

November, 2014

ADMINISTRATION

Twp Hall - 668-0270
Cemetery
Clerk
Information
Manager
Supervisor

Assessing - 669-6494

Building - 668-0278

DARA – 482-5117

Fire - 669-0071
Administration

Planning/Zoning
669-6576

Police - 669-6578
Administration

Treasurer - 668-1411

CLINTON COUNTY

1-888-224-2450
Toll Free

POLICE & FIRE ASSISTANCE

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

TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

Manager
Rodney H. Taylor

www.dewitttownship.org

SIDEWALK ORDINANCE WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 20, 2014, 6 PM AT THE DEWITT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER

As many of you are aware, the Township adopted a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan in July of 2013. The Plan was created by an ad-hoc committee of DeWitt community members. This Plan is a significant achievement for the community in that it allows us to prioritize projects and identify areas of future needs. The overarching goal or vision of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is to create a more livable and walkable community where children, adults, seniors, and individuals with disabilities can safely and conveniently walk or bike for recreational purposes, as well as provide alternative transportation choices for individuals to reach destination areas. One of the recommendations of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is for the Township to review and enhance the Sidewalk Ordinance to reflect the needs of our community. This is a critical component of creating a safer and more walkable community as more infrastructure is installed over time. As we strive for a more interconnected community, it is important to maintain this infrastructure and keep it accessible for residents and users of the system that rely on it as an alternate form of transportation.

We need your input for the Sidewalk Ordinance to help address areas of concern or need as we move through the process. We would like to invite you to come to a workshop and hear what you have to say. This will help to create an ordinance that can meet the community's needs for now and into the future. The Township has been researching elements to include into the ordinance such as the following items:

- Who installs sidewalks or pathways and when
- Identify responsibility for maintenance of sidewalks and/or pathways
- When snow removal should be required
- Exceptions to construction, maintenance, or snow removal

The Township will be hosting a workshop on **November 20, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the DeWitt Township Community Center**, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing. We are looking for input on elements to incorporate into the ordinance to try and address the current conditions, as well as planning for the long term vision for the community. So, whether you are a resident or business owner, these rules and regulations are your rules and regulations. Please take the time to participate so we can ensure that whatever new ordinance is developed, it can encompass a diverse set of views and opinions and it reflects the desired future direction of the DeWitt community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Planning Department at (517) 669-6576 and speak with either Planner Tory Niewiadomski or Planner Brett Wittenberg.

SCHAVEY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

In looking at future road projects, one road we know needs addressing is Schavey Road between Herbison Road and Clark Road. The road is currently ranked a number 2 on the pacer scale (10 being a new road). Schavey Road is a critical road. It has heavy single and multiple family residential users, commercial users, and institutional (i.e. school, church) users. In addition, it is an exit/entrance point to Airport Road and I-69 for much of the community.

Because of its condition and use, two years ago, the Township and Road Commission began talking about the future of this road section. The cost of repaving this section of road is going to be significant and most likely will require all or most of our yearly road funding to be used for just this one project. The bigger question is should we use the repaving of the road as an opportunity to address other longer term traffic issues in this area. As Clark Road develops, the utilization of this road will only increase. In addition, the recently adopted Non-Motorized Transportation Plan indicated three projects along Schavey Road which ranked number 1, 4, and 7 out of the 60 projects in the Plan.

In 2013, the Township Board requested that this section of Schavey Road be converted from a local road to a primary road. This change in State classification would allow the Clinton County Road Commission to gain access to State and Federal grant money that would help offset the cost of a larger enhanced project. These grant dollars would allow the Township to spend approximately the same amount of money on an enhanced project that includes non-motorized enhancements as we would on a simple repaving project.

Before the Township develops detailed plans for this corridor, we would like to receive input from the businesses and residents that utilize it. This will help ensure that we design the facilities that are needed by the community not only now, but into the future. Additionally, with any project, it brings about a certain level of change. By receiving input now, we can work to mitigate any negative impacts.

Some of the enhancements being considered are:

- 1) Completion of sidewalk gaps
- 2) Adding a turn lane for Schavey Road Elementary School
- 3) Creating a 10 foot pathway to allow walking and biking between the businesses, residential neighbors, schools, and religious institutions

On November 20, 2014, at 7 p.m. a workshop meeting will be held to discuss possible solutions and concerns related to the Schavey Road Corridor. The workshop will be held at the DeWitt Township Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing.

ADOPT A HYDRANT



Do you have a fire hydrant in front of your house or next door? Would your family or neighborhood be willing to adopt a hydrant this winter?

Winter is a challenging time of year to keep hydrants clear when the snow falls. Unfortunately, the Board of Water & Light and the Fire Department do not have the resources to keep all hydrants cleared out after a snow. Keeping the hydrant clear aids the Fire Department should there be a fire in your neighborhood. This is a public safety issue; and, as the public, we are asking you to be a servant for your community and help us this winter.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. If you have any questions on how you can help, please call the Fire Department at (517) 669-0071.

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)
Fun Appetit: PreK Cooking Class	11/20-12/18 No class 11/27	9:15-10:00 a.m.	10/1-11/14	2-5yr.	\$25/\$40
November Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	11/14	6:00-11:00 p.m.	One Week Prior to Date	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
December Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	12/12	6:00-11:00 p.m.	One Week Prior to Date	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
Dinner with Santa	12/15	5:30-6:30 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.	11/3-Full	0-14yr.	\$6/\$10 (Child Fee) \$3/\$7 (Adult Fee)
Holiday Fun Club	12/22, 12/23, 12/29, 12/30, 1/2	7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	10/20-Full	5-12yr.	\$105/\$120 (All Days) or \$25 per Day
January Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	1/16	6:00-11:00 p.m.	One Week Prior to Date	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
Mini Movers	1/8-1/29 *Revised Dates	9:15-10:00 a.m.	12/1-1/5	2-5yr.	\$25/\$40
PreK Art Class	2/5-2/26	9:15-10:00 a.m.	1/5-2/2	2-5yr.	\$25/\$40
Preschool Play	1/8-4/23	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Thursdays	Drop-In	1-5yr	\$2 Per Visit
Floor Hockey League	2/21-3/28	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Depending on Grade)	1/5-1/31	Gr. K-5	\$34/\$49
Sports Starter	2/16-3/23(Morning) 2/18-3/25 (Evening)	10:00-10:45 a.m. 5:30-7:45 p.m. (45 min. sessions)	1/5-1/31	3-5yr.	\$34/\$49
February Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	2/20	6:00-11:00 p.m.	One Week Prior to Date	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
March Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	3/20	6:00-11:00 p.m.	One Week Prior to Date	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
April Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	4/24	6:00-11:00 p.m.	One Week Prior to Date	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
All Day Drop Your Kids Off (No School)	4/3	7:30a.m.-5:30 p.m.	One Week Prior to Date	5-12yr.	\$25/One Child \$15/Each Additional
Egg Hunt	3/28	3:00 p.m. Sharp (Site TBD)	No Registration	1-10yr.	Free Event
Youth Zone Soccer Leagues	4/18-5/23	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (depending on teams)	2/6-3/30	5-6yr.	\$34/\$49
Little Kickers Soccer	4/18-5/23	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (depending on teams)	2/6-3/30	4yr.	\$34/\$49
Youth Soccer Leagues	TBD	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (depending on teams)	1/2-2/27	Gr. 2-6	\$40/\$55
Adult Golf Lessons	4/8-5/7 Wed or Thurs	6:00-7:00 p.m. (Hawk Hollow)	2/6-4/6	18+	\$65
Spring Break Fun Club	4/6-4/10 Mon-Fri	7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	2/6 – Full	5-12yr.	\$105/\$120 with Field Trip
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun	7:00-9:00 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 may register for most DARA programs online by visiting our website at www.dewittrecreation.org. DARA accepts Visa and MasterCard payments for online registrations. You may also print a registration form by clicking on our newsletter link from our home page and then mail it with payment to 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. You may drop off

registration forms at the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.) and DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street) as well. Call the DARA office at 517-482-5117 if you have any questions. You may also follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation> to receive the most up to date information.

PAYMENT POLICY CHANGE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

The DeWitt Township Board recently passed a change in payment policy. The new policy states: Effective Jan. 1, 2015, payments made to the Treasurer's Office must be received on or before the due date in order to avoid penalty. **Postmarks will NO LONGER be accepted as paid on time.** Drop box payments will be accepted as on time. The drop box will be checked promptly at 8:00 a.m. the following morning, and all contents will be considered received as of the previous day.

This change will align us with the Clinton County Treasurer's Office and their policy on postmarks and also addresses the situation that occurs when payments are received from the postal service that are processed without a metered postmark. There will no longer be the question of whether or not your payment was received on time. If mailing your payment, please make sure to allow enough time for your payment to arrive in our office before the due date. Also, for those who use a bill payer system through their financial institution to make payments, check with them to see when the payment will actually be made and whether it is an electronic payment or if an actual check is issued. Your payment must be received on or before the due date. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

As a reminder, we do accept cash, check, money order, credit and debit cards (with a 3.25% service fee), and you can also sign up for auto withdraw (for sewer) from a checking or savings account.

Annual billing and payments dates to mark on your calendar:

TAXES

Feb. 14th – Winter taxes due
July 1st – Summer taxes mailed
Sept. 14th – Summer taxes due
Dec. 1st – Winter taxes mailed

SEWER

Jan. 15th – Sewer bills due
Mar. 15th – Sewer bills mailed
Apr. 15th – Sewer bills due
June 15th – Sewer bills mailed
July 15th – Sewer bills due
Sept. 1st – Delinquent sewer assessed to winter taxes
Sept. 15th – Sewer bills mailed
Oct. 15th – Sewer bills due
Dec. 15th – Sewer bills mailed

HOW DO I REPORT A STREETLIGHT PROBLEM?

Is there a streetlight flashing or out? - Here's how to report it:

If you are a Consumer's Energy customer, you may call them toll free at 800-477-5050 or use the following link <http://www.consumersenergy.com/content.aspx?id=6400> to fill out an on-line form and report the problem. Complete the form as detailed as possible.

If you are a Board of Water & Light customer, call 877-295-5001 (toll free). You can also email this information to custservice@lbwl.com. Please supply the exact location of the streetlight, including nearest cross street, which side of the street and house number. Be sure to include your name and contact information in case they need to contact you.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PLANS BUILD IN DEWITT TOWNSHIP

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County is planning to start construction in the late fall of 2014. This will be our first house in DeWitt Township, but our 10th in Clinton County. The first question might be: What is Habitat for Humanity? First, let me tell you what it **ISN'T**: Habitat *isn't* an arm of the government, and it *isn't* a giveaway program.

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian housing ministry that helps low to moderate income families achieve the dream of homeownership. These families must have a **need** for housing (current housing conditions must be substandard, too small, too expensive, in an unsafe neighborhood, or not accessible for the family's needs.) Families must be willing to dedicate hundreds of hours of their own time into the construction of the house, and take training classes that help them prepare for homeownership. Habitat families not only save a small down payment, but sign an affordable mortgage when the house is complete. This is a hand up not a hand-out.



Partner families put in hundreds of hours into the construction of the house for many reasons:

- 1) When people invest themselves - their time, hard work, etc. - into the process, they tend to care for it more.
- 2) When people are part of the construction process, they learn new skills to better help them do minor repairs later.
- 3) They work alongside the volunteers who are helping to build their home. This is a two-fold benefit since families are able to develop relationships outside their normal circle of friends and relatives. Secondly, they are able to fully realize how many people are involved in making their dreams come true.

A typical Habitat homeowner is hard working and wants the same for their family as you and me. They are teacher's aides, nurse's aides, grocery store workers, service industry workers – they are your neighbors, family and friends. They are people who take care of you, your children and your parents. They deserve to have a safe and decent place to lay their head at night. They deserve to have a foundation of hope, and live out their lives in a home of their own.

A typical Habitat house will not grace the cover of Architectural Digest or House Beautiful magazines; however, it will be one of the most beautiful things many Habitat families will ever know. Most houses are 1,200 square feet or smaller with a basement. Our energy efficient houses are built with generous donations from this community and donated or "in-kind" products from companies and volunteer labor.

Because we use volunteers to build the houses, we keep the costs low which makes them affordable. It takes hundreds of volunteers to build a Habitat house – some come for a day, and some come every day. If you are looking for a great way to give back to the community by helping a family achieve the dream of homeownership, volunteering is it! We need volunteers who are skilled and unskilled (Habitat is a great place to learn!) Volunteers do more than just pound nails – other opportunities include:

- ❖ bring cookies or a meal for the folks
- ❖ working on the house
- ❖ encourage your church or group to hold a fundraiser and be active on-site
- ❖ homeowner mentors are always needed
- ❖ committee members
- ❖ working in the office doing data entry
- ❖ helping with newsletter distribution and website administration
- ❖ working in the ReStore

If you would like to volunteer or just want to know more about Habitat, call (989) 227-1771 or visit our website: www.habitatclinton.org.

INTERNET SAFETY DO NOT SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION

When you are using any source of social media DO NOT POST:

- Phone number
- Address
- The name of your school or workplace
- Photos of your home or photos that would easily identify same
- Updates about where you are right now

LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW CONTACTS:

People online aren't always who they say they are. If possible, verify the identity of a new contact through someone you both know. If you don't have a mutual friend, learn more about the contact before agreeing to meet in person. And when buying on-line, use caution. Why is a \$5,000 used utility vehicle only going to cost you \$500. Does the seller have a receipt or proof of purchase? A title? Quick deals with no information and only \$\$\$\$ passing hands can sometimes get you in QUICK trouble.

IF YOU DECIDE TO MEET SOMEONE NEW IN PERSON, STAY SAFE:

- Meet the person in a public place
- Do NOT give the person your address
- Let a friend or family member know who you are meeting and where
- Make sure you have a reliable ride home--in case you need one
- If dining or meeting for a coffee or tea, never leave drink unattended

STAY SAFE WHEN USING SOCIAL MEDIA:

Review the privacy and security settings for each social media site you use. These may limit who can see your posts and profile information, who can comment on your posts, and who can see photos and videos that others share with you. ONLY "friend" people you know. Remember that your ONLINE FRIENDS may be able to forward your posts or photos to other people. Don't take chances with personal information you don't want others to see.

Once you hit SEND, it is SENT forever and you can't take it back.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING RENTAL INFORMATION

Looking for a nice facility to hold your next family, business or community event? Think about the DeWitt Township Community Center. This central point for social and community events can be used for: birthday parties, family reunions, Christmas parties, cooking classes, business retreats, classrooms, bridal showers, basketball games/practice, meetings, arts and crafts, dinner parties, and neighborhood watch meetings.



The kitchen is 294 square feet with a commercial grade, six-burner gas stove, large refrigerator/freezer unit, and a stainless steel food prep and sink area.

Meeting and activity space – 4,324 square feet of useable space. The gym has a capacity of 150 people and the activity rooms have capacity for 80. Tables and chairs are available.

Outdoor space – soccer, football, and softball fields are also available for rent. The current fee schedule can be found on the Township's website, at www.dewitttownship.org.

IPMC, A year later...

In September of 2013, DeWitt Charter Township adopted a new property maintenance ordinance after several years of in depth discussions and input from multiple citizen driven committees. The citizen driven committees established three objectives for the property maintenance code:

- Address external issues (blight) that negatively impact neighborhood property values.
- Establish minimum standards for the health and safety of non-owner occupied properties.
- Address all properties that create a safety issue for neighboring properties or a general public safety concern (e.g. unsafe structure or abandoned building).

When adopting this new ordinance, the Township Board recognized that these new regulations were significantly different than what the Township had utilized in the past. For example, the new property maintenance code includes the ability to issue tickets to the property owner for those properties that do not achieve compliance after initial discussion. Because of the change in philosophy and the potential for unintended consequences of a new ordinance, the Township Board committed to review the new property maintenance code after it had been in effect for one year.

The primary goal of the Township is to simply achieve compliance with complaints that are related to the three objectives. Over the last year, we have worked with many Township residents and businesses on property maintenance related concerns. Overall, the Township has received 171 complaints that are grouped in multiple areas such as weeds/grass, discarded junk, structural issues and public safety. With the public's cooperation, we have gained a compliance rate of approximately 90%. The remaining 10% are pending cases. While a majority of issues are resolved after initial contact with the property owner, the Township has had to issue 31 civil infractions and has taken 8 of these items to the Court for adjudication.

We believe that the current implementation of the program has been pivotal in helping create a better looking and safer community; however, we want your feedback. This information will be essential in helping the Township Board evaluate the effectiveness of this new program. It is critical that the property maintenance code is working for our community.

Tell us what you think:

- Are we addressing the issues in the community that need addressing?
- Are items resolved in a timely manner after the Township has been notified?
- Are we working with property owners on compliance and providing adequate flexibility?
- Are any provisions of the ordinance too onerous?
- What improvements can be made?

Remember, the property maintenance code is complaint driven. The Township does not drive around and seek out issues within the community. It is up to the community to report issues to the Township. Your feedback is critical to our success by improving the quality of life for our citizens and businesses. Please forward any comments, questions or concerns to the DeWitt Township Building Department by calling (517) 668-0278 or via email at aesser@dewittwp.org.

PREVENT SEPTIC FAILURE, BE VIGILANT & PLANT CAREFULLY!

Clinton Conservation District

Did you know approximately half of all households in Clinton County have a septic system? Yours may be one of them and if you're not properly maintaining it, you're not only hurting the environment but you're putting your family's health at risk.

The average household septic system should be inspected at least every three years by a septic service professional and should be pumped every three to five years. Just because there isn't water backing up into your basement doesn't mean your system isn't failing! Signs of failure include ponding at the surface, patches of grass with deeper green color than surrounding areas of your lawn, water backing into your basement, or foul odors.

Getting your system inspected and good maintenance practices will save you money in the long run.

Tips for landscaping near a drain field:

- Do not plant larger shrubs and trees that have woody stems and other woody plant parts that do not die back to the ground in winter on top of a drain field.
- Choose species that are very shallow rooted and adapted for dry soil. Water loving plants have deep roots that can disrupt the tile lines.
- Never add additional soil over the drain field.
- Remember that the drain lines may be as close as 6 inches from the soil surface.
- Do not use species that create a thick, dense canopy that would shade the ground beneath.
- Minimize traffic over the drain field by selecting low maintenance species.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS USDA HOUSING HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

The Section 504 Loan & Grant program is designed to help very low-income applicants repair and modernize their home affordably.

Loan funds are available to repair, improve, modernize, remove health and safety hazards, and/or remodel dwellings to make them accessible to household members with disabilities. The loan program offers up to \$20,000 at a 1% interest rate. Repayment terms up to 20 years, contingent upon the applicant's repayment ability.

Grant funds are available to remove health or safety hazards, and/or remodel dwellings to make them accessible to household members with disabilities. The Grant program offers up to \$7,500 of lifetime assistance. The grant(s) received are forgivable if the home does not change ownership within three years of grant approval. If the property is sold within three years, the full amount of the grant must be repaid.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Must own and occupy the dwelling as a primary residence.
- U.S. Citizen or qualified alien status.
- Must have adequate & dependable income.
- Must be 62 years or older to become eligible for grant assistance.
- Must have household income that does not exceed the very low income guidelines established for the county.
- Must have legal capacity to incur debt obligation.
- Must have acceptable credit history (loans only).
- Property must be in an eligible rural area.
- Other restrictions apply.

For more information, please contact USDA office at 1-800-944-8119 or visit their website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mi>.

PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION RATING FOR DEWITT TOWNSHIP IMPROVES

Homeowners and businesses may see a change in their insurance premium. Insurance Services Office (ISO) completed a review of the fire protection services in DeWitt Township and lowered the Public Protection Classification. This change in classification could reduce your home or business insurance premium.

ISO conducted a review of the fire protection service in DeWitt Township which includes three components: Emergency Communications, Fire Department, and Water Supply. Previously, DeWitt Township had a rating of 6/9. Now, we have Public Protection Classification of 5/8B.

What do these numbers mean to home and business owners? If you live within five (5) road miles of a fire station and are within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant, your classification is 5. If you live within five (5) road miles of a fire station and are not within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant, your classification is 8B.

Insurance companies are notified of changes by ISO; however, it is recommended that home and business owners check their policies and make sure they are classified properly. Your insurance agent can help you determine if you are classified properly. Prior to contacting your agent, you may want to locate your closest hydrant and determine if you are within 1,000 feet. Your agent may ask you that question and this information will help you and your agent make the necessary changes.

The Fire Department is excited that our rating has improved. We always try to improve our services to our residents and businesses in the Township. The Fire Department will now take this report and find ways to improve our service and further lower the Public Protection Classification for our residents.

DEWITT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

DeWitt Chamber of Commerce

The DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to participate in our activities. As the Chamber embarks on its 10th year of services to the community, we are rolling out a new initiative we feel will strengthen our community and enhance the prospects for success for both businesses and residents. We are looking beyond municipal boundaries and school districts; we are focusing our attention on the entire DeWitt area!

We feel by creating a strong sense of community, our property values will remain strong in some areas and grow in others-- a benefit to everyone. Many feel the local Chamber of Commerce is all about business; however, in DeWitt, we are about the entire community.

Our event calendar for the next 12 months includes a number of events for everyone:

- December 6, Christmas Lights Parade in conjunction with the Christmas Market, Downtown DeWitt
- Spring 2015, trip to Comerica Park to take in a Tigers Baseball Game
- Spring 2015, Neighborhood beautification project
- Summer 2015, 5th Annual Golf Outing, Prairie Creek Golf Course
- Summer 2015, Art Fair in conjunction with the Garden Walk, Riverside Park Downtown DeWitt
- Summer 2015, Concert in the Park series
- Halloween Decorating Contest, the Monday prior to Halloween
- \$1,000 Trades Scholarship for a graduating senior
- Business seminars and workshops

The DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce meets the first Wednesday of each month. Our entire calendar of events can be found by visiting our website at www.dewittareacc.org.

The canoe/kayak launch is complete. Located at the Looking Glass River Front Park, the launch was made possible by a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.



REBUILDING TOGETHER

Rebuilding Together believes in a safe and healthy home for every person. We are now accepting applications for National Rebuilding Day 2015 and all eligible low-income elderly and low-income disabled homeowners are encouraged to apply for free home repairs.

To be eligible for this program, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Own and reside in the home
- Property taxes up to date
- Homeowner's insurance is current
- You are disabled or 60 years of age or older
- Plan to be in the home for at least three years
- Unable physically and financially to complete the requested repairs
- Income at or below \$1,459 per month for a one-person household or \$1,966 per month for a two-person household



If you or someone you know would like to be considered for this program, please call 517-455-5068 (Rebuilding Together voicemail) and leave a message requesting an application. You may also call the Township at 517-668-0278. There is no cost to eligible homeowners who are selected.

This organization operates solely on volunteers so we are always looking for individuals and groups to help on Rebuilding Day. We are also in need of licensed contractors (all trades) to help with repairs, replacements, permits, etc. If you are interested in donating your services, please call Nicole at 517-668-0278. For questions, please call 517-455-5068 and leave a message and a board member will return your call.

REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT JUST FERTILIZING YOUR LAWN...

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams! While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in rivers and lakes makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes canoeing, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

How Can You Care for Your Yard *and* Help Keep Our Environment Clean?

You can help keep our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater clean by applying the following tips:

- **Sweep it.** Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into storm drains.
- **Buy low and go slow.** First, find out if you even need fertilizer! Contact your Michigan State University Extension office to get a soil test. If you do need it, choose a fertilizer with no or low phosphorus - phosphorus causes algae growth. You can also use an organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, which causes less harm to water. Follow the manufacturer's recommended amounts, and don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- **Hire smart.** Select a lawn care service that follows the practices noted above.
- **Mow high.** Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Also, remember that the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.
- **Don't over water your lawn and garden.** Consider using a drip system or soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- **Go natural.** Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. And, consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods whenever possible.
- **Make fertilizer-free zones.** Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.



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 excess fertilizer applications, cars leaking oil, 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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

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

<u>Address</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Stage</u>
• 16460 S. US 27	"Reno's North"	Open/ Renovation
• Crowner Farms Subdivision	2 nd Phase - 45 Lots	Construction
• Ridge Rock Subdivision	2 nd Phase - 28 Lots	Site Preparation Work
• 3505 W. Clark Road	Quarry Apartments (76 units)	Partial Completion
• 13155 S. US 27	Speedway Renovation	Open
• 12990 S. US 27	PNC Bank	Open
• 15694 S. US 27	Hair Salon and Day Spa	Open
• 1120 Commerce Park Dr.	Big League Lawns (Banquet Center)	Open
• 13070 S. US 27	JJ Frozen Yogurt (Crossroads Plaza)	Open
• 11633 Wood Road	20 Bed Adult Foster Care Facility	Construction
• 16001 S. US 27	Used Auto Sales "Acre Family Auto"	Open
• 16999 S. US 27	Indoor Grow Store	Open
• S. US 27/ Howe Rd	Mini-warehousing	Site Plan Approval
• 2050 Glenn Road	Maurer Carpet Cleaner Expansion	Construction

NEWS BITES

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.

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.

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS - DeWitt Township utilizes the DeWitt Bath Review 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.

FOLLOW US - www.dewitttownship.org, 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 Dates to Remember.....

November 11	Offices Closed – Veterans Day
November 27 & 28	Offices Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
December 1	Winter Taxes Mailed
December 24 & 25	Offices Closed – Christmas Holiday
December 31 & January 1	Offices Closed - New Year's Holiday