

## ADMINISTRATION

Twp Hall - 668-0270  
Cemetery  
Clerk  
Information  
Manager  
Supervisor

Assessing - 669-6494

Building - 668-0278

DARA – 482-5117

Fire - 669-0071  
Administration

Planning/Zoning  
669-6576

Police - 669-6578  
Administration

Treasurer - 668-1411

## CLINTON COUNTY

1-888-224-2450  
Toll Free

## POLICE & FIRE ASSISTANCE

Fire - 9-1-1  
EMT/Ambulance  
Police - 9-1-1  
State Police – 322-1911

## TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor  
Rick Galardi  
Clerk  
Diane Mosier  
Treasurer  
Phyllis Daggy  
Trustees  
Johanna Balzer  
Steve Musselman  
Brian Ross  
David Seeger

Manager  
Rodney H. Taylor

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

## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP - BUDGET

The Township's largest single source of revenue is collections from property taxes, making up 38% of revenues received in the general fund. Because of the downturn in the economy, the Township saw four years of declining taxable value from 2010 to 2014. Beginning in 2014, the Township saw a quarter of a percent increase in taxable value. This trend of seeing a small increase has continued into 2015 with tax collections increasing by 1.04% or a total increase of just over \$25,000.

New home permits are another significant indicator for the Township. New homes indicate increased population and larger increases in taxable value. In 2003, the Township issued a high of 155 new home permits. By 2009, that number had dropped to 4. Over the last several years, we have slowly been seeing these numbers increase with 51 homes being built in 2014 with a construction value of over \$13 million.

The number of vacant lots has finally decreased to a level where we have seen a new or expanded subdivision for the first time since 2006. Ridge Rock, off Airport Road, has begun expanding the new infrastructure for an additional 28 lots. Crowner Farms, off Howe Road, was also approved for 45 new lots. Additionally, the Quarry Apartments have opened and the first phase has 76 units available.

While we are still working to close the books out for the 2014 year and will not have a final status until the Township audit is completed, 2014 appears to have ended strong for the Township. Even with the second lowest tax rate in the urbanized area around Greater Lansing, the Township's fund balance, a primary indicator of health, has remained extremely strong during the downturn in the economy. This puts the Township in a great position to be able to continue to enhance the quality of life for our residents in the coming years.

For information on the 2015 Township Budget and other financial information, visit the [Township Finances](#) page on the Township's website.



## 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	Dates	Time	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Preschool Play	Thur mornings	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Drop in	2-5yr.	\$2 drop-in
Teddy Bear Tea Party	3/14	12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	1/1-3/11	3yr.+	\$10/pair \$2/each additional child
March Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	3/20	6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	One week prior to date	4-12yr.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Egg Hunt	3/28	3:00 p.m. sharp at Valley Farms Park	N/A	1-10yr.	FREE
All Day Drop Your Kids Off (no school)	4/3	7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	One week prior to date	5-12yr.	\$25/one child
April Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	4/24	6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.	One week prior to date	4-12yr.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Spring Break Fun Club	4/6-4/10	7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	2/6-3/30	5-12yr.	\$105/\$120
Adult Golf	4/8-4/30 (Wed or Thur nights)	6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	2/6-4/6	18+	\$60
Sports Starter (Spring – AM or PM)	4/16-5/21	10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (45 min. sessions)	2/6-3/27	3-5yr.	\$34/\$49
Little Kickers Soccer	4/18-5/23	Saturday mornings	2/6-3/27	4yr.-K	\$34/\$49
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Soccer League	4/18-5/23	Saturday mornings	2/6-3/27	Grade 1 Only	\$34/\$49
2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer Leagues (Spring Only)	4/18-5/23	Saturday mornings	2/6-3/27	Grades 2-6	\$40/\$55
Youth Lacrosse League	4/18-5/23	Saturday afternoons	2/6-3/27	Grades 3-4	\$50
Men's 3v3 Basketball	4/13-5/18	Monday evenings	2/6-3/27	18+	\$100/team + Ind. Player Fees (\$5res/\$20non-res)
Women's 3v3 Basketball	4/14-5/19	Tuesday evenings	2/6-3/27	18+	\$100/team + Ind. Player Fees (\$5res/\$20non-res)
Basketball University	4/22-5/13	Wednesday evenings	2/6-4/17	Grades 1-6	\$35
Drama Camp – Fairy Tale Theatre	4/11-5/16	10:00 a.m.-10:45a.m.	3/1-4/8	4-8yr.	\$40
Drama Camp - Actor's Workshop	4/11-5/16	11:00 a.m.-12:15p.m.	3/1-4/8	8-14yr.	\$55
Adult Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun	7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Drop in	18+	\$2 per visit

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

You can register for most DARA programs online by visiting their website at [www.dewittrecreation.org](http://www.dewittrecreation.org). DARA accepts Visa and MasterCard payments for online registrations. You may also print a registration form by clicking on our newsletter link from our home page and then mail it with payment to 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. Registration forms can be dropped off at the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.) and DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street) as well. Call the DARA office at 517-482-5117 if you have any questions. Follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation> to receive the most up to date information.

Having a family reunion? a birthday party? an open house? a family picnic? Now is the time to reserve your park pavilion at Granger Meadows Park or Valley Farms Park. Contact the Treasurer's Office at 517-668-1411 to check availability on your preferred date and make your reservation.

## IT'S CLEAN SWEEP TIME AND IT'S ALL NEW

Get rid of that junk taking up space around your house and haul it down to the Granger Landfill on Wood Road. This is a free program for DeWitt Township residents only. Dropping off junk is now easier through a new voucher system. Instead of having just one day to dispose of your unwanted stuff, you will now have 30 days to do so at your convenience! You will be responsible for unloading your own items.

Vouchers will be available at the Township Hall starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. You must provide proof of residency when picking up your voucher and when dropping off your items. Vouchers are valid from May 1 to May 30, 2015, with drop off times from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday. No Sunday drop offs. The landfill will be closed May 23<sup>rd</sup> - May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Also beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, senior citizens and persons with disabilities needing assistance with unloading their items at the landfill can make an appointment for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in the morning only.

For more details of the program and information on items that will be accepted, please call the DeWitt Township offices at 517-668-0270.

## SPRING FEVER

Spring is fast approaching. The snow will soon be gone, and we should be preparing our homes for the upcoming spring cleanup. With the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), some of our largest complaints from residents have been the accumulation of rubbish and debris. In May, the Township has its annual Clean Sweep Program (see above) which offers Township residents an opportunity to take their rubbish and debris to the Granger Wood Road facility through a voucher system. This is an opportunity for Township residents to take advantage of the free Clean Sweep Program to help keep our Township beautiful. We all take pride in how our community looks. Look at your schedules, pick up a voucher, and let's all get ready for the new spring season and say goodbye to winter blues.

## RECYCLING – WHERE DO I GO?

Granger Recycling Center, 16936 Wood Road, just north of Lake Lansing Road, 517-371-9764

Self-serve drop off - 24 hours

Accepts: clear & brown glass bottles and jars only; metal cans; aluminum; all household plastic #1 through #7 (Please remove all caps and lids. No motor oil containers.); old newspapers & inserts; brown paper bags, old magazines & glossy catalogs; old corrugated cardboard; boxboard. **NO aerosol cans;** automobile batteries (from 8am – 5pm M-F only; delivered to door 3 in back); office paper (from 7 am – 3:30 pm M-F only; delivered to door 1-use buzzer. No brown or orange envelopes). Phone books are accepted June through August.

East Lansing DPW Bldg, 1800 E. State Road, east of Wood, 517-337-9459

Self-serve drop off – 24 hours

Accepts: clear, green & brown glass bottles and jars only; metal cans; aluminum; all household plastic #1 through #7 (Please remove all caps & lids. No motor oil containers.) old newspapers & inserts; old magazines; mixed paper; phone books; brown paper bags; old corrugated cardboard; boxboard. Also accepts CFL light bulbs & rechargeable batteries in the DPW office during normal business hours.

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

Mark your calendars. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meadows Celebration is set for **Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**. It's sure to be an afternoon of family fun and a night of entertainment and fireworks at Granger Meadows Park.



## BOARD OF REVIEW NEWS

The Township welcomes two new members to the Board of Review: Lois Baumer, as the Regular member to replace Norm Farnum, and Ted Reuschel, as an Alternate. The Alternate position is new for us, and will help in case of an absence of a regular member due to illness or an emergency.

Lois Baumer is a lifelong resident of the Township. She attended Gunnisonville Elementary, located at the corner of Clark & Wood Roads, when it was a one-room schoolhouse. She is retired from the State of Michigan Department of State after 42 years of service. Lois has previously served on the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Public Safety Committee, and the Salary Compensation Commission.

Ted Reuschel is married and has lived in the Township for 40 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry and is retired from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He has most recently served on the Township's Non-Motorized Transportation Committee.

Both of our new members enjoy serving our citizens and look forward to serving on the Board of Review.

### PROMOTION - LIEUTENANT MARK NELSON



With the recent retirement of Lt. Brian Traub after 28 years of dedicated service to our community, it has created an opportunity for advancement. Chief Brian Russell recently announced that Sgt. Mark Nelson was promoted to the Lieutenant position.

Lt. Nelson graduated from the police academy in 1984. He has been serving the DeWitt Township community since 1986. Promoted to Sergeant in 1998, his strong work ethic and leadership abilities have led him to support the Department in a number of positions including

Commander in the Clinton County Special Operations Team, Firearms Instructor, and Accident Reconstructionist. While Chief Russell is proud to have Lt. Nelson in this new leadership role for the Department, he will be missed as Detective because he has an amazing ability to track down and clear cases.

During his downtime, Lt. Nelson spends time with his wife and two sons at their cottage up north. Everyone in the Nelson household is an avid outdoor enthusiast spending time hunting and fishing. Mark has taken several trophy white-tailed deer over the years.

### PROMOTION - DETECTIVE DERRECK SCHABERG

Detective Derreck Schaberg has been an Officer with the department since 1998. He has done an outstanding job. Chief Russell believes that Detective Schaberg is up to this new challenge and is ready for this exciting and rewarding change.

Detective Schaberg not only serves the DeWitt Community, he and his family also reside here. Derreck is a graduate of Lansing Eastern High School and Michigan State University. On nights and weekends, you can find him as a drummer in a local rock band or as a coach for his kids' youth baseball and basketball teams. His wife is a small business owner in the City of DeWitt.



## SIDEWALK ORDINANCE UPDATE

In November of 2014, a public workshop was held regarding updating the Sidewalk Ordinance. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain public input on creating an ordinance that would meet the community's needs as well as address expectations of property owners (construction, deferments, snow removal and maintenance) when it comes to sidewalks and pathways. In an attempt to gather additional feedback, an online survey was available on the Township's website. An article was also published in the DeWitt-Bath Review in December of 2014 requesting additional input.

The driving factor in addressing the Sidewalk Ordinance is based on the Township's adoption of a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) in 2013. The NMTP will be a critical component for the quality of life for residents and visitors of DeWitt Charter Township as it sets forth a comprehensive vision of what the Township's non-motorized system will become as time progresses. The NMTP did more than just look at sidewalks. It also evaluated opportunities to include bicycle lanes along with shared use pathways. As the Township continues to develop and these types of infrastructure are put in place, it is important to create expectations along with roles and responsibilities of property owners.

Township staff has collected information obtained from the surveys and will discuss potential ordinance amendments with the Planning Commission. The results of the surveys are fairly consistent with the discussions that the Planning Commission and Township Board have had to date on the proposed ordinance amendment. The Planning Commission will provide a recommendation to the Township Board once revisions have been finalized. The goal for addressing and amending the ordinance is expected to be completed later this spring. It is not too late to provide input. Contact the Planning Department at 517-669-6576.

## ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT



Last fall, residents were asked to Adopt-a-Fire-Hydrant to make sure snow was cleared around it during the winter. If you were one of those residents who helped us out, thank you very much. When obstacles are kept clear of hydrants, it helps us do our job more efficiently.

## HOME HAZARDS

Is your home hazard free? When was the last time you conducted a home hazard inspection? Here are some handy tips to keep your home hazard free:

- Make sure all rooms are well-lit and uncluttered.
- Use candles and oil-burning lamps safely.
- Only use light bulbs that are the recommended size and type.
- Make sure bookshelves and other freestanding furniture are secured to the wall.
- Stairs and handrails should be in good condition.
- Keep matches and lighters up high out of the reach of children.
- Make sure unnecessary trash is thrown away or recycled.
- Store unloaded firearms and ammunition separately in a child-proof cabinet.
- Have a no smoking rule in your home.
- Keep flammables and combustibles in small quantities with the cap on tightly in their original containers or an approved safety container. Store them outside the home in the garage or shed.
- Keep the area around the furnace, clothes dryer, and water heater clear of combustibles.
- Remove lint from the dryer vent and trap often.



- If a fuse keeps tripping, locate the problem and have it repaired. Only use the recommended size of fuses.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to locate and turn off gas and water valves in an emergency.
- Keep a fully stocked first aid kit nearby.
- Have a fire extinguisher easily accessible.
- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm. Vacuum and test monthly and change the batteries annually.

## REMEMBER, YOUR DOG ISN'T JUST MAKING A MESS ON THE LAWN...



When our little friends leave those little surprises, rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. This waste then pollutes our waterways. It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It is also a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in a river, lake, or stream, the bacteria ends up

degrading water quality. People who come in contact with the water can get very sick. Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water with no treatment.

**How Can Picking Up After Your Pet Help Keep Our Environment Clean?** You can help keep our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater clean by applying the following tips. **•Bring A Bag.** Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them. Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently. **•Clean It Up.** Pick up after your pets before watering your yard or cleaning patios and driveways. Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter. **•Dispose of the Waste.** Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard but keep it away from vegetable gardens!

In recent years, sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like residential car washing, cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms, lawns and gardens, pet waste, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too, and that adds up to a pollution solution!

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).

## NEWS BITES

**MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> ELECTION** - There will be a state-wide Special Election on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. At the time of the printing of this Newsletter, no further information has been provided to the Township from the State of Michigan. If you have questions on where to vote, or want to request an absentee ballot, please call the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270.

**HAPPY RETIREMENT TO LIEUTENANT BRIAN TRAUB** – Lieutenant Brian Traub retired on January 5, 2015. Brian was employed by the Township for 28.5 years. Congratulations Brian on your well-deserved retirement. Your dedication to serving this community will be missed.

**FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK** to Lori Fox – Fire Department Secretary. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Regina Mixon who will be taking over those responsibilities.

**CEMETERY ORNAMENTATION** – All winter flowers and ornamentation need to be removed from the gravesites by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Any items left on the gravesites after March 15<sup>th</sup> will be disposed of by our cemetery personnel. Artificial flowers may remain if they have been placed in an approved urn; however, if they should become faded and unsightly, they may also be removed by staff.

Think Spring: No glass, plastic or clay containers of any type are allowed within the cemeteries and they will be removed immediately by staff. Shepherd hooks and hanging containers of any type are also prohibited and will be removed. If you have any questions about the placement of flowers and/or any other ornamentation, please contact the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270 and we will be glad to assist you.

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

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

**PROTECT OUR WATERSHED** - There are many ways to ensure that the Looking Glass and Grand River watersheds are free of pollutants. One of the easiest is to use phosphorus free fertilizer. For more tips and information visit [http://www.mywatersheds.org/public\\_education.html](http://www.mywatersheds.org/public_education.html).

**TOWNSHIP E-NEWSLETTER** – You can sign up to receive the Township's E-Newsletter which provides monthly Township and community news. Register your e-mail address at [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org).

**LEGAL PUBLICATIONS** - DeWitt Township utilizes the DeWitt-Bath Review for legal publications. Also, the Township's website, [www.dewitttownship.org](http://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.

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



## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**DeWitt Community Showcase – Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 5-8 pm** – DeWitt Charter Township, DeWitt Public Schools, the City of DeWitt, the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce, and our sponsors proudly present our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual DeWitt Community Showcase. This event, in partnership with other community supporters, highlights our community's businesses and service organizations, student achievements, student music & dramatic performances, and much more. For more information, visit [www.dewittcommunityshowcase.org](http://www.dewittcommunityshowcase.org).

The **DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce** is pleased to announce the following events for 2015:

- June 12 - Tiger's Baseball Game Trip to Comerica Park
- June 26 - 5th Annual Golf Outing at Prairie Creek Golf Course
- July 19 - Art & Music Festival at Riverside Park, Downtown DeWitt
- July 23 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Classic Car Cruise-In at the Schavey Center Plaza
- August 15 – Ox Roast Parade
- August 20 – Family Night Out at DeWitt Family Golf Center
- October 26 – Halloween Decorating Contest
- December 5 - Electric light parade in Downtown DeWitt

For additional information about the Chamber or Chamber events please visit [www.dewittareacc.org](http://www.dewittareacc.org) or contact the Chamber Office at 517-668-3635.

***TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER***

The **Clinton County Department of Waste Management** is actively planning for spring events. For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, call 989-224-5186, send an email to [recycle@clinton-county.org](mailto:recycle@clinton-county.org) or visit on-line at [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org) and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management.

**Medical Disposal Programs**

- March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 am - 2 pm** at the Bath Township Senior Center, 14480 Webster Road in Bath
- April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 2 pm** at Recycle Rama! Ingham County Health Department, 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing
- April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am - 2 pm** at the Clean Community Event in St. Johns - the location will be provided when an appointment is made
- June 19<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm – 5 pm** at the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Pharmacy, 901 South Oakland Street, in St. Johns
- August 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 1 pm** at the Clean Community Event in Lansing – the location will be provided when an appointment is made
- September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – Noon** at the Clinton Community Health Fair at Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer at 3055 M-21 in St. Johns

**Recycle Rama!**

**Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm** at the Ingham County Health Department at 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing. This event is FREE. **All area residents** are encouraged to take part in this tri-county recycling effort. Please call the City of Lansing for additional information 517-483-4400.

**Clinton County Department of Waste Management Clean Community Events**

- April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 2 pm** St. Johns
- August 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm** Lansing

This valuable event assists residents to recycle or properly dispose of just about any household generated waste item. There are fees for a few items. 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 [recycle@clinton-county.org](mailto:recycle@clinton-county.org).

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

<b>April 16</b>	<b>DeWitt Community Showcase 5-8 pm</b>
<b>May 1-30</b>	<b>Clean Sweep Drop Off – see Page 3 for new program details</b>
<b>May 5</b>	<b>Special Election</b>
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Summer Taxes Mailed</b>
<b>July 17</b>	<b>Granger Meadows Celebration 4 – 11 pm</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Summer Taxes Due</b>