

March, 2012

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

## LET'S PLAY BALL!! MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD OPENING DAY!!

The line-ups have been set, the lead-off hitter is on deck and the spectators are ready! The opening day/dedication of the CASE Cares Miracle Field at Valley Farms Park is scheduled for May 14, 2012 (weather permitting).



America's sport is baseball; and on May 14<sup>th</sup>, area children with disabilities will be given the opportunity to "be a kid" and play baseball. The Miracle Field, constructed with a rubberized surface, provides no barriers for wheelchairs, walkers, braces, etc. The field and its operation is a public/private partnership with DeWitt Township, CASE Cares, the Miracle League of Mid-Michigan and the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) and was made possible by a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. Because of its unique nature, it draws players from Clinton, Ingham, and Eaton Counties, and beyond.



**Watch the local papers for Opening Day Ceremony details.**

We are still in need of assistance. Multiple opportunities exist such as volunteering as a buddy to a player, donating \$100 toward the purchase of a brick, or having your company provide a sponsorship. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Township Manager's Office at 517-668-0270.

## BETTERBUILDINGS PROGRAM WRAPS UP

In February of 2011, the Township received a BetterBuildings for Michigan Grant from the Michigan Bureau of Energy Systems. This grant, in partnership with Bath Township and Michigan Energy Options, allowed for neighborhood energy sweeps to evaluate and assist homeowners with energy savings upgrades. The Township's sweep targeted homes in the South Central Area.

As February comes to a close, DeWitt Township would like to thank all those who participated in the BetterBuildings for Michigan program. The home assessments have concluded in our area with over 140 residents participating to increase the safety, comfort, and energy efficiency of their homes. Installation of energy saving measures continues.



Through this program, homeowners increased their energy savings by up to 40 percent while lowering the cost of utility bills. In addition, the BetterBuildings for Michigan

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

program also provided the opportunity for Township residents to access valuable rebates and other financial incentives, including a zero percent interest loan, to assist in making low-cost home improvements.

While the BetterBuildings for Michigan program has ended in DeWitt Township and is moving to Bath Township, those who did not have a chance to participate can still find resources and other information on lowering utility bills and increasing energy efficiency at [www.dewittbbfm.org](http://www.dewittbbfm.org).

## REMEMBER, THE TASTE OF COD LIVER OIL? FISH FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT MOTOR OIL.....



Image Courtesy of Puget Sound Action Team, a cooperative venture between the Washington State Department of Ecology, King County and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma

The fluids that leak or drip from your automobile eventually end up in our rivers, lakes, and streams. Did you know that even though your home may be miles away from a lake or a river, the chemicals that spill on your driveway or parking lot find their way to our local waterways? The Township has two watersheds: the Grand River and Looking Glass River Watersheds. The rainwater, soiled water from washing your car, and any toxic chemicals which are allowed to enter drainage ditches and storm sewers end up flowing into these watersheds. Keeping hazardous chemicals from entering the watershed is an important task for everyone to keep in mind.

Here are suggestions on how the proper maintenance of your automobile plays a key role in keeping our surface water clean:

- Repair any leaks and drips from your automobile. This includes: motor oil, transmission fluid, anti-freeze/coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid, gasoline and other lubricants. Remember, these chemicals are also dangerous to your pets.
- If you choose to change your own oil, do not dump the used oil in the yard, on your driveway, or in a storm drain. Find a local firm that will recycle the used oil.
- Do not apply used motor oil on gravel drives to control dust.
- Wash your car on the grass to filter out impurities or take it to a commercial car wash.
- Basic automobile maintenance such as tune-ups, proper tire inflation, and efficient driving practices save on fuel, as well as water and air pollution.
- Abandoned automobiles should be taken to a scrap yard or donated to a local charity. Old cars sitting out in a field will leak oil and fuel.



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](http://www.mywatersheds.org).

## 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	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
March Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	3/16	6:00 - 11:00 pm	2/3-3/12	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
80's Retro Party Night 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Graders <i>NEW!</i>	3/23	7:00 - 10:30 pm	2/4-3/19	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$10 straight fee
March Drop Your Kids Off (all day)	3/9	7:30 am - 5:30 pm	2/3-3/5	5-12 yrs.	\$25/one child \$20/ each additional
Mini Movers <i>NEW!</i> Preschool movement class	3/7-3/28 Wednesdays	9:30 - 10:15 am	2/3-2/24	2-5 yrs.	\$25/\$40
DARA Egg Hunt	3/31	3:00 pm sharp @ Valley Farms Park	No registration	1-10 yrs.	Free
April Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	4/13	6:00 - 11:00 pm.	3/2-4/9	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Spring Youth Soccer League	4/14-5/19 Sat. Games	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/2-3/23	4-6 yrs.	\$33/\$48
Adult Golf Lessons	4/11-5/10 Wed or Thurs	6:00 - 7:00 pm (Hawk Hollow)	2/3-4/5	18 yrs. & Up	\$60 straight fee
3 v. 3 High School Basketball <i>NEW!</i>	4/10-5/15 Tues. Games	5:00 - 9:00 pm	3/2-3/30	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$30/45
Teen Trip April Craig's Cruisers <i>NEW!</i>	4/20	5:00 - 11:30 pm	3/2-4/16	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$40 straight fee Inc. 4 activities & dinner
Mini Matisses <i>NEW!</i> Preschool Art Class	4/11-5/2 Weds	9:30 - 10:15 am	3/2-4/5	2-5 yrs.	\$25/\$40
Teen Night May 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Graders <i>NEW!</i>	5/18	7:00 - 10:30 pm	4/5-5/14	6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$10 straight fee
Sports Starter Spring Session	4/9-5/14 or 4/12- 5/17	Mon. 5:30 - 6:15 pm & 6:30 - 7:15 pm or Thurs. 9:30 - 10:15 am	3/2-3/23	3-5 yrs.	\$33/\$48
Spring Break Fun Club	4/2-4/5 Mon-Thurs	7:30 am - 5:30 pm	2/4-3/16 or when full	5-12 yrs.	\$80/\$95
Basketball University	4/18-5/9 Wed. Nights	5:45 - 8:45 pm (times vary by grade)	3/2-4/13	1-8 grade	\$35 straight fee
Youth Yard Sale	5/12	9 am - 12 pm	4/5-5/4	5-12 yrs.	\$10/booth
Adult Softball Spring/Summer League	5/2 & 5/3 - 7/25 & 7/26	Evenings Men's/Co-Ed Leagues	Begins 3/2	18 yrs. & Up	\$290/team + Ump Fee Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
May Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	5/25	6:00 - 11:00 pm	4/5-5/21	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
T-ball & Pee Wee Baseball	6/4-7/12 Weekday Games	6:00 pm or 7:15 pm Game Times	4/5-5/4	4-7 yrs.	\$43/58
British Soccer Camp	8/13-8/17	Times vary by age	3/2 -6/29 to get a free jersey	3-16 yrs.	\$50 to \$170 Depending on Camp
Summer Fun Club Day Camp	6/11-8/24 (11 weeks)	7:30 am - 5:30 pm	Begins 4/5 & open until full	5-9 yrs.	\$95/\$110 per week
Double Digit Day Camp	6/11-8/24 (11 weeks)	7:30 am - 5:30 pm	Begins 4/1 & Open until 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

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

**DARA Mission:**

DARA promotes community and quality of life through leisure services provided for the residents of the DeWitt Area. Thank you for your continued support!

## **UPDATING THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Because of constant change in the social and economic structure, the Comprehensive Development Plan must be maintained through periodic review and revision so that it reflects contemporary trends while maintaining long range goals. The Michigan Planning Act requires governmental jurisdictions that have adopted a Comprehensive Development Plan to review that document every five years to determine if changes need to be made.

The existing Comprehensive Development Plan for the Township was adopted in 2005 after extensive public input. The Plan was later amended to include more detailed land use planning recommendations for the South Central Area. That geographic area includes the older, southern part of the Township along the Business 127 corridor.

In 2011, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended the following list of proposed amendments to the DeWitt Charter Township Comprehensive Plan:

1. Expanded Traffic Access Management for US 127
2. US 127 Overlay Zone Planning Area
3. Mixed Land Use Regulations
4. Non-Motorized Transportation Planning
5. Senior Housing and Continuum of Care Services
6. DeWitt Road/US 127 Gateway Corridor Improvements
7. Low Impact Development Regulations
8. State Road Corridor Sub Area Plan and Airport Area Planning
9. Wind Energy Conversion Policies

Traffic Access Management, the US 127 Overlay Zone Planning Area, and the Mixed Land Use Regulations received the highest ranking by the Planning Commission and were determined to be critical to good land use planning and economic development initiatives. Future Newsletters will focus on the above issues.

The Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees recently held a workshop to discuss these proposed updates to the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission will, in the near future, be scheduling a public hearing to further discuss these proposed amendments.

Please contact the DeWitt Charter Township Planning Department at 517-669-6576 to obtain further information on the Comprehensive Development Plan.

## WHAT IS THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

The Comprehensive Development Plan defines the existing and proposed future character of DeWitt Charter Township. The fundamental purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to allow the Township to describe the goals and policies for its physical development. The Plan is intended as a policy document to be used as a guide for Township officials in making decisions about public facilities and the use of public and privately owned land. The policies, as outlined in the Plan, are implemented by various regulatory tools such as the Zoning Ordinance, Land Division and Subdivision Ordinance, and other laws administered by the county, state, or federal government. Additionally, the Plan is implemented by the investment of public funds for infrastructure and public facilities as approved by DeWitt Charter Township through the Capital Improvements Program.

The DeWitt Charter Township Comprehensive Plan was prepared under the provisions of the Michigan Planning Act, which specifically gives Township Planning Commissions the authority to prepare and officially adopt a future land use plan or master plan for the community. The Comprehensive Development Plan for DeWitt Charter Township is comprised of text and supporting maps. The most significant map is the future land use map which shows the location and relationship of various types of land in the Township for the next 20 years.

The Comprehensive Development Plan provides for:

1. A comprehensive means of integrating planning principles and policies that address the future needs of various land use types over the next 20 year period.
2. An official, advisory series of policy statements to encourage orderly and efficient use of land for residential and non-residential use and the effective coordination of infrastructure and public facilities.
3. A rational basis for zoning, subdivision design, and public improvement plans to guide the Township and the private sector in dealing with the physical development of the community.
4. A means to communicate to residents, property owners, and the development community, how they may relate their building projects to official Township planning policies.

The Comprehensive Development Plan also provides a strong legal basis for the Township's administration of the Zoning Ordinance which sets forth the principal land use regulations for each zoning district.

The Comprehensive Development Plan, the Zoning Ordinance, and other implementing tools are available in the DeWitt Charter Township Planning Office and are also available on the Township's website.

## CLEAN SWEEP

Clean Sweep will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012. It's time to get rid of that junk taking up space around your house and haul it down to the Granger Landfill. This is a free program to DeWitt Township residents that allows you to haul a load of junk to the landfill with DeWitt Township picking up the bill. **You must be a DeWitt Township resident and must make an appointment to participate.** For more information or to make your required appointment, call the Township Hall (517-668-0270), *beginning Monday, April 2, 2012*. Space is limited.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**DeWitt Community Showcase** – Do you want to showcase your business or organization? Do you want to know what is happening in DeWitt? Then join us for the first annual Community Showcase scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2012 from 5 – 8 p.m. This initiative is the product of the October, 2011 joint meeting held with the DeWitt School District, DeWitt Township, and the City of DeWitt and is supported by area businesses and organizations. It will be held at the DeWitt High School and is an opportunity to spotlight area businesses, social service organizations, students and civic groups. This free event will give exhibitors an opportunity to increase their exposure to the community and recognize what our great community has to offer. During the evening, students will be providing entertainment and showcasing their talents. For more information or to register, contact Beth Webb at DeWitt Public Schools, 517-668-3402 or [webbb@dewittschools.net](mailto:webbb@dewittschools.net).

**A Visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog** - from Normal Bridwell's popular children's books, Clifford will visit the DeWitt District Library on **MONDAY, MARCH 19<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m.** Children are invited to meet Clifford and join in some Clifford themed activities. Parents can bring a camera to capture any photographic opportunities. For more information, contact the Library at 517-669-3156 or [www.dewittlibrary.org](http://www.dewittlibrary.org).

**Big Kids' Story Time** - The new story time at the DeWitt District Library is designed for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and will be held monthly on the second **Tuesday** from **4:00 – 5:00 p.m.** in DDL's Woodruff Historical Room. For more information, contact the Library at 517-669-3156.

### **Books & More! -- Recycling**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., Wilson Center, 101 W. Cass St., St. Johns**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., DeWitt Township Hall, 1401 W. Herbison Rd., DeWitt**

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management will again conduct the annual Books & More! events. Collected for reuse and recycling include: books, magazines, phone books, reusable clothing and textiles, and reusable household items and building materials. Library groups will be on-site to sort books for reuse. For more information call 989-224-5186 or email [conserve@clinton-county.org](mailto:conserve@clinton-county.org).

### **Medication Disposal Programs**

**March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Bath Township Senior Center located at 14480 Webster Road in Bath.

**April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the spring Clean Community Event in St. Johns. The location will be given when you make an appointment to attend this event. For more information, please call the office at 989-224-5186.

**June 1<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Pharmacy located at 901 South Oakland Street in St. Johns.

Protect your family, pets, the community and the environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications through one of the programs noted above. Do not put medications "down the drain" or in the trash. They can end up in surface waters and negatively impact local ecosystems. The preferred disposal option is through special events which ensure safe disposal through incineration.

*Please keep your medications in their original containers but be sure to black out any personal information.*

### **Clean Community Event – Clinton County Department of Waste Management**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. St. Johns**

This valuable event assists all county residents to recycle or properly dispose of just about any household generated waste item. Items accepted include household hazardous waste, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil and antifreeze, unwanted and expired medications, electronic waste, bulky waste or junk items, scrap metal, appliances, tires, yard waste, clothing, textiles and reusable household items and building equipment for donation. There are fees for a few items, but most



materials are collected for free. The event is also open to small businesses; however, additional fees do apply for hazardous and electronic waste items. Disposal fees are waived for volunteers! To make an appointment, or to volunteer, call 989-224-5186 or email [conserve@clinton-county.org](mailto:conserve@clinton-county.org).

## NEWS BITES

**TURNER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS** – The Clinton County Road Commission has received a \$400,000 grant from the State of Michigan for the widening of Turner Road (from Sheridan to Herbison). The grant will cover 80% of the project, with the Road Commission's share being 20%. This project will take four years to complete, with one mile being completed each year. The 2012 portion (Sheridan to State) will begin on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> and will last approximately one month.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT POSTS PHOTOS** – the Police Department will soon be posting images of unknown suspects to a website designed to identify them through the cooperation of the public. [www.idthisperson.com](http://www.idthisperson.com) offers a reward when you help ID a suspect.

**RESTROOMS AT TOWNSHIP PARKS** – are scheduled to open May 1<sup>st</sup>, weather permitting.

**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, 2012, or they will be removed and disposed of by Township Maintenance Staff.

**REMINDER - 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 always open.

**UPDATING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS:** The Assessing Office staff will continue to visit various residential neighborhoods to take new digital photographs of the exterior of homes to update property records. This project was started in 2011 with approximately 1,500 photos being taken. It is expected that another 1,500 pictures will be taken in 2012. There are approximately 4,900 residential parcels in the Township, so the project should be completed in 2013. Staff will always have pictured ID that identifies them as Township employees.

**DO 1 THING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** - (choose one thing to do this month) visit [www.do1thing.com](http://www.do1thing.com).  
●Plan what you will do if you have to evacuate. ●Take steps now to prevent damage to your home during a disaster ●Learn what disasters can happen in your area. Disasters change things. When an emergency happens you may have to decide what to do very quickly, while you are worrying about what might happen. By planning ahead, it will be easier to make the right decisions when the worst happens.

**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>. The Township posts information such as community events, up-to-date public safety information and planning notices.



**COMMUNITY E-MAIL BLAST LIST** – You can sign up to receive community e-mail blasts regarding community information. Register your e-mail address at [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org).

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



## WELCOME ABOARD – KYLE KOLKA

Kyle, a DeWitt native, has been hired as a Police Officer for DeWitt Charter Township. Kyle is returning to this area after almost three years of working for the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety as a Public Safety Officer.

## ST. JOHNS COMMUNITY-BASED DENTAL CLINIC EXPANSION COMPLETE

The Community-based dental clinic, located within the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) in St. Johns, was recently expanded from three dental chairs operating two days per week to five dental chairs operating five days per week. The day-to-day operation of the dental clinic was also transferred from the Health Department to Michigan Community Dental Clinics (MCDC), a non-profit corporation that was organized to provide dental care to Medicaid and low-income residents.

The expansion will ultimately increase the number of patients served from 470 to approximately 3,000 annually. The clinic serves the following populations who have traditionally found it hard to access dental services in Clinton County:

- Children on Medicaid, Delta Healthy Kids, and MI Child
- Adults (age 21 and over) on Medicaid
- Low income, uninsured individuals whose income level is at or below 200% of Federal poverty level at reduced fees.

Services offered include oral exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings and crowns, tooth removal, tooth replacement, including dentures and partial dentures, emergency treatment, and root canals. The Community-based Dental Clinic is located within MMDHD at 1307 East Townsend Road, St. Johns. To make an appointment, call 877-313-6232. You may also visit [www.midental.org](http://www.midental.org) for more information.

## RECYCLE POLYSTYRENE FOAM

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management announces another option to recycle polystyrene. Expanded polystyrene foam will now be accepted at the Meridian Recycling Center, thanks to a partnership between Dart Container Corp., Meridian Township, Reclaimed by Design, and YOU. See guidelines at [www.dart.biz/recycle](http://www.dart.biz/recycle). The Meridian Recycling Center is located at 5976 E. Lake Drive and is open during the following hours:

### Dec 1 – Mar 31

Mon and Fri: 2 - 6pm

Tues, Wed. & Thurs: 10am - 6pm

Sat: 10am - 4pm

### Apr 1 – Nov 30

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri: 3 - 7pm

Wed & Sat: 10am – 5pm

Residents may also drop off their polystyrene at the LIONS Club Drop Off Recycling Center located in St. Johns at the corner of Steel and Swegles Streets. The LIONS Club Drop Off Recycling Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **Please be aware that neither site can accept Styrofoam packing peanuts.** For additional information, please contact the Clinton County Department of Waste Management by calling our office at 989-224-5186, email [conserve@clinton-county.org](mailto:conserve@clinton-county.org) or check out our website [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org).



## PROPERTY VALUE CHANGES FOR 2012

The annual "Change of Assessment" notices were mailed to all Township property owners the last week in February. Unless there has been new construction or improvements made to your property, Proposal A, enacted in 1994, limits your taxable value increase to the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less. For the 2012 assessment/tax year, the rate of inflation is 2.7%, which means your Taxable Value could increase by a maximum of 2.7%. However, if your notice shows your assessed value and taxable value are the same, and your assessed value has decreased from 2011; the taxable value will also reflect the same decrease. If you have any question on the information provided on your notice, please contact the Assessing Office at 517-669-6494.

**BOARD OF REVIEW** – Will meet the week of March 12, 2012. Please see the specific times for appointments printed on the assessment notice, as well as published in the DeWitt-Bath Review. If you have a question regarding your assessment or wish to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review, please call the Assessing Office at 517-669-6494. Residential property owners should also verify that the "**% Exempt as Homeowners Principal Residence**" is also correct. If your residential property is your primary residence, the percentage should read 100%.

## CONSUMERS ENERGY TREE TRIMMING INFORMATION

Submitted by Consumers Energy

Whether it is spring, summer, winter or fall, one of Michigan's most beautiful assets is its trees; except, of course, when those trees are whipped around by storm winds and cause power outages. Consumers Energy estimates that trees are involved in about a third of electric power interruptions. They work year round to prevent these outages and provide safe, reliable service to our customers. Statewide, Consumers Energy plans to trim and remove trees under and near 4,600 miles of power lines in 2012.

Consumers Energy recently began trimming and removing trees in DeWitt as part of this year's effort to reduce outages. Crews from Wright Tree Service will be working for the next several weeks in the Township.

Prior to beginning work, each Consumers Energy customer was sent a postcard announcing the arrival of a Forestry Planner. This utility employee visited each property where tree work was necessary to explain the required work. Door cards were left at homes when no one was home. The planner then marked trees slated for trimming with a blue dot, and those scheduled for removal with a blue "X." Consumers Energy works very hard not to surprise customers in the communities they serve. Their goal is to work with customers to achieve necessary clearance and to establish clear expectations about the results of the work.

Contractors working for the utility to trim and remove trees are line clearance certified to work around energized electric wires. They use pruning methods consistent with International Society of Arboriculture and American National Standards Institute requirements to trim trees away from lines. Sometimes it's best to remove a tree rather than trim it. But if a property owner would rather have the tree remain, against Consumer's advice, the tree may be trimmed instead.

Trees are targeted for trimming or removal based on their species, size, health and location in relation to overhead electric lines. Fast growing tall species, like box elder and willow, are typically slated for removal. Slower growing hardwood species, like oak, can often be trimmed. Any tall growing species

planted or growing near electric lines will generally not reach its full beauty because of the threat it poses to delivering safe, reliable service.

Across the State, Consumers Energy utilizes five major contractors, employing more than 600 Michigan residents. Large contracting companies that have the resources and equipment to do the work required here in Michigan are used. These contractors hire Michigan residents to do the work.

Maintaining more than 50,000 miles of lines in Michigan's Lower Peninsula is a challenge that is made even more difficult by those who plant tall growing species near power lines. Planting the right tree in the right place makes sense for property owners and Consumers Energy when it comes to providing electric service to our customers. There are tree species that will not grow tall enough to threaten lines. Property owners can get more information on planting the right tree in the right place at the website of the National Arbor Day Foundation, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

## **8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEADOWS CELEBRATION** *A BLAST IN THE MOONLIGHT*

Mark your calendars. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meadows Celebration is set for **Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**. It's sure to be an afternoon of family fun and a night of entertainment and fireworks at Granger Meadows Park.



### **The Meadows Celebration Planning Committee Needs Your Input!**

Plans are currently being made for the 2012 Meadows Celebration, to be held on Friday, July 20. In previous years, crowds were wowed with the Great Lakes Timber Show and Rise Above BMX Show. We're looking for a headline show to make this year better than ever, but we need your help. Are there any shows you'd like to see at the Meadows Celebration? Remember, we're looking for a show that is appropriate for the whole family – something that has wide appeal and will bring excitement to the event.

If you have a suggestion, call the Township Hall at 517-668-0270 and let us know.

## **HELP FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS**

You can now receive FREE help with Veteran's benefits right here in Clinton County! Through a partnership with the State Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), an Assistant State Field Service Officer will be spending two days per month at the Bath Township offices. The Service Officer can provide assistance with the following:

- VA health care benefits
- Service-connected disability compensation
- Burial and death benefits
- Applications for compensation and pension
- Education and training benefits
- A variety of other services

There is no charge for any of these services. Availability: first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bath Charter Township Offices, 14480 Webster Road in Bath. Call 517-641-6728 with any questions. No appointment is necessary. All services are provided by an Accredited Services Officer on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

<b>April 6</b>	<b>Good Friday – Offices Closed</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>DeWitt Community Showcase</b>
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Clean Sweep</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Miracle Field Grand Opening</b>
<b>May 15; 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Filing Deadline for Local Partisan Offices</b>
<b>May 15; 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Filing Deadline for Precinct Delegates</b>
<b>July 9</b>	<b>Last Day to Register to Vote for August Primary Election</b>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Meadows Celebration – A Blast in the Moonlight</b>
<b>August 7</b>	<b>Primary Election</b>
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Total Health Fitness Challenge Adventure Race</b>
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Last Day to Register to Vote for General Election</b>
<b>November 6</b>	<b>General Election</b>

## OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZEN - GRANGER



The Township Board recently recognized Granger as an Outstanding Corporate Citizen. The Board recognizes that Granger has become a valued asset within the DeWitt community, operating an environmentally sound repository for trash, an alternative electric generation station, participating in the Township's Clean Sweep, and Clinton County Clean Community Events which directly benefit the residents of our area, and by offering 24 hour free access to the area's largest recycling center where approximately 800 tons of material was recycled in 2010. Granger also designed, fully developed, and then donated to the residents of DeWitt Township, a 75 acre "agrarian" themed park,

which has been embraced and enjoyed by families of our region for over seven years. Granger has provided both financial and manpower support towards the annual Meadows Celebration, an event celebrating the park by providing a free, fresh, fun, and exciting family friendly event.

The Township Board members expressed appreciation to Granger for positive contributions to our area, and recognized Granger as the first DeWitt Township Outstanding Corporate Citizen, an honor which was described as pale in comparison to Granger's immeasurable and continuing contributions to DeWitt Township and the entire region.

## RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

The DeWitt Township Police Department's Retired Senior Volunteer Program is up and running. We are looking for persons interested in the program to apply. The program is designed for retired or semi-retired citizens to supplement the activities of the DeWitt Township Police Department by performing tasks such as property checks, special event traffic control assistance, patrolling Township park activities, etc. The RSVP enhances the delivery of services and improves the overall quality of life for the residents and businesses of DeWitt Township and neighboring communities. Applicants should possess a valid Michigan driver's license, have the desire to provide volunteer service, be a U.S. citizen, and successfully meet the department's qualifications and completion of a personal history investigation and background check. If you are interested in applying for a position, please contact Chief Brian Russell at 517-669-6578 or by e-mail at [brussell@dewittwp.org](mailto:brussell@dewittwp.org).

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

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 66  
LANSING MI

## *TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER*

### REMINDER - TOWNSHIP BILLING CYCLES/DUE DATES

<b>Sewer Bills – Mailed Out</b>	<b>Due</b>
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	April 15 <sup>th</sup>
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	July 15 <sup>th</sup>
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	October 15 <sup>th</sup>
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	January 15 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Property Taxes – Mailed Out</b>	<b>Due</b>
Summer Taxes - July 1 <sup>st</sup>	September 14 <sup>th</sup>
Winter Taxes – December 1 <sup>st</sup>	February 14 <sup>th</sup>

As shown above, sewer bills are mailed out a month in advance of the due date and tax bills are mailed out over two months in advance. If a due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is extended to the next business day. Failure to receive a sewer or tax bill does not waive penalties. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 517-668-1411 and a duplicate bill will be sent.

For your convenience the Township provides automatic withdrawal (ACH) for sewer bills, allows the use of credit cards for payments (fees apply), has a drop box available, and honors post marks for those mailing in payments.