

July, 2014

## 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  
Johanna Balzer  
Steve Musselman  
Brian Ross  
David Seeger

Manager  
Rodney H. Taylor

[www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org)

## AUGUST PRIMARY MILLAGE PROPOSAL

The renewal of the **Fire and Police Millage** will raise much needed revenue to help fund the Township's Fire and Police Departments. Below is a quick summary of the Fire and Police Millage proposal. More detailed information about the millage proposal can be found on the Township's website, [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org). This information will answer most common **Frequently Asked Questions** about the ballot proposal. We hope that you will participate in the process to ensure DeWitt remains a Township that you can be proud to live in.

### Summary

1. Is this a new millage? No, it is a renewal.
2. Is this an increase in the millage rate from the previously approved millage? No.
3. How much is the millage? 1 mill for Fire and 1 mill for Police.
4. How much will this cost me per year? Take your home's Taxable Value (which can be obtained from the Township's website) divide by 1000 and then times by 2 mills  $[TV/1000*2=your\ cost]$ . As an example, a house with a market value of \$200,000 and a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay \$200 a year for fire and police protection.
5. Does this millage pay for all the cost to provide Fire and Police protection? No, the millage only covers a portion of the cost. The remaining amount is funded out of the General Fund.
6. When and where (see page 7) do I vote?

### Vote August 5, 2014

Additional information, along with the actual ballot language proposal, can be obtained by visiting the Township's webpage, [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org).

If you have questions regarding the Primary Election, voter registration, or to obtain an absentee ballot, please contact the Township Clerk's Office at (517) 668-0270.

## DARA RECREATION NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) is located at the DeWitt Township Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing, MI 48906. Information regarding any event or program can be obtained by calling the DARA office at 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)
<b>Summer Fun Club &amp; Double Digit Day Camp</b>	6/9-8/22 spots may be available	7:30 am-5:30 pm	call for availability	5-9 10-14	\$105/\$120
<b>Mid-Michigan Family Theatre Drama Camp</b>	8/25-8/28	8:00 am-2:00 pm	6/6-8/18	8-16	\$120
<b>Grand Experience on Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel</b>	9/22-9/25	TBD	6/6-7/25	50+	Based on occupancy Call DARA for more details
<b>Youth Golf Lessons</b>	7/8-8/6 Tues or Wed	6:00-7:00 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm depending on age.	5/2-7/2	8-11 & 12-15 yrs.	\$50 straight fee
<b>Adult Soccer Leagues-Session II</b>	7/20-8/24 Sundays	4:00-8:00 pm	Begins 6/1	18+	\$150/team \$5 res/\$20 non-res player fees
<b>Fall - Adult Softball Men's Co-Ed</b>	8/10-9/14 8/11-9/15	Sunday -Co-Ed Monday – Men's	Begins 6/20	18+	\$235/team \$5 res/\$20 non-res player fees + umpires
<b>Flag Football Leagues</b>	9/6-10/11	1:00-5:00 pm game times vary	6/6-8/15	Grades K-5	\$34/\$49
<b>Cheer Program (Flag Football Sideline Cheer)</b>	9/6-10/11	1:00-5:00 pm game times vary	6/6-8/15	Grades K-5	\$34/\$49
<b>Preschool Play</b>	Beginning 9/3 Wednesdays	10:00 am-12:00 pm	Pay each day	1-5	\$2
<b>Little Kickers and K-1<sup>st</sup> Fall Soccer Leagues</b>	9/6-10/11	9:00 am-1:00 pm	6/6-8/15	Pre-1 <sup>st</sup> grade	\$34/\$49
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fall/Spring Soccer</b>	9/6-10/11 Spring TBD	9:00 am-1:00 pm	6/6-8/15	Grades 2-3	\$80 fee includes fall and spring session
<b>4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall/Spring Soccer</b>	9/6-10/11 Spring TBD	9:00 am-1:00 pm	6/6-8/15	Grades 4-6	\$80 fee includes fall and spring session
<b>Basketball University (2 sessions)</b>	9/11-10/2 10/9-10/30	5:45/6:45/7:45 pm	8/1-9/10	Grades 1-2/3-4 5-7	\$35
<b>Preschool Sports Starter</b>	10/18-11/22	9:30 am-Noon	9/5-10/3	3-5	\$34/\$49
<b>Haunted Halloween Trip</b>	10/24	6:00 pm-12:00 am	9/5-10/17	Grades 6-8	\$45 covers bussing and admissions
<b>Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt</b>	10/21	6:00-7:30 pm	9/5-10/15	3-5	\$6/\$8
<b>Youth Basketball Leagues</b>	10/25-12/13 skip 11/29	Times vary depending on teams	9/5-10/3	Grades 3-6	\$50/\$65
<b>Youth Basketball Leagues</b>	10/25-12/6 skip 11/29	Times vary depending on teams	9/5-10/3	Grades 1-2	\$34/\$49
<b>Youth Volleyball</b>	11/5-12/10	5:30-8:30 pm	9/6-10/18	Grades 3-6	\$34/\$49
<b>Open Volleyball</b>	Wed & Sun Begins 9/8	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop In	18+	\$2

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

You may register for most DARA programs online by visiting our website at [www.dewittrecreation.org](http://www.dewittrecreation.org). DARA accepts Visa and Mastercard payments for online registrations. You may also print a registration form by clicking on our newsletter link from our home page and then mail it with payment to 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. You may drop off registration forms at the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.) and DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street) 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.

## **WELCOME**

With the recent retirements of Officer James Terrill and Officer Mark Lott, the Township has welcomed two new officers, Monica Lee and Trevin Bernat.

PO Lee is a graduate of DeWitt HS, and has attended CMU and LCC, graduating from the Mid Michigan Police Academy in 2013. PO Bernat is a 2013 graduate of Ferris State University and their police academy; and most recently worked as a Police Officer for the City of Corunna, and as a Court Deputy in Shiawassee County.



## **ROAD MAINTENANCE & PROJECTS**

Below is a list of State of Michigan, Clinton County, and DeWitt Township funded road projects that are planned for 2014.

- Replace culvert on Azalea Ln in Willow Creek Farms Subdivision
- Chipseal – Installation of a thin layer of hot asphalt, then covered with fine aggregate (see explanation on page 4)
  - White Oaks and Wild Turkey – off Boichot
  - East and West River Drive – off Round Lake
  - Craig St. and Karl Dr. – off Boichot and Stoll
  - Twinbrook Drive – East of Old US-27
  - Brown Road – State to Stoll Road
- Gravel Howe Road – East of US-127 to Chandler
- Paving- Overlay of Asphalt over existing pavement
  - Dill Road – Old US-27 to City Limits
  - Hidden Ridge – Stanwood to Crofton
  - McClouth Hills Drive
  - Wood Road from Howe to Round Lake
  - Old US-27 from Webb Road to Chadwick
- Paving and adding a bike lane
  - Turner Road from Stoll to Herbison
- Skip Patch – Overlay of asphalt in smaller area
  - Webb Road- East of Old US-27
- Bridge deck repair
  - Wood Road over the Looking Glass River
- Overbanding crack sealing of miscellaneous roads throughout the Township

Again this year, the Road Commission will be performing preventative maintenance on a number of the roads in our community. The purpose of preventive maintenance is to extend the life of the road and provide a good driving surface. Repaving roads is extremely expensive; and, if the road can last longer, it saves money over time.

The process of "chip sealing" involves applying a thin film of hot asphalt liquid on the road surface, followed by the placement of small crushed aggregates ("chips"). The chips are then compacted to adhere the chips to the asphalt liquid, and excess chips are later swept away from the surface.

This is a highly used and effective, low cost surface treatment that extends the life of the pavement by filling cracks and reducing oxidation of aging pavement surfaces. This treatment process will enhance safety by improving the skid resistance as well. However, the road will look different. It will not have the appearance of a brand new road, but have a rougher texture. For a while after the treatment, there will be small stones on or near the road surface.

For additional concerns or questions, please contact the Clinton County Road Commission at [989-224-3274](tel:989-224-3274) or [ccrc@ccrc-roads.com](mailto:ccrc@ccrc-roads.com).

## DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES BY PEDDLERS

DeWitt Township regulates door-to-door sales by peddlers and solicitors. While we do not regulate activities such as school fundraising efforts, religious material distribution, or political activity, many other door-to-door solicitations are regulated. Many residents are unaware that local regulations exist. Although the Township cannot prohibit door-to-door solicitations, we can take certain steps to help ensure that known undesirable persons are not coming to your door soliciting sales or signatures.

The Township requires that certain companies and/or certain individuals who will be going door-to-door within the Township, complete an application process, which includes background checks of individuals, before being issued a permit. The permit, once issued, must be carried by the person who approaches your door. Please do not hesitate to ask a solicitor or peddler to see their permit. Although possession of a permit does not mean that the Township endorses the mission or sales of the peddler, it does mean that precautions have been taken to make sure that permitted activity does not involve persons with a known criminal history. If a person approaches your door, and you feel they should be in possession of a permit but are not, please call 911 and report the incident. Remember, anytime someone rings your bell and you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, always make a report by calling 911. In the event that you are unaware, it is important to mention that the 911 system for Clinton County is also used for "non-emergency" reporting. By reporting incidents, you might be protecting not only yourself and your family, but maybe your neighbors too. DeWitt Township has, in the past, experienced criminal activities related to door-to-door sales. It is our hope that this knowledge will better prepare our residents to appropriately handle situations when they occur.

## OUTSTANDING CITIZENS



Congratulations to Albert & Billie Gladstone on their Outstanding Citizen Award! The Township Board presented the award to the Gladstones at their June 9, 2014 meeting.

Both Al and Billie volunteer for the Meadows Celebration, work as Election Inspectors, are active members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol, and volunteer their time and efforts for the good of our community.

Congratulations Al & Billie!

If you know an Outstanding Citizen who is making a difference in our community, call the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270 and let us know.

## **ANNUAL STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENTS**

In DeWitt Township, developers generally pay for the installation of the poles and lights within a subdivision (usually done when the subdivision is developed). It is the responsibility of the residents of the subdivision to pay for the on-going electric costs, which show up on the winter tax bill as a "streetlight assessment." A separate "streetlight district" is established for each specific subdivision or neighborhood.

Annually, in mid-August, many of our residents receive a notice of a public hearing for a streetlight district and assessment. By law, the Township must hold a public hearing on streetlight assessments in September. The purpose of the annual public hearing is to notify those residents who have streetlights in their neighborhoods of the estimated annual cost (as provided by the electric company) for the electricity used to operate the lights.

Why does the cost for streetlights vary from one subdivision to another? Costs for streetlights vary based upon: ► The provider – Consumers Energy or Board of Water & Light (i.e. rates vary between the two providers) ► The type of bulb installed (i.e. mercury vapor or high pressure sodium) ► The strength of bulb (i.e. 7500 lumens or 8500 lumens) ► The number of lights within the district ► The number of parcels or lots within the district. The total district cost (which is the estimated cost per pole times the total number of poles) is spread equally over each parcel within the district. It is this cost that is billed on the winter tax bill.

## **IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, PLANT A TREE!**

**From the Clinton Conservation District**

Without vegetation present, fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, and soil sediments can enter streams, ponds, and lakes unabated. Lack of vegetation leads to increased amounts of runoff and stream velocity, causing excessive erosion and sedimentation. Excess sediment covers spawning habitat for fish, aquatic insect habitat, and aquatic vegetation. Rapidly moving runoff creates flash flooding and transports sediments, pollutants, and dissolved contaminants into surface water.

Planting trees and shrubs near waterways greatly improves water quality by:

- Reducing Flooding: Leaves and branches of trees intercept rainfall, reducing the energy and the movement of water, ultimately reducing erosion. Leaves protect exposed soil from being washed into waterways and roots bind soil to resist erosion and stabilize slopes.
- Improving Aquatic Habitat: Trees provide shade, reducing evaporation and preventing stream temperature fluctuations which can cause fish kills. Tree debris creates habitat for aquatic mammals, reptiles, fish and aquatic insects.
- Increasing Infiltration: Trees and shrubs slow runoff and encourage sediment to settle before entering a water body. Roots improve soil health and enhance infiltration of rainwater. Trees can also trap windblown dust before it enters streams and lakes.

## **INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE**

In 2013, DeWitt Township adopted a property maintenance code to better address residents' concerns of property maintenance. The Code, known as the IPMC, addresses a very broad set of property safety and blight related issues. Compliance with this Code is primarily complaint driven. Please do your part to keep our shared community safe and free of unnecessary blight. Items to watch out for include inoperative/unlicensed vehicles, unmaintained lawns (8" for single family or 6" for all other), discarded or abandon materials (i.e. junk), or structurally deficient building exteriors (holes in building, dilapidated siding, etc.). If you have an issue or concern, call the Building Department at 517-668-0278.

## BE SAFE-BE SEEN

Eight years ago, a Public Safety Awareness Campaign called "Be Safe-Be Seen" emerged to educate runners, joggers, walkers, and cyclists to use caution when sharing the road with motor vehicles. That is still good advice, "Be Safe-Be Seen."

Recently, several residents in the DeWitt area have been concerned about early morning and late night runners who have been wearing dark clothing. Citizens and motorists have reported some close calls as they could not see the runner until the last moment. Warmer weather is here; people are more active; and, school is OUT. So let's be careful out there and have a safe and fun summer.

More than 5,000 pedestrians and bicyclists die in the United States each year due to traffic accidents. Michigan had 118 deaths in 2009 and 58 in 2010.

Please be BRIGHT out there, wear high visibility clothing, stay alert, follow the rules of the road, and most of all, be considerate of others.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Below are a number of new businesses and developments that are in progress/open for 2014:

Address	Use	Stage
• 16460 S. US 27	New Restaurant "Reno's North"	Approved
• Crowner Farms	2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase 45 Single Family Sites	Construction
• Ridge Rock Subdivision	2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase- 28 Lots	Final Preliminary Plat
• 3505 W. Clark Road	Quarry Apartments (76 units)	Construction
• 13155 S. US 27	Speedway Renovation	Open
• 12990 S. US 27	PNC Bank	Open
• 15694 S. US 27	Hair Salon and Day Spa	Construction
• 1120 Commerce Park Dr.	Big League Lawns (Banquet Center)	Open
• 13070 S. US 27	JJ Frozen Yogurt (Crossroads Plaza)	Open
• 16120 S. US 27	Motorcycle Repair	Open
• 11525 Wood Road	20 Bed Adult Foster Care Facility	Construction
• 16001 S. US 27	Used Auto Sales "Acre Family Auto"	Approved

## NEWS BITES

**HIRING A CONTRACTOR** - Every year, the Township receives complaints about residents losing money or being defrauded due to an unlicensed contractor. The best way to avoid this is by doing your homework prior to having a contractor come to your home. According to Occupational Code PA299, any person(s) undertaking a project on property they do not own must have a valid license if the value of the work is in excess of \$600. Most contractors that are licensed carry the pocket card and should be able to present it upon request. As a customer, you can verify a license online by going to [www.michigan.gov/builders](http://www.michigan.gov/builders) and clicking on "Check A License" on the right side of the page or by calling the Building Department at 517-668-0278. Hiring a licensed contractor can save you a lot of headaches down the road; and, should problems arise, the Building Department, as well as the State's enforcement division, can be of great assistance.

**DOGS IN PARKS** - Per Chapter 30-22, Section (V) of the Township's Codified Ordinances - Dogs and other household pets cannot be brought onto park property, unless it's posted otherwise. The only areas posted to allow dogs are Padgett Park and in the non-paved section of Granger Meadows Park (located on the south side of Granger Meadows Lane). Dogs must be on a leash of not more than six feet, be under control, and all feces must be immediately removed.



Remember, be a conscientious pet owner. License your pet if required, keep your pet under control, properly dispose of all feces and be respectful to your neighbors and their property.

**RSVP** – Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol – Thank you to our volunteers: Al & Billie Gladstone, Alex Goudie, Al & Jenny Harrison, Richard Kirby, Jim Kurt, Jim Mosier, Andon Pogoncheff, Michael Vandertuuk, Norm McEachin and Stan Drushel. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**FOLLOW US** - [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org), [www.facebook.com/dewitttownship](http://www.facebook.com/dewitttownship), <http://twitter.com/DeWittTownship>, <http://flickr.com/DeWittTownship>. Find Township agendas, minutes, community events, job openings, event photos, election information, ordinances, planning notices and much more.



## 2014 AVAILABLE ELECTION INFORMATION

Election Dates: Primary Election August 5, 2014    General Election November 4, 2014  
 Registration Deadlines: Last day to register to vote - July 7<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> for the above elections

**Primary Election – Partisan Offices on the Ballot for DeWitt Township Voters in August:**

- State Office - Governor
- United States Senator
- Representative in Congress/4<sup>th</sup> District
- State Senator/24<sup>th</sup> District
- State Representative/93<sup>rd</sup> District
- Clinton County Commissioners - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts
- Precinct Delegates

**VOTERS: Remember that the August 5<sup>th</sup> election is a Primary Election, and all partisan votes must remain within ONE party. Your partisan votes cannot cross over on the ballot from one party to another. Political Parties represented at the Primary Election are the Republican Party and the Democratic Party.**

**Primary Election Ballot Questions:**

State Proposal 14-1 can be viewed at [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org), then go to County Clerk and then Election & Voter Information

DeWitt Township Fire and Police Millage Renewal Proposal can be viewed at [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org).

DeWitt District Library Millage Proposal can be viewed at [www.dewittlibrary.org](http://www.dewittlibrary.org).

**DeWitt Township Precincts and Polling Locations**

- Precincts 1 & 2            Herbison Woods School (access from Schavey or Herbison Roads)
- Precincts 3 & 4            Herbison Road Fire Station, 1445 W. Herbison Road west of Twp. Hall
- Precincts 5, 6, & 7        DeWitt Township Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing

As always, please call the Clerk’s Office if we can assist you with any voting question or procedure, including help with voting by absentee ballot. If you plan to vote in the polls on Election Day, you might want to get a Sample Ballot from the Clerk’s Office prior to Election Day. Viewing the ballot in advance can help voters be prepared when they go to the polls.

**Upcoming Dates to Remember.....**

July 7	Last day to register to vote for the August 5 <sup>th</sup> Primary Election
July 18	Meadows Celebration
August 5	Primary Election
September 13	Clean Community Event
October 6	Last day to register to vote for the November 4 <sup>th</sup> General Election
November 4	General Election

**TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER**

**CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES  
"Where Development Begins" - 2014 Business Awards**



Entrepreneurial Spirit Award  
Terranova's Party Store



The Food System Award  
Wacousta Farmers Market



Contributing to the Community Award  
Firstbank



Benefiting the Community Award  
Timber Ridge Assisted Living Facility



Community Excellence  
Friends of the Looking Glass River