Committees and Commissions appointed by the Township Board. Dale serves on the Board of Appeals and Susan on the SCCMUA board. Congratulations, Dale & Susan!!

RSVP – BACK IN SERVICE

With summer weather ahead, the DeWitt Township Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) is back in action. The RSVP began patrolling Granger Meadows Park and Valley Farms Park on May 16, 2011. The volunteer group assists with Township functions, patrols parks and Township owned properties, and other duties as assigned by the Chief of Police. This program has cost the Township \$0 and is a great asset to the community.

If you are interested in joining the RSVP group, contact Chief Brian Russell at 517-669-6578 or stop in at the police department and fill out an application.



RSVP members Billie Gladstone, Alex Goudie, and Al Gladstone are shown with Chief of Police Brian Russell.

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 517-482-5117. You may register for programs in person at the DARA office, the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) or DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt).

Program Name	Dates	Time	Registration	Age/ Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Summer Fun Club	6/13-8/26 spots may be available	7:30 am-5:30 pm	Began 4/15 call for availability	5-9 10-14	\$95/\$110
Youth Golf @ Hawk Hollow	7/12-8/11	6-7 pm or 7-8 pm	Begins 6/3	8-15	\$50
Drop Your Kids Off	9/23, 10/21, 11/11	6-11 pm	Begins 8/5, 9/2, 9/30	4-12	\$15/child or \$10/each additional
Fall - Adult Softball Men's/Co-Ed	8/17-9/21 8/18-9/22	Wednesday -Co-Ed Thursday - Men's	Begins 6/24	18+	\$200/team \$5 res/\$20 non-res player fees + umpires
Flag Football Leagues	9/10-10/15	1-5 pm game times vary	7/29-8/19	Grades K-3	\$33/\$48
Fall Soccer Leagues	9/11-10/16	9:00 am-1:00 pm	7/30-8/20	4-6	\$33/\$48
Basketball University	9/13-10/4 10/11-11/1	5:45/6:45/7:45 pm	8/5-9/15	Grades 1-2/3-4 5-7	\$35
Preschool Sports Starter	10/22-12/3 skip 11/26	9:30 am-Noon	9/2-10/7	3-5	\$33/\$48
Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt	10/17	6:00-7:30 pm	9/2-10/10	3-5	\$6/\$8
Youth Basketball Leagues	10/22-12/10 skip 11/26	Times vary depending on teams	9/2-10/7	Grades 3-8	\$43/\$58
Youth Basketball Leagues	10/29-12/10 skip 11/27	Times vary depending on teams	9/2-10/7	Grades 1-2	\$33/\$48
Youth Volleyball	11/10-12/15	5:30-8:30 pm	9/25-10/16	Grades 3-6	\$33/\$48
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Begins 9/8	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop In	18+	\$2

You may register for most DARA programs online by visiting our website at www.dewittrecreation.org. DARA accepts Visa and Mastercard payments for online registrations. You may also print a registration form and mail it in by clicking on our newsletter link from our home page. You may drop off registration forms at DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.) as well. Call the DARA office at 517-482-5117 if you have any questions. You may also follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation> to receive the most up to date information.

DARA Mission:

DARA promotes community and quality of life through leisure services provided for the residents of the DeWitt Area.

Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New & Continued Investments

DeWitt Township would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize those businesses and business people who have recently invested and/or reinvested in our Township. Please join us in welcoming and thanking the following:

Creative Inks & Threads, 13191 Schavey Road
Eikenhout, 14760 S. US 27
Genex Investments LLC (Vision Collision), 13393 S. US 27
J2 Tanning, 13171 Schavey Road
Riley Tax Service, 13060 S. US 27
Sawyers Superstore Chevrolet, 13200 S. US 27
Smith Photography Studio, 16991 S. US 27
Twinbrook Commerce LLC, 1120 Commerce Park Drive
Verizon Wireless Zone, 13070 S. US 27

Their investment and continued commitment to our community is what makes DeWitt Township an extraordinary place to live, work, and play.

FRIENDLY REMINDER ... to ALL Residents & Businesses in DeWitt Township

Temporary on-premise signs shall be permitted in accordance with the following schedule:

Sign Use	Maximum Area	Maximum Duration	Permit Required
Residential Garage Sales	4 sq. ft.	15 days	No
Sale or Lease of Real Property	6 sq. ft. (single-family)	Up to 5 days after occupancy	No
	10 sq. ft. (Multiple-family)	Up to 5 days after occupancy	No
	32 sq. ft. (all other uses)	Up to 5 days after occupancy	No
Building Construction	20 sq. ft. (single-family development)	Within one year following sale of 90% of lots	No
	32 sq. ft. (multi-family development)	Until first occupancy	No
	32 sq. ft. (all other districts)	Until first occupancy	No
Political Signs		Up to 10 days following election	No
Commercial, Office, and Industrial (including portable signs)	40 sq. ft.	30 days each permit/maximum of 3 permits per year	Yes

If you are planning to sell your home, please notify your realtor of these restrictions. Help us keep our roadways clear of intruding and unnecessary signage that detracts from the beauty and aesthetics of our Township and could ultimately hinder safe travel on our roadways. For more information on the Zoning Ordinance and these specific restrictions, please visit our website at www.dewitttownship.org or drop in and see us at the Planning Department.

If you are interested in learning more about Community Development and current initiatives, contact Richard Trent, Community Development Director, in the Planning Department at 517-669-6576 or by email at rtrent@dewittwp.org.

REBUILDING TOGETHER



Rebuilding Together (formerly known as Christmas in April) is a national volunteer organization involved in a year-long effort that culminates in a one-day blitz to repair and rehabilitate the homes of low-income elderly and/or disabled homeowners. The organization is staffed solely by volunteers and each state has several regional affiliates. Rebuilding Together believes in a safe and healthy home for every person. This means preserving and revitalizing communities by providing free home modifications and repairs, making homes safer, more accessible, and more energy efficient.

This year, the Township had the privilege to be a part of this national effort and a small number of Township homes were selected to receive assistance. One home in particular received a new roof, a bathroom renovation, front porch railings, and several minor repairs.

This event is held every year on the last Saturday in April. The application process begins in November. If you would like to know if your home is eligible, please call the Township at 517-668-0278.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Midsummer Blooms Garden Walk – sponsored by the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club - Sunday, July 10th, noon – 5 p.m., rain or shine. Advance tickets are available at DeWitt Pharmacy, Enchanting Farms Garden Center, Hammond Farms Landscape Supply, Sandywood Gardens, Twiggies, Biggby's in DeWitt, and Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop. Tickets will also be available the day of the event at Riverside Park. Proceeds will help build a community labyrinth near the Healing Garden in the City of DeWitt Cemetery. For more information, call 517-668-6592. Cost: \$8 advance tickets or \$10 the day of the walk.

Art In The Park – sponsored by the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce – Sunday, July 10th, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Riverside Park in downtown DeWitt. A visit to the art fair is free. To participate as an artist, a single 10'x12' space is \$20 and a 20'x12' space is \$30. For more information, contact Loretta Spinrad at 517-668-3635.

Medication Disposal Programs – sponsored by the Clinton County Dept. of Waste Management – (989-224-5186 or email conserve@clinton-county.org) - Please keep your medications in their original containers; however, be sure to black out any personal information.

- August 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the fall Clean Community Event in DeWitt Township. The location will be given when you make an appointment to attend this event. Please call the office at 989-224-5186 for more information.
- October 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Community Health Fair, at RESA 1013 S. US Highway 27 Suite #A in St. Johns.
- December 2nd from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Pharmacy, 901 South Oakland Street in St. Johns.

Clean Community Event - sponsored by the Clinton County Dept. of Waste Management - August 27th in DeWitt Township from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Many household items accepted; some fees apply. The event is also open to small businesses; however, additional fees do apply for hazardous and electronic waste items. Disposal fees are waived for volunteers! To make your required appointment or to volunteer, call 989-224-5186 or email conserve@clinton-county.org.

Summer Reading Program – sponsored by the DeWitt District Library - The “One World, Many Stories” summer reading program at the Library is in full swing. Contact the Library at 517-669-3156 or www.dewittlibrary.org for all of the exciting details!

Park & Read Passes - Park and Read passes are available at the DeWitt District Library. The Park and Read Program offers library card holders the ability to “check-out” a one-day pass into any Michigan state park or recreation area in lieu of the resident motor vehicle permit. Contact the Library for more details.

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

July 1, 2011	Summer Taxes Mailed
July 10, 2011	DeWitt Garden Walk & Art In The Park
July 15, 2011	Meadows Celebration Event
July 15, 2011	Sewer Bills Due
August 21, 2011	Total Health Fitness Challenge
August 27, 2011	Clean Community Event
September 14, 2011	Summer Taxes Due
October 11, 2011	Last Day to Register to Vote for the November Election
November 8, 2011	School Elections

Calling for Craft Supplies!!

The Meadows Celebration craft station is in need of tulle, yarn, and fabric odds and ends. If you have any to donate, please drop it off at the Treasurer’s Office, by Friday, July 8th, so our young participants can make their treasures.

**TOTAL HEALTH
FITNESS CHALLENGE**

Total Health Chiropractic and DeWitt Charter Township are sponsoring a Total Health Fitness challenge at the DeWitt Township Community Center and Granger Meadows Park. The course is three miles long with challenging obstacles including: 70 foot hill climb, farmer’s walk, cargo net bear crawl and army crawl, log leap, water obstacles, monster tires, and climbing walls. Race will take place on Sunday, August 21, 2011. For all of the details, visit www.totalhealthfitnesschallenge.com.

Proceeds of this event will be donated to CASE Cares. CASE Cares is a non-profit organization that provides safe playgrounds and ball fields for disabled children.

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

**PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 66
LANSING MI**

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NEWS BITES

UPDATING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS: In June, the Assessing Office began visiting various residential neighborhoods to take new digital photographs of the exterior of homes to update the property records. This process was last completed in 2003. There are approximately 4,900 residential parcels in the Township, so the project will take place over two summers. Assessing Office staff will always have picture ID that identifies them as Township employees.

WELCOME ABOARD to Bob Logan - building inspector; Tom Sullivan, Ian Heskitt, Jason Hendley, and Joe Spagnuolo – paid-on-call firefighters.

FAREWELL to Larry Woodbury, who is leaving us after 8 years. We wish him the best!

CODIFICATION PROJECT: The Township's Ordinances are being codified and will be available in book form and on our web site yet this year. More on this project will be in the next Township Newsletter.

DO 1 THING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - (choose one thing to do this month) visit www.do1thing.com. • talk with family members to identify your household's unique needs (pets, medication, etc) • make a plan to make sure your pets are taken care of in a disaster • If someone in your household has a disability, make an evacuation plan that works for them.

FOLLOW US - www.dewitttownship.org, www.facebook.com/dewitttownship, <http://twitter.com/DeWittTownship>, <http://flickr.com/DeWittTownship>. The Township posts information such as community events, up-to-date public safety information and planning notices.



COMMUNITY E-MAIL BLAST LIST – You can now sign up on the Township's website to receive community e-mail blasts regarding community information. Register your e-mail address at www.dewitttownship.org.

INDOOR FACILITY RENTALS - (Community Center gym or activity room) are handled through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority at 517-482-5117. **OUTDOOR FACILITY RENTALS** – If you would like to rent a park picnic pavilion, softball field, inline skating rink, or soccer field, call the Treasurer's Office at 517-668-1411.

REDEEMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DEWITT'S FOOD BANK - you can 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.