

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
Adam Cramton
Treasurer
Sandy Stump
Trustees
David Fedewa
Brian Ross
David Seeger
Steve Smith

Manager
Andrew Dymczyk

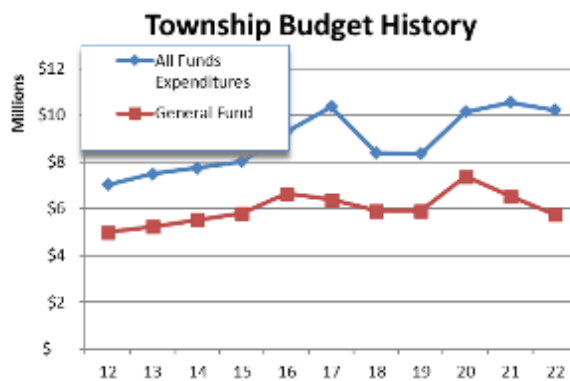
www.dewitttownship.org

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were allocated in federal legislation in 2021, and the Township anticipates receiving our portion of ARPA funds (\$1,633,667) by the end of 2022. The funds are required to be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026. These payments are received in two equal installments: one received in October 2021 and the second is anticipated to be received during the first quarter of 2022. These funds can be utilized to support public health response, replace public sector revenue loss, fund water and sewer infrastructure, address negative economic impacts, premium pay for essential workers and broadband infrastructure. At this time, the Township Board has not taken any action on these funds. Discussions will likely take place in 2022 once the second payment has been received and guidance on the use of these funds has been finalized. Currently, staff is researching and compiling data on potential uses and legislation compliance.

2022 BUDGET

The 2022 Budget process is finishing up with adoption anticipated November 8, 2021. Our process is very deliberate and thorough, starting in July with format,



strategic plan and other relevant data distributed to Township Department Heads. From the beginning in July, many conversations take place inevitably discussing “needs” and “wants” with what we believe to be best for our services and best for our residents. The budget was prepared in accordance with the Michigan Uniform Accounting and Budget Act as well as the Charter Township Act

of Michigan. The budget is balanced, meaning revenues plus appropriated fund balances equal or exceed expenditures.

All funds have positive fund balances. The total budget for all funds is approximately \$10,200,000 with a general fund balance projected at 25.4%. To view the entire 2022 Budget, visit www.dewitttownship.org.

DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Tie One On For Safety Holiday Campaign kicks off the festive season by reminding us that drinking and driving don't mix. Some of the most dangerous days of the year on our nation's roadways are between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. So, from November 1st to December 31st, the MADD Tie One On For Safety Holiday Campaign urges you to designate a sober driver and to hand over your keys. It's more important to get home late and alive, than to risk driving drunk or even buzzed. Keep your holiday celebrations enjoyable by preventing tragedy. When you have a designated driver, you are more likely to get home safely to the ones you love. Every year, hundreds of families receive a knock at the door informing them a loved one was taken from them due to a senseless decision made under the influence of alcohol. The decision is 100 percent preventable.

In addition, a new study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows an alarming increase in the presence of alcohol and other drugs among traffic crash victims during the COVID-19 pandemic. From March 17, 2020 to July 18, 2020, 64.7% of drivers tested positive for at least one active drug (including alcohol), compared to 50.8% from Sept. 10, 2019, to March 16, 2020. Alcohol presence was found in 28.3% of drivers involved in crashes, up from 21.8% before the pandemic. Other drugs are also a concern: 32.7% of drivers tested positive for active THC, and opioid presence among drivers almost doubled from 7.5% to 13.9%. There were 1,083 fatal traffic crashes during 2020 and the percentage of alcohol-involved fatalities in Michigan increased by 11% from 295 deaths in 2019 to 326 deaths in 2020. This represents 30% of all traffic fatalities for the year.

The DeWitt Township Police Department wants to remind residents to stay safe this upcoming holiday season. We want everyone to have fun and enjoy the holidays; however, if you are planning on drinking, assign a designated driver to get you home safely. Today, there are many options available such as Uber and Lyft, taxis and public transportation. There is no excuse to drive while impaired by alcohol or other drugs. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

CEMETERY FALL AND WINTER ADORNMENT

Fall is a lovely time to visit the Township's cemeteries. The mature trees are dressed in their fall colors, and fall plantings add to the beauty of the grounds. Additionally, our staff works conscientiously to carefully maintain Gunnisonville and Hurd Cemeteries for our residents.

If you wish to plant at the grave site of your loved one, you may do so within the 12 inches surrounding the grave monument or marker. Perhaps mums or tidy grasses are your choosing. Mulch (only) can also be added within that 12 inches. Your grave blankets and other winter decorations will need to be placed after November 15th and removed by March 15th. Permanent vases, such as those made entirely of cement, may also be used for your plantings. You are required to place your cement vase within the 12 inches of the monument or marker, making sure that the base is flush with the ground. If you have any questions about adorning a grave site, please contact the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270.

HOME VALUES

As the leaves change and the weather turns cooler, the Assessing Office starts to transition towards year-end calculations of property assessments for the 2022 tax year. Each year, property values are analyzed to determine if our assessed values are keeping up with changes in the overall real estate market. Since the COVID-19 pandemic started in early 2020, we saw a brief drop in housing sales, followed by strong sales and increasing prices. As we determine the appropriate home values for the upcoming year, we must consider these sales. We make an independent appraisal of each property; however, we must also factor in changes in the real estate market. We look at the preceding 24 months of sales to determine trends, and then apply them to individual properties, to arrive at your assessed value for the upcoming year. Our tentative valuations are mailed to each property owner in February, contained in your assessment notice.

ESTIMATING TAXES FOR A NEW HOME/ADDITION/CHANGE

The property tax system in Michigan is very complex, and there are not many "rules of thumb" that can be followed when estimating taxes. It will always be safer to contact the Assessing Office if you are looking for an estimate of how a new home purchase, an addition to your property, or some other change in a property will affect the taxes. The Assessing Office is the best place to go when looking for an estimate of taxes for a new home, which can change dramatically when compared to the taxes of a previous owner. It is common to see taxes double for a new owner, when compared to the taxes of a prior owner when the property comes "uncapped." This is one of many reasons it is a good idea to contact our office when looking for property tax estimates. Give us a call at 517-669-6494 to help prevent the under-estimating of your taxes.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ILLEGAL BURN?

There has been a recent uptick in the number of illegal burns within the Township. Do you know what constitutes an illegal burn? Consequences of an illegal burn range from a verbal warning to a Municipal Civil Infraction with a fine. Open burning guidelines and restrictions are listed below:

DeWitt Township residents are allowed to open burn from October 1st through April 30th. Residents in the R-6 neighborhoods of the Pines, Northway Hills, and Shadybrook are **NOT** allowed to open burn at any time. The burning shall only be what nature has dropped from trees or grown on the ground.

- Open burning must be done between the hours of **sunrise** and **sunset**.
- The open burning of natural debris shall be done at a safe distance from all buildings, trees, tall grass, and other combustibles.
- Burn piles can be **no** larger than 5' x 5' x 3'.
- The fire **shall** be constantly attended to until the fire is extinguished.
- Burning can only take place when the wind velocity is **below 10 MPH**.
- Recreational fires are allowed year-round, as well as in the R-6 neighborhoods. Recreational fires shall be extinguished by 2:00 a.m.
- Any fire that will be offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions, when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous, shall be prohibited.

All open burning requires a burning permit issued through the DeWitt Township Fire Department. The burning permit application is located on the DeWitt Charter Township website under the "How Do I..." page or using this link, <https://www.dewitttownship.org/181/Burning-Permits>.

Questions or concerns can be directed to the Fire Department at 517-669-0071.

DARA NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS –FALL/WINTER

Program Name	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Cardio Drumming	Wed	5:45-7:00 pm	Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$5 per visit
Adult Open Volleyball	Sun	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$3 per visit
Pickleball-Intermediate Skill Level	Mon & Fri	8:30-10:30 am	Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$3 per visit
Pickleball-Beginner	Wed	10:00 am-12:00 pm	Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$3 per visit
Zumba Gold	Mon & Fri	Mon 6:15-7:00 pm Fri 9:00-9:45 am	Call for more info	18 yrs. & Up	Prices Vary for 5 or 10 session pass
Drop Your Kids Off	11/19, 12/5, 1/21	6:00-11:00 pm	Registration due one week before event	4-12 yrs.	\$15/child
FunAppetit: PreK Cooking	Tues, 11/2-11/23	9:15-10:00 am OR 6:30-7:15 pm	10/5-10/29	2-5 yrs.	\$25/res \$40/non-res
PreK Art	Tues, 2/15-3/8	9:15-10:00 am OR 6:30-7:15 pm	1/7-2/4	2-5 yrs.	\$25/res \$40/non-res
Fall Volleyball Leagues	Tues, 11/2-12/14	5:30-8:30 pm (time varies within)	10/5-10/29	3 rd -6 th grade	\$38/res \$51/non-res
Drive Through Santa	Mon 12/6	6:00-7:00 p.m.	11/5-12/2	All ages	\$6/child res \$10/child non-res
Holiday Fun Club	12/20, 12/21, 12/22, 12/27 12/28, 12/29	7:30 am-5:30 pm	11/11-12/16	5-12 yrs.	Per Day \$25/res \$39/non-res
Floor Hockey	2/18-3/25	9:00 am-3:00 pm	1/29	Gr. K-5	\$38/res \$51/non-res
Sports Starter	2/12-3/19	5:30-7:00 pm, or 10:00-10:45 am	1/7-2/4	3-5 yrs.	\$38/res \$51/non-res
High School Rec Ball	Sat, 1/15-3/5	8:00 am-1:00 pm	12/3-12/24	9 th -12 th grade	\$65/res \$80/non-res
After School Program	M-F school days	3:00-6:00 pm	Open	K-5 th grade	\$8 per day
Basketball Camp	1/11-2/1	5:30-8:00 pm 45min session dependent upon placement	12/3-12/24	4-6 yrs	\$38/res \$51/non-res

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 and mail it in by clicking on the DARA forms link on our home page. You may drop off registration forms at 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!

Having a family reunion? a birthday party? a baby shower? a holiday get together? The DeWitt Township Community Center is available to rent. Contact the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) at 517-482-5117 to check availability on your preferred date and to make your reservation.

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

The Township is always looking for those willing to work on Election Day. Our next scheduled elections will be in August and November of 2022 and training will begin in the spring of 2022. Hours can vary as do assignments. Complete the application on the next page and return it to the Clerk's Office.

State of Michigan Election Inspector Application

(Complete in your own handwriting and return to your local City/Township Clerk - find your local Clerk at mi.gov/vote)



personal information

Full Name _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Email Address _____

Home Address _____

Phone #s Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Registered in City or Township of _____ Pct # ____ Ward # _____

County of _____

Political Party Affiliation (**REQUIRED**; must be a recognized state party & may not be Independent):

Republican Democratic Libertarian U.S. Taxpayers Green Natural Law Working Class

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or election crime? Yes No

education and experience information

Education Background (include highest grade completed or degree held) _____

Employment Background (include current or last place of employment and type or work performed)

Languages other than English that you speak (if any) _____

Please rate your computer experience (data look-up, database processing, creating .pdfs, etc.):

1 = not experienced, 5 = very experienced

1 2 3 4 5

Past experience as an election inspector, if any (include name of jurisdiction) _____

Do you have transportation? Yes No

Will you work at any polling place? Yes No If not, explain: _____

signature and certification

I CERTIFY THAT I am not a member or a known active advocate* of a political party other than the party identified above. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant

_____/_____/_____
Date

* A "known active advocate" of another political party is defined to mean a person who 1) is a delegate to the convention or an officer of another party; 2) is affiliated with another party through an elected or appointed government position or; 3) has made documented public statements specifically supporting by name another political party or its candidates in the same calendar year as the election at which the person will serve as an inspector. "Documented public statements" means statements reported by the news media or written statements with a clear and unambiguous attribution to the applicant.

ANY FALSE STATEMENTS MADE ON THIS APPLICATION WILL DISQUALIFY THE APPLICANT.

Approved by State Director of Elections (August 2017)

RETURN TO: DeWitt Charter Township
1401 W. Herbison Rd.
DeWitt, MI 48820

HELP REDUCE CONSTRUCTION WASTE

According to the EPA, U.S. construction waste from construction and demolition has increased from 170,000 million tons annually in 2005 to 600,000 million tons in 2018. This waste consists of concrete, wood, gypsum, steel, brick/block, roofing material and asphalt. It comes from projects including: new construction, renovation and demolition of residential and commercial buildings, roads and bridges. So how can the building industry, contractors, do-it-yourselfers and project designers turn this ship around?

- During excavation, stockpile and reuse excavated materials.
- Collect shipping boxes, wood scraps, metal and other construction waste to recycle or sell for salvage.
- Buy, sell or donate used construction supplies. Check stores and websites for everything from insulation, windows and doors, to tiles, appliances and more.
- When installing new carpets, choose those made from recycled materials and recycle your old carpets.
- Take used batteries, fluorescent bulbs, unwanted chemicals and paints to recycling or hazardous waste collection facilities.
- Include an on-site space for recyclable construction materials.
- Find building contractors and project partners who are like-minded regarding limiting construction waste for your project.

One new and upcoming way of reducing construction waste is offsite construction, also known as prefabrication, which is gaining popularity among contractors. It has been shown to reduce construction waste, increase sustainability, decrease build time, make efficient use of existing labor, and improve schedule accuracy and cost estimates. This process results in very little unusable waste.

Here are several published guides as references:

- International Green Construction Guide (ASHRAE) (www.iccsafe.org)
- National Green Building Standard (NHAB) (www.iccsafe.org)
- The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) (www.usgbc.org)
- The Green Building Initiative (www.thegbi.org)

TAX NEWS

Winter property taxes will be levied and mailed on December 1st, and are due on Monday, February 14, 2022. Drain, streetlight, and other special assessments are included on the winter bill.

Tax payments are collected at DeWitt Charter Township through February 28, 2022. Thereafter, outstanding tax balances are turned over to the Clinton County Treasurer for collection. Once taxes are turned over to the County, payments on the outstanding balance must be paid to the County Treasurer, as State statute prohibits collecting taxes at the Township after February 28th.

We understand sometimes things happen, and offer these suggestions to minimize the consequences and extra expense when taxes can't be paid on time:

- Partial payments are accepted. Paying down the balance will reduce interest charges along the way.
- Pay taxes before sewer services. It is to the property owner's advantage to settle the tax bill first to avoid setting the tax foreclosure process in motion. Outstanding sewer services ultimately become a lien on the property and are turned over to taxes at a later date.

- Plan now. Residents finding themselves in a housing crisis can call the Capital Area Community Services at 989-224-6702, or visit <https://cacs-inc.org/property-tax-foreclosure-prevention/> for assistance and direction.

Tax Bill Records

Tax bills and historical tax records can be viewed and downloaded from the Property and Tax Search feature on the Township’s website. Records can be searched by name, address, or parcel number.

HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE TREASURER’S OFFICE

Group Utility Billings

The Township offers a group billing option to help streamline the payment process for property owners managing more than five properties or locations in the Township. If you would like to receive a group billing versus multiple post cards, please reach out to the Treasurer’s Office at 517-668-1411 to set it up.

Leaving Town?

Snowbirds and residents temporarily relocating for the winter months can contact the Treasurer’s Office to update billing addresses for sewer accounts. While away, the Treasurer’s Office offer these convenient options:

- Enroll in paperless e-billing
- Enroll in ACH Sewer Autopay
- Pre-pay your account for a quarter, or two
- Note township tax and utility billing dates and due dates on your calendar
- View and pay bills online at www.dewitttownship.org

SNOW REMOVAL

In the fall of 2015, the Complete the Streets Ordinance (O2015-1-7) became effective. A provision for snow removal was provided in the Ordinance to ensure safe passage for walkways including sidewalks and shared use pathways within the Township. Instead of requiring all sidewalks and pathways within the Township to be cleared of snow, the adopted ordinance ensured that “sidewalks to nowhere” did not need to be cleared. Below are some relevant guidelines as to when sidewalks are to be cleared of snow or ice:

- Sidewalks and shared use pathways shall be cleared from a path of at least 36” in width from the outside edge.
- Snow and ice shall be removed from sidewalks or shared use pathways within 24 hours after accumulation or drifting of snow, sleet or freezing rain or by the beginning of business hours the next day, whichever is shorter to ensure passage.
 - Exception provided when the wind chill is below zero degrees Fahrenheit
- In the event of a significant snow or ice event, an additional 48 hours shall be allowed for the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks or shared use pathways.
 - Significant snow/ice event means a period of snowfall of 6 inches or greater within a 24-hour period or ice formation of greater than ¼ of an inch.

Please review the snow removal maps posted on the Township’s website to see if you fall within a snow removal jurisdiction. These maps can be found on the Planning Department page, under maps or <https://www.dewitttownship.org/193/Planning-Department>. Some of the following subdivisions and locations that are included in the ordinance:

Arbor Meadows; Creekside; Creeping Brook; Crowner Farms; Hawthorne Woods, East, and Village; Heritage Glen, Meadows, and Woods; Northway Hills; Oakland Hills; Ridge Rock; Saffron Hills; Shadybrook; Sherbrook; Springbrook Hills, and East; Windy Ridge; along Old U.S. 27; and recently constructed sidewalks along Herbison Road and Airport Road.

Contact the Planning Department at 517-669-6576 if you have any questions or are in need of any clarifications.

ASSESSING OFFICE REMINDERS

LAND DIVISIONS, COMBINATIONS OR LOT LINE ADJUSTMENTS: Residents often inquire as to the process for creating a new parcel from their existing land, or combining parcels that they own that lie adjacent to each other, or adjusting the boundary lines of two parcels that are commonly owned and adjacent. The first step in this process is to contact the Assessing Office at 517-669-6494. We can go over any potential issues with the proposed adjustments, and begin the application process.

VETERAN EXEMPTIONS: Veterans Affairs will be sending letters to veterans summarizing their benefits. A copy of this form is needed by the Assessing Office in order to process any disabled veteran exemptions that will be submitted for the following year. The Assessing Office will mail prior applicants information regarding how to apply for 2022.

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW: The final meeting of the Board of Review for 2021 will take place in mid-December. Please contact the Assessing Office with any issues such as a disabled veteran exemption application or a hardship application, as this is the final meeting when these items can be addressed for 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL RECYCLING & WASTE COLLECTION

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management provides special recycling and waste collection events each year. The health and safety of our residents, vendors, volunteers and employees is our priority and we will be following CDC and State guidelines.

Medication Disposal Programs

Protect your family, pets, the community and the environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications through one of the drop off programs noted below. 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 designated drop off sites which ensure safe disposal through incineration. *Please keep your medications in their original containers. Be sure to black out any personal information.*

Pills, tablets, and capsules can be safely and securely dropped off at the Clinton County Sheriff's Office lobby, Bath Township Police Department and DeWitt Charter Township Hall, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. More locations can be found online at www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard and www.takebackmeds.org. **These sites do not accept needles, inhalers, aerosols or patches. Please do not deposit these items into the container. It is dangerous for those emptying the disposal box.**

Please be sure to black out personal information; however, leave the drug name visible!

SORTING IS IMPORTANT AT DROP OFF RECYCLING SITES

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management would like to remind residents to take the time to properly sort their recyclables into the proper containers located at the Township Hall. In order to keep this collection site available to our residents, please make sure you leave only those items that are accepted, sort what you bring into the various pails, and do not bring corroded batteries (as it contaminates the whole pail). Please do not ignore the signs that are posted.

Help keep the cost of recycling down and make sure what is put into the bin can be recycled. When in doubt, please contact our office at 989-224-5186, email recycle@clinton-county.org or check out our website www.clinton-county.org.

Online search tool available



Waste
Wizard

For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, please check out the Waste Wizard search tool www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard. It can help you find a recycling or disposal option for just about anything – year-round! You may also visit the Department’s webpage at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management. And finally, you may call the office at 989-224-5186 or send an email to recycle@clinton-county.org.

WHAT’S OPEN IN THE PARK SYSTEM FOR WINTER?

With the cold weather comes the closure of restrooms (weather depending – November 15th – May 1st) and parks. Here is what’s happening:

- Granger Meadows East Park - restrooms will be closed for the winter. The parking lot will also be closed.
- Granger Meadows West Park (sledding hill) – restrooms will be open. The warming room will open when there is enough snow to sled down the hill. Sledding is allowed on designated slopes only.
- Valley Farms Park – all restrooms will be closed for the winter.
- Padgett Park – all restrooms will be closed for the winter.
- DeWitt Dog Park – is closed December 1st through April 1st to maintain the integrity of the turf.
- Paved trail system – will remain open.

All parks are open from sunrise until sunset with the following exceptions:

1. The paved trail system at Valley Farms Park and Granger Meadows Park is open 24 hours per day year round. From sunset to sunrise, the paved trails are limited to walkers and joggers only.
2. From November 1st until March 31st, the sledding hill at Granger Meadows Park is open from sunrise until 10:00 p.m. From April 1st until October 31st, the sledding hill is open from sunrise until 11:00 p.m.
3. From November 1st until March 31st, cross country skiing is allowed at Valley Farms Park, Granger Meadows Park and the Richard A. Padgett Natural Area from sunrise until 10:00 p.m.

Dogs and other household pets are allowed in the Richard A. Padgett Natural Area and the Granger Meadows Park natural wood chip trail area **only**. Pets must be on a leash of not more than six (6) feet and be under the control of a competent and physically adequate person at all times. Pet waste must be immediately removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner. No pet shall be allowed in any public building or restroom.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Nov. 1	Delinquent sewer fees are turned over to taxes, per ordinance
Nov. 11	Township Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day
Nov. 25 & 26	Township Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday
Dec. 1	Winter taxes levied and mailed
Dec. 15	Quarterly sewer bills mailed
Dec. 17	ACH Autopay processed for enrolled tax accounts
Dec. 23 & 24	Township Offices closed in observance of Christmas holiday
Dec. 30 & 31	Township Offices closed in observance of New Year's holiday

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY (DDL) NEWS AND EVENTS

The Library is excited to be open for browsing and in-person services! Current hours are Monday – Thursday 10 am – 8 pm, Friday 10 am – 6 pm, and Saturday 10 am – 4 pm. Stop in to browse the collection, check out materials, use a computer, make copies, or just to say hello!

Ancestry Library Edition Available from Home

Library cardholders can now access Ancestry Library Edition from home through the library's website. Your DDL membership includes access to billions of records in census data, vital records, photographs, directories, and more. All you need is your library card!



Upcoming Events

Battle of the Books – Registration Opens November 1st

4th and 5th graders team up with an adult coach to read a selection of books and face off in a “battle” in the spring to test their knowledge. The book list will be announced on November 1st.

Unwrap and Read – Registration Opens November 15th

Each registered family will receive a wrapped bundle of picture books from the library's collection in time for a holiday countdown. Books will have an extended due date to allow plenty of time to return them. This program fills up quickly, so make sure to reserve your spot as soon as possible!

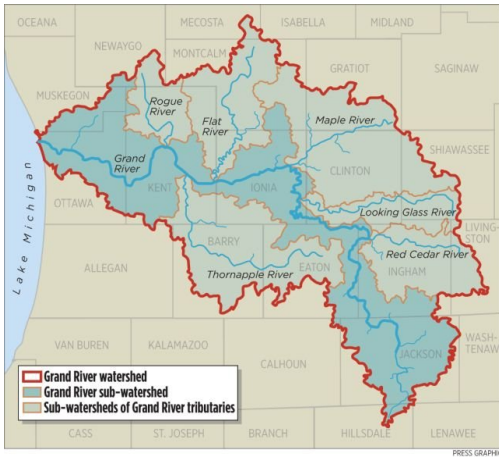
Library Libations (Ages 21+) – Monthly on Thursdays

Library Libations is a program for adults who like to think and drink. Tune in for a prerecorded cocktail tutorial and book discussion all set around the month's book. Participants will also receive an accompanying kit that includes the cocktail recipe, an accessory, and a craft. Registration is available on the library's website or mobile app and opens two weeks prior.

Teen Lit Kits – Monthly

Perfect for teens in 6th – 12th grade! Lit kits include 1-2 books, a pin, and a craft all set around the month's theme. Registration opens the 1st of each month and closes on the 7th or once spots have been filled.

EVERYONE LIVES IN A WATERSHED



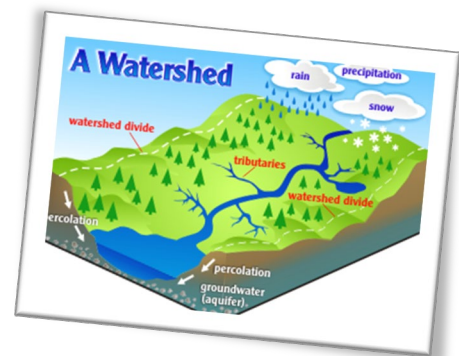
No matter where you live, you live in a watershed. A watershed is the land area that drains to a single body of water such as a lake or river. Watersheds come in many different sizes. A few acres might drain into a small stream or wetland, or a few rivers might drain into a large lake. The actions of people who live in a watershed affect the health of the waters that run through it. Rainfall and snowmelt wash chemicals, fertilizers, sediment, and other pollutants from the land into water bodies. To achieve healthy watersheds, we need your help!

The greater Lansing area falls within the Grand River Watershed, where water eventually drains into Lake Michigan. The urbanized area around the City of Lansing lies within a portion of the Upper Grand River Watershed which can be broken into three smaller

watershed areas. If you live in the area, you live in the Grand River Watershed, the Looking Glass River Watershed, or the Red Cedar River Watershed.

Rivers and streams do not recognize political boundaries. It is important that the public and local governments work together to protect our water resources for current and future generations. Twenty of the communities that fall within our local watersheds are participating in the Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management (GLRC), a cooperative effort that seeks to address water quality in our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. You can help protect our water by following the *top ten things we can do to protect our watersheds*:

1. Always conserve and reuse water wisely.
2. Soil test before you apply fertilizers. Use low or no-phosphorus fertilizers.
3. Use native vegetation and reduce turf grass by increasing native wildflowers and grasses.
4. Capture and reuse rainwater to control stormwater runoff.
5. Dispose of pet waste properly in the trash or toilet (not onsite septic systems).
6. Wash your car on the lawn instead of pavement (*if allowed by local ordinance*).
7. Maintain all vehicles, eliminating leaks and spills.
8. Recycle and dispose of household chemicals properly (motor oil, household cleaners, paint, etc.)
9. Inspect and maintain onsite septic systems and sewers.
10. Participate in the GLRC or join a local watershed organization



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

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

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TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NEWS BITES

BURNING PERMITS - You can obtain a burning permit on-line. All open burning requires a burning permit issued through the DeWitt Township Fire Department. The burning permit application is located on the DeWitt Township Charter website under the "How Do I..." page or using this link, <https://www.dewitttownship.org/181/Burning-Permits>.

COMMITTEE & COMMISSION APPLICATIONS – Have you ever thought of serving the community in a more "official" way? Often, your friends and neighbors have been instrumental in shaping our community into what it is today. Contact the Clerk's Office for a Committee and Commission application. Applications are kept on file for use as vacancies occur.

SEWER BACKUP – WHO TO CALL - The Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCCMUA) operates and maintains the sanitary sewer system of DeWitt Charter Township. If you have a sewer backup, immediately notify SCCMUA at 517-669-8311 or call 911 Emergency Dispatch after hours. SCCMUA will respond for itself and the Township. If a problem within the sewer system is found, SCCMUA will be the agency responsible for determining cause, coordinating claims, and keeping customers informed.

MERCURY HEALTH THERMOMETER EXCHANGE – The Clinton County Dept. of Waste Management (DWM) accepts old mercury health thermometers year round at their office located at 1307 E. Townsend Road, Suite 102 in St. Johns (MMDHD Building). Residents are encouraged to transport their old mercury thermometers in a plastic Ziploc baggie. The DWM will exchange your old mercury health thermometer for a new digital thermometer. You can also drop off your mercury thermometers at the Township Hall Clerk's Office and exchange it for a digital one. **Limit one digital thermometer per person.**

PUBLICATIONS - DeWitt Charter Township publishes legal notices in the DeWitt-Bath Review. Occasionally, when a weekly publication is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the law, the Lansing State Journal is utilized for a publication. Legal notices, such as a Notice of Public Hearing, can also be found on the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY - In an effort to increase transparency and accountability, the Township has created a number of systems and documents that are designed to visually review the status of our government. It is intended to help the user quickly evaluate key indicators. Over time, it helps citizens, business owners, staff, and elected officials measure and monitor the overall health and direction of our local government. These documents can be found on the Township's website at <https://www.dewitttownship.org/186/Township-Finances>.

PROTECT OUR WATERSHED - There are many ways to ensure that the Looking Glass River 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>.

TOWNSHIP E-NEWS – You can sign up to receive the Township's E-News which provides monthly Township and community news. You can register on the Township's website under the "How do I..." link, or <https://www.dewitttownship.org/list.aspx>.