

March, 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

AEROTROPOLIS

Through the centuries, transportation has been a critical driver of the economic development, health, and viability of a community. In the 17th century, towns were created around seaports; then, in the 18th century, railroads expanded the reach of trade and new communities and jobs soon followed. The 20th century brought forth the highway system. Once again, this new driver for opportunity was vital for the growth and expansion of a region. In the 21st century, airports will certainly be a key indicator in the economic viability of a region. Like in the past centuries, transportation will continue to be a key element in the growth of a community and the creation of new jobs.

To position our region for the future, DeWitt Charter Township, the City of Lansing, and the Lansing Capital Region International Airport announced a unique partnership in January. The goal of this partnership is to capitalize on new legislation called the "Next Michigan Corporation," or more commonly referred to as "Aerotropolis."

An Aerotropolis is a national and international tool that helps a region market its airport; and, more importantly, brings economic development tools to the corporation. These economic development tools include the ability to issue Renaissance Zone designations, personal property tax exemptions, mega tax credits, and other incentives to help bring new business to Michigan or to help existing business expand. With only five of these designations being allowed in our State, it is critical that our region be one of the chosen areas.

DeWitt Charter Township, the City of Lansing, and the Capital Region International Airport understand the importance of working together to further our region. Without this form of cooperation, it will put us at an economic disadvantage to other regions in the State and Midwest. In these economic times, we must forge ahead with new opportunities to ensure that our citizens have the jobs that they deserve and the quality of life that allows this region to continue to grow and expand. DeWitt Charter Township, the City of Lansing, and the Capital Region International Airport are ready to make this commitment.

Our three entities have been working together to create the agreement that is necessary to apply for the Aerotropolis, or Next Michigan Corporation, from the State of Michigan. The tool for this tentative agreement would be a 425 Agreement with the City of Lansing that would last at least 50 years with the ability to renew for another 50 year term. If the 425 Agreement ends after the first term, the property would return to the Township. If it ends after the second term, the land would remain in the City of Lansing. During this time, the Township and the City will share in the revenue, including the Lansing income tax. More importantly, all existing businesses will be held harmless. These businesses will be taxed at the Township rate until they change hands or make a significant change in the square footage of their operation. The 425 covers all property currently owned by the Airport and a few businesses located on Grand River, south of the Airport.

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It is important to note that while the Airport is a critical driver for the economic health and prosperity of our region, there have been challenges with having an Airport within DeWitt Township for the last 40 years. An airport also brings noise, traffic, and expansion. While the Airport has been here for a long time, so have many of our residents in the Southern Tier.

Along with the 425 Agreement, we are also proud to announce a tentative agreement with the Airport. The purpose of this agreement will be to help ensure that the Township is kept aware of all new Airport activity that might affect the residents of the Township. This will help ensure that the Township, the Airport, and the residents can work more closely together. This agreement will require increased communication, joint meetings, and joint planning, such as joint comprehensive development plans. While this will not eliminate the challenges of living next to a growing airport, it will provide for an improved relationship.

DeWitt Township has been viewed as a model for regional cooperation for the last 30 years, with such projects as a regional sewer authority and a joint recreation authority. Once again, we are proud to be part of a historic opportunity to work with our regional partners and find new and creative ways to enhance our regional economy and create new jobs. We believe that we have a basis for an agreement that will show the State, the Nation, and the International communities that the Greater Lansing region is here to compete.

The Township Board will consider taking action on the 425 Agreement and the Airport Agreement at their March 14, 2011, meeting. This will put the partnership in a position to apply for the Next Michigan Corporation (Aerotropolis) designation by the end of March. If the State does not approve our application, the 425 Agreement is then terminated. If you have any questions, please contact the Manager's Office at 517-668-0270.

DEWITT TOWNSHIP ACQUIRES NEW WATER TANKER



On January 7, 2011, the DeWitt Township Fire Department took delivery of a new water tanker. This vehicle, on an International chassis, will replace a 1985 GMC water tanker. While this vehicle is a little smaller than the previous tanker, it is more maneuverable and has more capabilities. This vehicle carries 2,100 gallons of water and has a 500 gallon per minute pump. This purchase is part of a long-term vehicle replacement plan adopted by the Township's Board of Trustees.

MAY 3, 2011 ELECTION - 911 BALLOT LANGUAGE

Submitted by Clinton County

911 Central Dispatch's 800MHz radio system became operable in 1998 and is working as designed. Yet, over the years, the system has experienced an increasing number of "dark spots" (communication failures). The primary reason for the increase in dark spots is the construction of heavy masonry facilities. These include office buildings, public school facilities, and retail establishments. An increase in vegetative growth and abrupt changes in topography also create dark spots. These dark spots have, on occasion, compromised the safety of police/fire/EMS personnel and their effectiveness in emergency situations.

On May 3, 2011, Clinton County residents will have the opportunity to vote on a ballot proposal designed to address this problem with the least expensive option. The proposal would allow for a surcharge rate increase from \$2.00 up to \$2.25 per month. The proposal will read as follows:

911 OPERATING SURCHARGE
For the period beginning on July 1, 2011 and continuing through the month of June in the year 2017, shall Clinton County be authorized to assess a monthly surcharge of up to \$2.25 on the monthly billings of landline, wireless and VoIP service suppliers within the geographic boundaries of Clinton County to be used exclusively for the funding of 911 emergency telephone call answering and dispatch services within Clinton County, including facilities, equipment and operations?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

The increase in funding will allow the County to maintain current 911 operations and address the problem of dark spots along with other system improvements. The most significant need is the construction of a second communication tower in the southwest quadrant of the County. This tower will provide a benefit to all County residents by serving as a redundant tower should the only 911 communication tower located on Taft Road fail for any reason. This tower will also significantly reduce emergency communication dark spots within the greater DeWitt area or for approximately 59% of County residents. The southwest tower project will also address a federal mandate to provide narrow banding (VHF) pager service to all Clinton County Fire and EMS personnel by January of 2013. If the proposal is approved, construction of the southwest tower will be completed in 2011.

A second tower is planned for 2015 in the southeast quadrant of the County. The southeast tower will also minimize dark spots for a total of 76% of County residents. Additional information on the proposal will be posted on the County's website at www.clinton-county.org in the coming weeks.

ATTENTION VOTERS!! AN ELECTION IN MAY?

May 3, 2011, is Election Day in DeWitt Township to present a 911 Operating Surcharge Ballot Question to all voters of Clinton County. Bath School District will be holding their Annual School Election on this same date. In the past few years, those Bath School District voters who voted in May were directed to Bath Township precincts to save the cost of opening additional DeWitt Township precincts. Since all DeWitt Township precincts will be open for this May election, all DeWitt Township voters will go to their usual precincts for this election. To assure that all Bath School District voters are informed, they will soon receive a first class mailing clarifying where to go vote in May.

The County has provided the previous information about their ballot question. So, mark your calendar for May 3, 2011, which will be Election Day in DeWitt Township, Bath School District, and all of Clinton County.

General Election Information:

- Polls are open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm.
- Precincts 1 & 2 vote at Herbison Woods School-access from Herbison or Schavey Roads.
- Precincts 3 & 4 vote at the Herbison Road Fire Station.
- Precincts 5, 6 & 7 vote at the Community Center on Brook Rd south off State Road.
- Absentee voters: those on the automatic list will receive an application in early March.
- If you need to vote by absentee ballot, contact the Township if you are not on the auto list.
- Ballots should be available the third or fourth week of March and will be mailed quickly.
- Sample ballots-available in April if you want to see the ballot before going to the polls.
- Contact the Clerk’s Office (517-668-0270) for election assistance. We are here to help!
- **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!!!!!!!!**

Timing for this election might pose some problems for “snow birds.” If you are going to be in transition near the end of March, you should make sure we know where to send your absentee ballot, since the postal service cannot forward ballots. Applications can be forwarded, and have been mass mailed to those voters on the Automatic Absentee List. Be sure to tell us, on your application, where to mail your ballot.

CLINTON COUNTY REVERSE 9-1-1 SELF REGISTRATION PORTAL

Would you like to receive phone messages in the event of a national, state, or local emergency? If so, you may want to register your contact phone number with Clinton County Central Dispatch/9-1-1. In order to be effective, they must have current contact information readily available at all times.

As more people transition from landline phone service to wireless and VoIP phone service, the availability and accuracy of local 9-1-1 or commercially provided phone data has greatly diminished, creating significant gaps in communication databases. For this reason, Clinton County Central Dispatch/9-1-1 has now implemented a Self-Registration Portal (SRP) to gather critical data, including cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses, directly from you.

For more information on this program or to register, visit <http://www.clinton-county.org/LawJustice/CentralDispatch911/Reverse911.aspx>.

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA PLAN, NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

In 2009, after a series of public input sessions, the Township Board adopted the South Central Area Plan (This area is east and west of BR-127 and runs north of Sheridan Road and south of Stoll Road.) The South Central Area of the Township presents its own unique challenges and opportunities. The purpose of the Plan is to help provide a direction to the future for the South Central Area and to identify tools that could be used to help take advantage of the strengths of the area and to mitigate the weaknesses.

During the planning process in 2008, over 100 people attended a visioning session. In this session, residents were asked “What is your preferred future?” Three of the general findings were: improving BR-127, increasing Quality of Life (amenities, community character) and Code Enforcement/Blight Cleanup.

One of the tools identified was the adoption of the standardized property maintenance code known as the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). A Code such as this has the ability to bring positive changes to those items listed during the South Central Area visioning session mentioned above.

Over the last year, the Township has been investigating the merits of the IPMC and the process for adopting it. Late last year, the Board created an ad-hoc committee to review the standard Code and modify it to meet the requirements of DeWitt Charter Township. The committee consisted of business owners, Board members, citizens, and staff. In early January, 2011, the committee presented its first draft to the Township Board. This was the Board's first chance to review a draft of the committee work and hold a discussion on the potential adoption of the IPMC.

At this point, the ad-hoc committee is still working towards making a final recommendation to the Board. In reviewing the Code, the committee will be using the following objective:

- Respond to the South Central Area Plan, requests by citizens to help make improvements to the Southern Tier, and assist all Township property owners and residents in maintaining the value of their property, and to ensure public safety.
 - For the purposes of this committee, the primary goal is the revitalization of neighborhoods and businesses by the reduction of blight and increasing safety in non-owner occupied buildings.

To make sure the IPMC is designed to meet the needs of our community, the following standards will be used in evaluating each section of the Code:

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

It is important to note that while the impetus for considering adoption of the IPMC is to bring assistance to the South Central Area of the Township, the Code would cover all properties in the Township. It is expected that the committee will be able to present its finding to the Township Board in just a few months. If you have interest in learning more about the IPMC, please contact Rich Trent, Community Development Director, at 517-669-6576.

PROPERTY VALUE CHANGES FOR 2011

Annual "Change of Assessment" notices have been mailed to all Township property owners. These notices reflect the following changes for the 2011 tax year: increase or decrease in the property assessment, change in taxable value, and an approximate change in property taxes.

With the passage of Proposal A in 1994, increases to the property's value for tax purposes have been limited to the lesser of 5% or the inflation rate. The inflation rate is set annually by the State and has ranged between -.03% and +4.4% per year since the proposal's passage. For the 2011 tax year, the inflation rate is +1.7%. This means that your taxable value will not increase more than 1.7% unless improvements were made to the property or if there was a transfer or change in ownership in 2010.

Information is the Key DOGS

Sometimes it's those little assumptions that mislead or confuse us. From time to time, we cover topics in this Newsletter that we hope will be useful to our residents in clearing up misunderstandings, eliminating confusion, or just providing useful information. In this issue, our topic is DOGS. Why inform our residents about DOGS? In 2006, a Gallup poll showed that 60% of American households included a pet. The Humane Society of the United States shows that in 2009, 67% of those pet owners had one dog, and 24% of pet owners had two dogs. That being said, it is time to make sure our community has good information about local rules and regulations involving dogs.

Dog Licensure: Michigan law requires dogs four months of age and older to be licensed and vaccinated for rabies. In DeWitt Township, licensing is handled through the Clinton County Treasurer's Office in St. Johns where help is available at 989-224-5280. You can often handle licensure through the mail. A license can cost between \$10 and \$60, depending on whether your dog has been spayed or neutered, the length of the license term, if you are delinquent in your license purchase, etc. Visit <http://www.clinton-county.org/Government/Treasurer/DogLicense.aspx> for more information.

Who Regulates What? Regulations involving dogs are in place from the state to the local level and are handled by the Clinton County Animal Control and/or the DeWitt Township Police Department. One of the most common questions that Township staff refers to Animal Control (989-224-5116) or the Township Police Department is "Do we have a leash law?" Technically, the answer is no; however, regulations do require a dog owner to have their dog under control at all times, and it is commonly thought that a leash is the best way to ensure control of a dog. In DeWitt Township, the Zoning Ordinance states that customary household pets may be kept on a non-commercial basis when properly housed, but shall not exceed four (4) in number for any one residence and should at all times be confined to prevent their running at large.

Township Regulations regarding dogs are within the "Disorderly Ordinance" (Ord. 94), which includes, but is not limited to, the following definitions of a disorderly person:

- A person who owns any animal and permits the animal to run at large, except when engaged in hunting.
- A person who permits their dog to be within the confines of any public park, when such a park posts and prohibits dogs.
- A person who owns a dog which
 - 1) destroys property, or trespasses in a damaging way on property of persons other than the owner.
 - 2) attacks or bites a person.
- A person who owns any dog which shows vicious habits, including but not limited to, charging, snarling, growling, etc., or molests passersby when such persons are lawfully on a public highway, right-of-way, or adjacent property.
- A person who owns, keeps, houses, tethers, possesses or maintains, any animal in such a way or manner or in such location whereby noises emanating from said animal, included but not limited to, loud and frequent barking, howling, or yelping, shall cause a disturbance or otherwise disrupt the peace, quiet and tranquility of persons.
- A person who removes a collar or tag from any dog, without owner permission, or decoys or entices any dog out of an enclosure or off the property of its owner, or seizes, molests, or teases any dog while held or led by any person while on the property of its owner.
- A person who intentionally kills, injures, or maims any animal; however, any person may kill any dog which he or she sees in the act of actually attacking or wounding any person, but in no event shall the provisions of these regulations exonerate a person from compliance with the criminal laws of the state, including the safe discharge of firearms.

The most common issues in the Township relating to dogs are complaints about dogs at large and barking dogs.

What if I have a complaint? Residents are reminded that calling 911 is the appropriate action for both non-emergency and emergency situations within Clinton County. The 911 operator will determine the appropriate course of action and determine who should respond to your situation. In the past two years, the DeWitt Township Police Department handled over 70 barking dog complaints. An officer will, upon receiving a complaint through Central Dispatch, park nearby to determine where the noise is coming from, and attempt to contact the home owner or person responsible for the dog. In some instances, citations are issued for Disturbing the Peace-Barking Dog. Your complaint is always documented. Most of the time, after contact is made with the dog owner or responsible person, the situation is resolved.

Although the Township Police respond to dog bite situations, Animal Control does the actual investigation of dog bite complaints. Unfortunately, dog bite situations are all too common. ***Remember, you are required to be in control of your dog at all times, and you should always call 911 with any incident or complaint.***

Questions? If you have questions relating to dogs, feel free to contact the Township Hall at 517-668-0270 and we will direct you to the appropriate office or agency. Today, stories about animals are frequently reported in our newspapers; and, nearly everyone will either own or come into contact with a dog. We hope you find the above information useful. Another great local resource for questions about pets is the Capital Area Humane Society. They can be reached at www.caahs-lansing.org or by calling 517-626-6060.

Dogs and Township Parks

Dogs are currently allowed, if on a leash, within Padgett Park (driveway just east of SCCMUA on Herbison Road) and in the non-paved section of Granger Meadows Park (located on the south side of Granger Meadows Lane); however, they are not allowed in Granger Meadows Park (north side of Granger Meadows Lane) or Valley Farms Park. The Township is just beginning discussions regarding the possibility of future dog park facilities. If you would like to help with this initiative, please contact Township Manager Rodney Taylor at 517-668-0270 or by email to rtaylor@dewittwp.org.

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD ALTA CATHERINE REED



Alta "Catherine" Reed was awarded a Resolution of Appreciation by the DeWitt Charter Township Board on January 24, 2011. Catherine previously served on the DeWitt Charter Township Board during the 1970's and 1980's, first serving as Township Supervisor and then as Township Treasurer.

Catherine and her husband Ivan owned and operated a business, raised their family, and lived their entire adult lives in DeWitt Township. Catherine was the promoter of the first Township Newsletter, was instrumental in the Green Thumb and CETA programs, and was very involved in promoting senior citizen programs. Congratulations, Catherine!!!

Pictured are Catherine Reed and Supervisor Galardi.

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 (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. You may also find DARA on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation>.

Program Name	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
March Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	3/18	6:00-11:00 pm	2/4-3/11	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Adult Fitness Classes	5 weeks each Tues/Thurs	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm @ DTCC	Call for info.	18+	\$100 straight fee \$10 per class
Easter Egg Hunt	4/16	3:00 pm sharp @ Granger Meadows	No registration	1-10 yrs.	Free (at DTCC if bad weather)
April Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	4/15	6:00-11:00 pm	3/4-4/8	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Spring Youth Soccer League	4/30-6/4 Sat. Games	9:00 am-1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/4-4/11	4-6 yrs.	\$33/\$48
Adult Golf Lessons	4/13-5/12 Wed or Thurs	6:00-7:00 pm (Hawk Hollow)	2/4-4/8	18 yrs. & Up	\$60 straight fee
Spring Break Fun Club	4/4-4/8 Mon-Fri	7:30 am-5:30 pm	2/4-3/18 or when full	5-12 yrs.	\$80/\$95
Basketball University	4/19-5/10 Tues. Nights	5:45 pm – 8:45 pm (times vary by grade)	3/4-4/8	1-8 grade	\$35 straight fee
Youth Yard Sale	5/21	9 am-12 pm	4/1-5/6	5-12 yrs.	\$10/booth
Adult Softball Spring/Summer League	5/4 & 5/5 – 7/27 & 7/28	Evenings Men's/Co-Ed Leagues	Begins 3/4	18 yrs. & Up	\$290/team + Ump Fee Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
May Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	5/13	6:00–11:00 pm	4/1-5/6	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
T-ball & Pee Wee Baseball	6/6-7/14 Weekday Games	6:00 pm or 7:15 pm Game Times	4/1-5/13	4-7 yrs.	\$43/58
June Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	6/24	6:00-11:00 pm	5/6-6/17	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
British Soccer Camp	6/20-6/24	Times vary by age	3/4 -4/2 to get a free jersey	3-16 yrs.	\$72 to \$160 Depending on Camp
Summer Fun Club Day Camp	6/13-8/26 (11 weeks)	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Begins 4/1 & open til full	5-9 yrs.	\$95/\$110 per week
Double Digit Day Camp	6/13-8/26 (11 weeks)	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Begins 4/1 & open til full	10-14 yrs.	\$95/\$110 per week
Adult Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Ongoing	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop in	18 yrs. & Up	\$2 per visit

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.

DEWITT TOWNSHIP STANDING COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

The following Committee and Commission members are currently serving the residents of DeWitt Charter Township. Please take the opportunity to say "Thank You" to your friends and neighbors for their service to our community. This Newsletter issue features a group picture of our Planning Commission. If you have an interest in serving on a Township Committee or Commission, applications are available from the Clerk's Office or on our web site at <http://www.dewitttownship.org/Portals/10/Documents/Clerk/Committee%20Commission%20Application2010.pdf>.

Planning Commission Members: Steve Musselman, Kim Smelker, Bruce Keilen, Steve Gobbo, Marsha Zimmerman, Dale Dailey, Tim Fair, Adam Bertram, Kris Krol
Board of Review: Norman Farnum, Al Harrison, Concetta D'Agostino
Construction Board of Appeals: Dick Byelich, Brian Schertzing, Gene Brownfield, Dennis Rozen, Gordon Woodman
Corridor Improvement Authority: Charles Allen, Roger Dean, Rich Kelley, Butch Mohre, Steve Musselman, Tonia Olson, Scott Randall, Marsha Zimmerman
DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA): Mary Winegar, Phyllis Daggy, Doug Simon
Library Board: Wayne Summers, Diane Mosier, Gale Arent
Public Safety Committee: Dave Seeger, Tom Hendrickson, Bonnie Oetman, Tom Leonard, Sam Vosovic
Salary Compensation Commission: Dick Byelich, Danny Taylor, Bill Bupp, Scott Hummel
Sewer Authority (SCCMUA): Brian Ross, Sue Glynn, Mark Helinski, Rod Taylor, Diane Mosier
Sewer Board of Appeals: Judy Martiny, Rick Shepherd, Doug Vettraino
Sister City Board: Steve Musselman, Scott Sowulewski, Peggy Brown, Jim Sinnamon
Board of Appeals: Max Calder, Steve Gobbo, Bob Reese, Dale Glynn, Chris LaGrand, Andrew Richards, Don Riel
*note: these members are listed in no particular order and this list does not include various ad hoc committee members



2011 Planning Commission Members: Tim Fair, Adam Bertram, Vice Chairperson Bruce Keilen, Chairperson Steve Gobbo, Secretary Kim Smelker, Kris Krol and Dale Dailey. Missing: Trustee Steve Musselman and Marsha Zimmerman

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

July 15, 2011	Meadows Celebration Event
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DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

The DeWitt District Library (DDL) is located at 13101 Schavey Road in DeWitt, next to the Schavey Road Shopping Center. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 am – 8:30 pm; Tuesday 1:00 pm – 8:30 pm; Friday 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; and Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Additional information on programs and services offered through the DeWitt District Library are available online at www.dewittlibrary.org, or by phoning 517-669-3156 during the above business hours.

New Resources Available on the DeWitt District Library Website

The DDL's website provides patrons with around-the-clock access to material and information. Using the website, you can check out a new library book while still in your pajamas, help your child with that forgotten "big report" that's due tomorrow, extend your library materials without squeezing in a trip to the library, and more. Some highlights of the new resources available are:

eBooks and Audiobook for Mobile Devices - DDL patrons can now download eBooks from the Library using OverDrive. The eBooks available through OverDrive are compatible with Barnes and Noble's Nook and the Sony Readers. OverDrive also offers several "on-the-go" options for Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, Blackberry and other mobile devices. Select the OverDrive feature box on the Library's homepage to find out more about the OverDrive digital services offered to DDL patrons.

Online Resources for Job Seekers - Job seekers can utilize the Library's website for their career search needs through the Michigan eLibrary's new Job & Career Accelerator. This new interactive tool combines everything a job-seeker needs into an easy on-line application. The Michigan eLibrary, or Mel.org, is administered by the Library of Michigan and provides Michigan residents with 24/7 access to online information at no cost. Mel.org can be accessed through the Databases option of the Books and Research section of DDL's website or www.dewittlibrary.org/booksresearch/databases.html.

Tax Forms, Research, Book Reviews, Social Media, & More - The website also contains links to federal, state, and local tax forms, local history and genealogy information, archived book reviews, shortcuts to DDL's social media, the library catalog, and online access to your account. Take a quick tour of DDL's website to find all the resources available to you without leaving your home or office. Of course, staff would still love to see your face in the Library and will always be available during business hours to help you with your library or research needs.

TOWNSHIP RECEIVES \$1,137,206.50 IN GRANTS

Below is a summary of a number of grants recently received by the Township:

Fire Apparatus – In 2010, the Township received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Assistance to Firefighters Program. This grant, in the amount of \$261,250 put the Township in a position to be able to purchase two fire vehicles. We have received the first vehicle - a new tanker (see Page 2). Delivery of the second vehicle – a new pumper – is expected soon.

Police Software – The Township received a \$35,980 grant, called the Byrne Justice Assistant Grant, which will allow us to work regionally with the Clinton County Sheriff's Office, City of St. Johns, and Bath Township. This grant allows the Township to use and access the County's Police Records Management software (OSSI-Sungard) increasing collaboration and officer safety. DeWitt and Bath Townships have started training with full implementation expected by March 15, 2011.

Crash Capture Software – This grant, for \$64,000 from US Department of Transportation Highway Safety Funds, allows for the purchase of an additional module from OSSI-Sungard. Once installed, the grant will allow for electronic capture and submission of crash data which is currently filled out manually. Again, this is a regional project benefiting DeWitt Township and the Clinton County Sheriff's Department.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) – The Township received another Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$12,754. This grant allowed the Township to implement the RSVP program in the summer of 2010. The grant dollars allowed the Township to create a program where approximately 12 volunteers patrol the Township parks during the spring, summer, and fall. The remaining grant dollars will be used to provide the volunteers with CPR and First Aid training.

Bulletproof Vests – The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) is a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement. This grant is paying for the replacement of obsolete bulletproof vests for Township officers. Several officers received vests in 2010 and the remaining officers will receive their vests in 2011. The value of this grant is \$4,222.50.

Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) – In late 2010, the Township was awarded a \$394,000 grant for the construction of a Miracle League Baseball Field for children with disabilities and the construction of a new restroom/concession facility at Valley Farms Park. Additionally, CASE Cares is contributing another \$50,000 to this project. It is expected that construction of this project will begin this summer.

Neighborhood Sweep Grant – In February 2011, the Township was one of five communities that received a Better Buildings for Michigan Grant from the Michigan Bureau of Energy Systems. This grant is a partnership with Bath Township and Michigan Energy Options and allows for neighborhood energy sweeps. Beginning in 2011, and going through 2012, 840 homes between DeWitt Township and Bath Township will be targeted to evaluate and assist with energy savings upgrades. DeWitt will be targeting homes that are in the South Central Area of the Township. The value of this grant is \$315,000.

NEWS BITES

BALL FIELD SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – Help support the community and the Township by purchasing a banner to promote your business. Banners are displayed (May-October) at Valley Farms Baseball Field or the In-Line Hockey Rink. A limited number of banners are available and restrictions apply. Contact Manager Rod Taylor at 517-668-0270 or rtaylor@dewittwp.org for details.

CLINTON COUNTY FOOD DISTRIBUTION – Held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. Registration 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Transportation to the distribution site is available through Clinton Transit (989-224-8127 or 1-800-800-5938). Remaining 2011 distribution dates are: April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 8. Additional information is available by calling 2-1-1 or 1-866-561-2500.

OVERHEAD LIGHTING INTERSECTION REVIEW – The DeWitt Township Public Safety Committee will be undertaking a review of overhead lighting issues at main road intersections. If you are aware of a main road intersection that you believe should be reviewed, please contact Fire Chief Fred Koos at 517-669-0071 or fkoo@dewittwp.org.

ANNUAL HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION MEETINGS – Township Homeowner Associations may now use Fire Station #2 (1445 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) as a meeting place. Each Association is allowed to hold one meeting at the Station annually. For more information or to check for available dates, contact Fire Chief Fred Koos at 517-669-0071 or fkoo@dewittwp.org. Fire department personnel will attend each meeting and provide home safety information.

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

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

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

News Bites - Continued from Page 11

CEMETERIES: If you have a loved one buried in Gunnisonville or Hurd Cemeteries, please be aware that grave blankets and all other winter decorations placed at these grave sites must be removed by March 15, 2011, or they will be removed and disposed of by Township Maintenance Staff.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Would you like to volunteer to help out at the July 15, 2011, Meadows Celebration? We can always use your help! Please call 517-668-0270 for more information.

DO 1 THING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - (choose one thing to do this month) visit www.do1thing.com. • Purchase or bottle your own water and then store a supply for a minimum of 72 hours to a maximum of two weeks • Purchase a generator if your water comes from a private well (or make sure that your current generator is set up to power the well). • Label utility shutoffs and teach other household members how (and when) to shut them off.

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.

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS - DeWitt Township utilizes the DeWitt Bath Review and the Lansing Community News for legal publications. Also, the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org, is a good source for information about public hearings, zoning issues, and general information when we are required by law to post legal notices.

RECYCLE - You can drop off old household batteries, eye glasses & hearing aids, cell phones & chargers, and mercury thermometers at the Township Hall for recycling. Athletic shoes are no longer accepted.

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.