

Summer, 2009

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



(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

**DEWITT TOWNSHIP OFFICER
WILLIAM DARNELL RECEIVES
TOP COP AWARD**

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) has awarded Officer William Darnell their Top Cop Award. Bill was honored for demonstrating courage and strength while injured during a domestic violence call in November of 2008. Bill and his family traveled to Washington D.C. to accept this prestigious award.

In the photo above, President Obama (center) and Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. point to photographers as they pose for pictures with the National Association of Police Organization's Top Cop award winners on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. Officer Darnell is standing on the President's right side.

Bill is also being awarded the MEDAL OF HONOR by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police in June. The MACP Awards Committee has decided that Bill's conduct in the November, 2008 shooting warranted their highest possible award.

Congratulations Bill!!

**5th ANNUAL MEADOWS CELEBRATION
A BLAST IN THE MOONLIGHT**



Mark your calendars for **Friday, July 17th** for an afternoon of family fun and a night of entertainment and fireworks at Granger Meadows Park for the 5th Annual 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.

Volunteers are still needed. If you would like to come join the fun and help out, contact Judy Martiny at 668-0270.

WHAT IS GREEN BUILDING?

We have all heard the term “Green Building.” So what is it? What does this mean? Here are some basic keys to building green:

- **Having an environmentally friendly site selection or “footprint.”**
Some of the factors involved are orientation of the house to maximize natural sunlight for heat and light, as well as shade for cooling. As a result, the home’s furnace and air conditioning will run more efficiently while maintaining a comfortable home. Another aspect of this is making a minimal impact on the area in which the house is built. Forget clear-cutting the entire lot; take down only the trees and bushes that will interfere with construction. The remaining trees can help cool the house in the summer and act as a windbreak in the winter. Locating the home near shopping and other services will help with the cost of commuting – a win for the entire environment.
- **Using energy efficient designs and materials while building a “tighter” home to prevent HVAC loss.**
Again, the use of sunlight and shade for heating and cooling is as old as mankind; however, there are designs and materials specifically designed to keep the house nearly air-tight. With less outside air infiltrating the home, the indoor climate is much easier to control. LED lights use a fraction of the energy required by regular incandescent bulbs, while Energy Star appliances are certified to meet strict guidelines about how much electricity they require to operate. Because higher insulation standards and Energy Star compliant appliances have evolved over the last few decades, energy efficiency is often the first place builders start when going green.
- **Reducing a home’s water consumption through low-flow fixtures.**
It’s true that the earliest low-flow plumbing fixtures caused problems for some homeowners. Today’s versions are as good, if not better, than the old water hogs. One technology is the incorporation of air into the process; the result is a low-flow shower that feels just as strong as the one using much more water.
- **Promoting a healthy indoor air environment.**
Yes, air tight houses are critical to energy efficiency, but an unwelcome result is indoor air quality that is five times more polluted than the air outdoors. Green builders often use some kind of fresh air ventilation to exhaust the stale indoor air to the outside, bring in fresh air, and conserve energy.
- **Material conservation and waste reduction while using sustainable products in design and construction.**
Engineers have been coming up with multiple products to help save lumber usage including engineered floor joists and beams and other products that have been developed by recycling. Green builders have even gone as far as recycling construction waste and using it for mulch when landscaping the newly installed yard. Another form of waste reduction is building houses that will endure for years before requiring maintenance. Metal or cement-tile roofing, for example, will hold up much longer than standard shingles.

Plenty of builders are using green techniques today; however, it still remains a challenge. Some of these alternative products are hard to find, not to mention, typically more expensive. This definitely causes some hurdles when trying to “Build Green.”

LCC STUDENTS RECEIVE LIVE FIRE TRAINING

On May 7 & 8, 2009 Lansing Community College's 50th Fire Academy received training that no other fire academy had received at LCC. While previous students received some flashover training at LCC, they were not able to receive hands on live fire training that is similar to what they may come across in their fire careers.

For the first time, an agreement was initiated between DeWitt Charter Township and Lansing Community College to provide a training opportunity using DeWitt Township's Mobile Live Fire Training Unit for their fire academy students. After 16 weeks of training and passing the state exam for Fire Fighter I & II, students are allowed to participate in live fires. This type of training is invaluable for those who want to get into the fire service. Fire academy students are able to perform search & rescue, ventilation, forcible entry, standpipe operations, as well as fire suppression simulating a single story house and a basement.



The DeWitt Township Fire Department received a grant in 2006 and was able to obtain this Mobile Live Fire Training Unit. This unit has been used by other departments in Clinton and Ingham counties. The training relationship with Lansing Community College is part of a regional approach to training that allows training experiences that fire departments and LCC may not be able to accomplish on their own because of cost and available resources. DeWitt Charter Township is proud to be a partner in regional cooperation with our neighbors to ensure that our residents receive a service that is fiscally responsible with firefighters that are well trained.

The DeWitt Township Fire Department is also proud to have instructors that teach in LCC's fire academy. Because of this relationship, the fire department has been able to provide paid-on-call opportunities with some academy graduates. Many former academy graduates reside in DeWitt Township and some have gone on to become career firefighters.

AGRICULTURAL RE-APPRAISAL AND DATA VERIFICATION

The Assessing Department will be conducting on-site property inspections beginning in early July for Agricultural classed parcels. The purpose of verifying data accuracy is to help ensure that all properties are assessed uniformly and at approximately 50% of market value.

Agricultural property owners will receive informational letters in June prior to a visit. Data that will be verified include exterior measurements of the residence, property features and interior information. The last agricultural re-inspection was done in 1989-1990. While property owners are not required to allow department personnel into their homes, a complete inspection will help ensure the home is being assessed correctly. This is especially true for Agricultural properties that historically see significant assessment increases yearly. The inspections will be conducted by Assessor Laura Tafelsky or Assistant Assessor Joe Lorenc. These individuals will have DeWitt Charter Township identification when they visit any property. Upon receiving the information letter, property owners will be asked to call the Assessing Department to schedule an appointment time for the inspection.

BOARD OF REVIEW & ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Review met the week of March 9th. A big THANK YOU to the Board members Norm Farnum, Al Harrison and Concetta D'Agostino for their time and commitment given in service to the residents of the Township.

The greatest concern expressed by taxpayers was that even though their assessed values had decreased and were less than 2008 values, they did not believe the assessed values had decreased enough to reflect the over-all decline in regional market values. This belief is understandable; however, assessments had to be determined by using sales that occurred from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Not all foreclosed properties could be used, nor could asking prices of homes currently on the market for sale.

2009 Assessment Roll – shows 5,491 real, 401 personal and 263 exempt parcels. The Township's State Equalized Value (SEV) decreased from \$528,659,300 in 2008 to \$497,834,000 in 2009. Taxable Value decreased from \$469,192,679 in 2008 to \$462,923,163 in 2009.

TAX INFORMATION

As of March 1st, **Real** Property Taxes were turned over to the Clinton County Treasurer for collection. If you are delinquent and need to make payment, it must be made to the County Treasurer. Call the County Treasurer's Office at (989) 224-5280 to obtain the amount of your tax payoff. You may mail your payment or make your payment in person at the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns.

All **Personal** Property Taxes must be paid to the DeWitt Township Treasurer's Office, 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. It is against the law for Personal Property Taxes to become delinquent. The Township has sent notification of Delinquent Property Taxes due. To avoid legal action, please remit payment immediately to DeWitt Township. Call the Treasurer's Office at (517) 668-1411 with any questions.

The summer tax bills will be mailed out on July 1st. For qualified residents, you may defer your summer tax bill until February 14th, 2010, without interest or penalty fees. To qualify you must meet the following guidelines: household income less than \$40,000 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. Taxpayers who defer summer taxes must complete the application and return it before September 15, 2009.

NEWS BITES

TWITTER – The Township is now on **Twitter**. Come follow us at <http://twitter.com/dewitttownship>. The Township will be posting information such as community events, up-to-date public safety information, and planning notices.

THANK YOU to Robert and Elaine Schwartz of Lansing who donated money towards the purchase of an additional grill at Valley Farms Park.

CONGRATULATIONS to Linda Hundt, owner of Sweetie-licious Pie Pantry in DeWitt. Linda received the 2009 Athena Powerlink Award from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. Linda also won the Best of Show in the Professional division of the American Pie Council (APC)/Crisco® National Pie Championships.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Junior & Melissa Brown Family who received a “Saved by the Belt” award from the Office of Highway Safety Planning. The family was involved in a serious auto accident in November, 2008. The wearing of their safety belts prevented serious injury or death from occurring in their motor vehicle.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE (micro-surfacing) on Oakland Hills Drive, Castlewood Circle, and a portion of Burlingame Drive will be completed in August. Residents will be notified by the contractor before the work begins.

FINANCIAL WORKSHOP – The Clinton County Economic Alliance is sponsoring a free financial workshop on October 8, 2009, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Discussion regarding state and federal programs that can assist small businesses in securing loans will be the topic. Scheduled speakers include: Dave Brown, Firstbank; Paul Brown, Michigan Economic Development Corporation; Al Cook, Small Business Administration; Eric Kehler, Michigan Certified Development Corporation; and Traci Smith, Michigan USDA Rural Development. Workshop will be held at the Clinton County RESA building located 1013 S. US 27, St. Johns. To register, please call the Clinton County Economic Alliance at (517) 669-1345.

THE DEWITT MILLENNIUM GARDEN CLUB is excited to host the “Midsummer Blooms Garden Walk” to be held on Sunday, July 12, 2009 from noon to 5:00 p.m., rain or shine. The DMGC will feature five exemplary private gardens as well as some of the city gardens during the walk. Plans for the garden walk include: entertainment by musicians, demonstrations by local artists, refreshments, and a garden mart at the DeWitt Sports Park. Proceeds from the garden walk will help to build a community labyrinth adjacent to the Healing Garden located within the City of DeWitt Cemetery. Visitors can walk a sample labyrinth at the Healing Garden during the garden walk. Advance tickets are \$6 (\$8 the day of the event) and are available at Enchanting Farms Nursery, Twiggies, or by calling Carol at (517) 230-6567.

CASE CARES CORPORATE SOFTBALL CHALLENGE – July 11, 2009, Co-ed, recreational slow-pitch softball tournament to be held at Valley Farms Park. All proceeds will be donated to CASE Cares, a local nonprofit, for a barrier-free playground at Lansing’s Potter Park and a Miracle League baseball field at Valley Farms Park accessible to children with all physical and/or mental abilities. For more information visit www.casecu.org and click on the CASE CARES logo or call (517) 367-1017.

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 668-1411. **INDOOR FACILITY RENTALS** - (Community Center gym or activity room) are handled through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority at 482-5117.

DEWITT PUBLIC LIBRARY SATELLITE at the Township Community Center on Brook Road is open during the following hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 2-5, and Saturday 10-2. *NEW HOURS*

In partnership with the **REDEEMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DEWITT’S FOOD BANK**, you can now 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.

ELE’S PLACE – is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission is to create awareness of and support for grieving children and their families. “If there wasn’t Ele’s Place, I’d probably go crazy” said Rya, age 11. “Raindrops are like my teardrops...they just keep coming down” said Keely, age 7. For more information, call (517) 482-1315 or visit www.elesplace.org.

WIND ENERGY PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

On Monday, June 29, 2009, 6-8 p.m., the DeWitt Charter Township Planning Commission will be hosting a Public Information Workshop regarding wind energy and begin discussions on developing an ordinance regulating how wind energy can be utilized in the Township. Residents, developers, and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend this workshop where key wind energy issues will be discussed.

The State of Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) encourages the development of wind energy systems and provides appropriate guidelines for communities to consider and adopt. Because DeWitt Township has the potential to utilize wind energy and generate resources within the Township, it is important to begin to discuss wind energy siting and regulations. There are two main types of wind energy systems: on-site uses (typically used for residential areas and smaller businesses, as well as farms) and utility grid systems. Both systems will be discussed in detail at the workshop. According to DELEG, guidelines were created for the purpose of achieving an “appropriate balance between the need for clean, renewable energy resources and the necessity to protect the public health, safety and welfare.” While wind energy can have significant environmental benefits, it can also negatively impact quality of life. Come to this workshop to provide your input to help the Township develop an ordinance to balance these two issues.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Planning Department at (517)669.6576 or visit our website @ www.dewitttownship.org.

CLINTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT NEWS & INFORMATION

The Clinton County Department of Waste management is dedicated to developing “A Sense of Place” – that is connecting residents and especially youth, to their natural environment in a way that builds awareness and caring on a personal level. These “first hand” experiences strongly correlate with the development of key environmental values and skills, motivating active participation in responsible and sustainable behaviors. Participants are encouraged to participate in everyday activities that foster environmental conservation such as litter prevention, waste reduction, reuse, recycling, energy conservation, organizing a local clean-up – just to name a few.

Following is a list of the Clinton County Department of Waste Management’s **Summer 2009 Environmental Education Programs**. Questions on program details and registration should be directed to Kathleen Donahue, Environmental Educator at the Dept. of Waste Management at (989) 224-5177 or donahuek@clinton-county.org, or log onto <http://www.clinton-county.org/waste/CurrentEvents.htm> .

Nature & Family Program – Sleepy Hollow State Park

Tuesday, June 30th (11 am – 1 p.m.)

Thursday, August 6th & August 20th (11 am – 1 pm)

All ages - This program is a Nature Club for Families – a group of people with an interest in connecting children with nature. Activities range according to the interest of the group.

Wildlife Forensics Program – Sleepy Hollow State Park

Thursday, July 2nd & 9th – 2 days (11 am – 1 pm)

Ages 10 and up - Investigate an actual crime, learn the science behind animal-species ID, and find out about efforts to fight real-world threats against wild animals. Analyze evidence from antlers and horns, blood typing, DNA fingerprinting, hair, and mammal skulls.

YES, THERE WILL BE AN AUGUST 2009 ELECTION

Information is not all in on this issue; however, there WILL be an August 4, 2009 county-wide election. Clinton Transit (the Blue Bus) has petitioned to place the renewal of their .2 (2 tenths) of a mill ballot proposition before the Clinton County voters on the August 4th ballot. Watch the newspapers for information on this issue as Election Day approaches. Also, for questions or additional information, you can call Clinton Transit, (989) 224-3161, and speak with Rose May Mason, Clinton Transit General Manager.

Voting in person: For this election, DeWitt Township voters will go to their regular polling location: the DeWitt Township Community Center, Herbison Woods School, or the DeWitt Township Herbison Road Fire Station. If you are uncertain of your precinct, it is shown on your voter registration card or you can call the Clerk's Office at 668-0270. Please be prepared to show identification when voting in person. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Absentee voting: If you need to vote by absentee ballot, just call the Clerk's Office and we will assist you. If you are on the Automatic Absentee Application mailing list, you should have already received your Absentee Ballot Application. You must return the application to receive a ballot.

As always, we are here to help you participate in the voting process. Please feel free to call with your questions. After August, the next scheduled election will be held in November 2009, with issues yet to be determined.

FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL

Taking the time to start a composting program requires a little planning up front, and a change in everyday behaviors and how we think about our "resource stream." However, it can be a useful tool to teach youth responsibility as it relates to resource conservation. It also sets a clear example of how one can make a difference each day simply through the actions we choose to take, or not take.

Another responsible way of disposing of food waste is in the trash. While it may seem counterintuitive, in this community and many others across the country, organic waste is performing a very important function in our landfills. Organic material decomposes rapidly. A banana peel, for example, only takes between two and 10 days to break down, and as it does so, it produces landfill gas. Landfill gas consists of about 50 percent methane (the primary component of natural gas), 50 percent carbon dioxide and a small amount of non-methane organic compounds. The methane gas is currently being used in Granger's Wood Street and Grand River Landfills to generate power for the homes of more than 14,000 Board of Water & Light customers in mid-Michigan.

As methane from rotting banana peels and other food waste is produced, it is captured in landfill gas collection systems. From these systems, the gas travels to generators, which, in turn, produce electricity used to power homes. This is a form of renewable energy. The quality and quantity of the methane gas generated is directly proportional to the amount of organic content in the landfill. This landfill gas production is a local source of energy, doesn't deplete natural resources, and prevents methane from being emitted into the atmosphere where it would otherwise contribute to air quality issues.

So the next time you are making dinner, don't throw that food waste down your garbage disposal. Instead, put it in your compost bin or your trash container to produce a rich garden soil or a renewable energy for local homes. Additionally, this keeps this material out of the sewer system and prevents us from treating this material (saving you money).

For more information visit www.grangernet.com. You can also contact the Clinton County Department of Waste Management at (989) 224-5186 or visit www.clinton-county.org/waste/Composting.htm.

THE CENSUS IS COMING IN 2010!!

HOW IS THE CENSUS DATA USED? - Every decade since 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted a constitutionally mandated census to determine the number of people living within the United States and our territories. This data is used by our Nation's leaders to help make vital decisions on behalf of all residents, including reapportionment and redistricting. Census data also affects how more than \$300 billion in federal funds are distributed to tribal, state, and local governments each year.

Determining congressional seats and federal funding is just a hint of the many important uses of census data. Take a look at examples below for some uses of census data. The federal government uses population data to allocate funds in a number of areas:

- Title 1 grants to educational agencies (school districts across the nation)
- Head Start programs
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (food grants)
- Public transportation
- Road rehabilitation and construction
- Programs for the elderly
- Emergency food and shelter
- Empowerment zones

The data helps the private sector, as well as state and federal governments, determine where jobs and job programs are needed. Census data helps potential homeowner's research property values, median income, and other demographic information about a particular community. Corporations use population data for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises, such as food stores, pharmacies, and other essential services.

Information will continue to appear in our Newsletters. Also, watch your local paper. It is very important to complete and return your Census questionnaire.

TOWNSHIP BOARD PLANS ADOPTION OF NEW PEDDLERS & SOLICITORS ORDINANCE

It seems that there has been an increase of peddlers or solicitors going door-to-door in our neighborhoods. Under the Township's current Ordinance, all peddlers or solicitors who go door-to-door must register with the Township, complete a background check, and receive a permit to be out and about within our community. If someone knocks on your door to solicit your signature (for activity other than political or religious) or to sell you something, the first thing you should do is ask to see their Township issued Compliance Certificate. **If they do not have a certificate in their possession, call 911 to report this activity immediately.** This regulation is currently in place and is intended to protect the community.

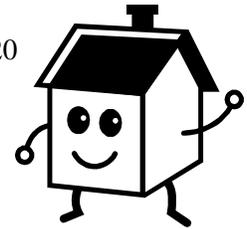
Adoption of a new Ordinance will take place sometime in the fall of this year. Additional regulations and background information on individuals going door-to-door will be implemented. During this investigation and Ordinance drafting period, the Township Board would like to hear about your experiences or concerns with door-to-door solicitors. The Board also plans to incorporate regulation of temporary roadside sales within the new Ordinance. The Township cannot prohibit these types of activities; however, proper regulations can drastically improve the safety of our neighborhoods and businesses. If you have an opinion about this activity, or believe it has some impact on your local business, go to www.dewitttownship.org and scroll down to take our on-line survey, or call the Clerk's Office at 668-0270. Help us plan regulations to protect our community.

CAPITAL AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES IS EXPANDING TO WEATHERIZE MORE HOMES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS!

Capital Area Community Services (C.A.C.S.) offers free home weatherization assistance to residents of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Shiawassee Counties. The program is designed to help lower fuel costs by making homes more energy efficient. Under today's Weatherization Assistance Program, more work can be completed and more homes weatherized than ever before. This means greater energy savings for eligible residents. Recent studies show that the average savings resulting from weatherizing a gas heated home is 32%. Residents can save an average of \$358 per year on their overall energy bills!

Typical weatherization measures may include: smoke detectors, clothes dryer vents, furnace/water heater testing, repair or replacement*, duct insulation, attic insulation, setback thermostats, low flow showerheads, kneewall insulation, exterior wall insulation, infiltration/exfiltration measures, bandjoist (boxsill) insulation, floor insulation, perimeter insulation, refrigerator replacement*, and compact fluorescent light bulbs (* if determined necessary; for owner occupied homes only).

To qualify for the Weatherization Assistance Program, total household income cannot exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or 60% of the State Median Income (whichever is greater). This means \$22,648 for a family of one, \$29,617 for a family of two, \$36,620 for a family of three, \$44,100 for a family of four (for each additional family member add \$7,480). Both homeowners and renters may participate in the program. Renters must get prior approval from their landlord, and have their landlord sign an agreement for weatherization services.



DeWitt Township residents are encouraged to apply for the Weatherization Assistance Program now! Having your home insulated is also a great way to reduce cooling costs, while staying cooler in your home this summer!

Call the Clinton County Service Center at (989) 224-6702 or (989) 277-1908
to apply for the program TODAY!

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), the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) or DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt). Registration forms and program descriptions are also available on DARA's website, www.dewittrecreation.org.

Program	Dates	Time	Registration	Age	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Summer Day Camps	6/8-8/14	7:30 am-5:30 pm	Began 4/17	5-12	\$95/\$100
Youth Golf @ Hawk Hollow	7/14-8/13	6-7 pm or 7-8 pm	Begins 5/29	8-15	\$50
Drop Your Kids Off	7/17 & 8/14	6:00-11:00 pm 6:00-11:00 pm	Begins 6/19 Begins 7/17	4-12	\$15/child or \$10/each additional
Adult Softball-fall Men's Co-Ed	8/17-9/21 8/16-9/20	Evenings Evenings	Begins 6/26	18+	\$200/team \$5 res/\$10 non-res player fees + umpires

Fall Tennis	9/7-10/12	Scheduled by participants	7/31-8/21	18+	\$8/\$13-singles \$15/doubles team
Flag Football	9/12-10/17	1:00-5:00 pm	7/31-8/21	Grades K-3	\$33/\$38
Fall Soccer	9/12-10/17	9:00 am-1:00 pm	7/31-8/21	4-6	\$33/\$38
Hunter Safety	9/14-9/16 & 9/19	6:00-9:00 pm TBA	Begins 7/31 until full (35)	All	\$10
Punt, Pass & Kick	9/15	6:00 pm at DeWitt High School Field	On site	8-15	Free (age on 12/31/09)
Drop Your Kids Off	9/25 10/16	6:00-11:00 pm 6:00-11:00 pm	9/4-9/24 9/18-10/9	4-12	\$15/child or \$10/each additional
Fall Floor Hockey Clinic-outdoors at Granger Meadows	9/29-10/20	5:45-6:45 pm & 6:45-7:45 pm	8/21-9/11	Grades K-2 & 3-5	\$20/\$25
Preschool Sports Starter	10/24-12/5 skip 11/28	9:30 am-Noon	9/11-10/2	3-5	\$33/\$38
Preschool Halloween Party	10/26	6:00-7:30 pm	9/11-10/19	3-5	\$6/\$8
Girls Basketball-Grades 5 & 6	11/1-12/13 skip 11/28	9:00 am-Noon	9/18-10/9	Grades 5-6	\$33/\$38
Youth Basketball Grades 1 & 2	10/31-12/12 skip 11/28	9:00 am-1:00 pm	9/18-10/9	Grades 1-2	\$33/\$38
Youth Volleyball	11/10-12/15	5:30-8:30 pm	9/25-10/16	Grades 3-6	\$33/\$38
Walk MI	6/19-7/17 visit DARA website for dates/times	Time varies	n/a	All	Free-win a free trip to Mackinac Island for the Labor Day Bridge Walk
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Begins 9/9	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop In	18+	\$2
Discount Cedar Point Tickets	Sold 5/25-8/28	Use during 2009 season	n/a	All	\$18.00-\$68.25
Discount MI Adventure Tickets	Sold 5/25-8/28	Use during 2009 season	n/a	All	\$24.00

DARA has updated its online registration program. To register online, you must first call the DARA office to receive a username and password. Visit our website at www.dewittrecreation.org, select the sports, special events or classes tab on the home page, select your program and complete the required information. DARA accepts Visa and MasterCard payments online. You may also print registration forms by clicking on the forms tab and mail them.

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

July 1	Summer Taxes Mailed
July 17	Granger Meadows Celebration
August 4	Special Election
September 14	Summer Taxes Due
September 19	Clinton County Clean Community Junk Collection – Granger - some fees apply
November 3	Election

PROTECTING THE WATER'S EDGE



The way we take care of the land has a huge impact on water quality. As landowners and citizens, it is important that we take care of the land immediately surrounding the river in a way that is beneficial to the river and the wildlife that depend on it. Riparian zones are areas of vegetation between the river and the surrounding land use, usually a lawn or field. Riparian zones have the capacity to buffer rivers and other waters from polluted runoff from agricultural, urban, residential or other land uses. Healthy riparian zones can absorb sediments, chemical nutrients, and other

substances contained in polluted runoff. They also provide for groundwater recharge, diverse habitats and water storage and release. A healthy, functioning riparian area and associated uplands dramatically increase benefits such as fish and wildlife habitat, erosion control, forage, late season stream flow and water quality.

What Can YOU Do to Protect the Water's Edge?

By creating a healthy riparian zone on your property, you can help improve water quality.

- **Reduce Turf Grass** - Shoreline and stream bank property planted with turf grass is really an unnatural landscape. While turf grasses slow runoff, their root systems are too shallow to stabilize stream banks or shorelines.
- **Don't Mow to the Water's Edge** - Lawns mowed to the water's edge will do little to control shoreline erosion. In fact, removing native vegetation and replacing it with turf grass usually results in accelerated stream bank and shoreline erosion that degrades water quality. A buffer between 15-25 feet is usually suitable, the more the better.
- **Plant Native Michigan Plants** - Native Michigan plants actually help improve water quality, and they're an attractive alternative to turf grass. Native plants generally have deeper roots which absorb runoff and break down pollutants that would otherwise go straight to the river. Native plants can be found at your local nursery.

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water - and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater clean. For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit www.mywatersheds.org.



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

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 66
LANSING MI

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS to Deb Saylor and Rick Smith. Both recently celebrated their 30th anniversary working for the Township. Their dedication to the residents of DeWitt Township is truly commendable.



SHOE RECYCLING – You can now recycle your used athletic shoes at the Township Hall. Drop off your old clean tennis shoes (no metal eyelets or light up shoes). No other types of shoes accepted (i.e. dress shoes, cleats, sandals, etc). Reuse-A-Shoe is a program implemented as one of Nike's long-term commitments to waste elimination. This program helps to close the loop on the life cycle of literally millions of pairs of old, worn-out or otherwise unusable athletic shoe material. To date, the greater Lansing area has collected over 15,000 pairs of shoes for Nike's Athletic Shoe recycling program. These shoes are sent to a facility where the various layers of the shoe are ground down and made into new sports arena/court surfaces as well as playground surfacing.

The City of Lansing also received a \$20,000 grant from this program and is utilizing it to surface a playground area at Potter Park Zoo.

