

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

PARK ENHANCEMENTS COMING TO GRANGER MEADOWS PARK

In June of 2021, the Township solicited firms to participate in a Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process for professional design services related to the redesign and redevelopment of our inline hockey facility into pickleball courts and other park enhancements. The rink, located at the west end of Granger Meadows Park, is scarcely used and has long term maintenance concerns. Renovating and retrofitting the facility will extend the usability of the park and allow more of the community to participate and contribute to a growing community desire of pickleball courts and senior activities.

At the January 24, 2022, regular board meeting, the Township Board approved the concept design and authorized the project to be funded through the Township’s 425 Reserve Fund. We anticipate the project to be completed and open to the public in September of 2022.

CONCEPT PLAN: GRANGER MEADOWS PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS

Dewitt Township, MI
12/16/2021



DARA NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS – SPRING/SUMMER

Program Name	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Pickleball	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Weds: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Drop-in	18+yrs.	\$3 per visit OR \$30 punch card for 12 visits
Cardio Drumming	Wednesdays	5:45-7:00 PM	Drop In	18+ yrs.	\$5 per visit
Men's Basketball League	Tuesdays, 4/12-5/24	Men's: 5:30-10:00 PM (times vary within)	2/28-4/5	18+ yrs.	\$150/team + individual fees (\$5/res; \$20/non-res)
Spring Break Camp	Friday 3/25, Mon-Fri 3/28-4/1	7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Deadline: 3/19	5 – 14 yrs.	\$120/res \$135/non res
DARA'S Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 9, 2022 DeWitt Sports Park	3:00 PM	3/1-4/8	1-10 yrs.	Free Event
T - Ball	Mon/Weds 6/6-6/27	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Start times vary within	4/25 – 5/20 Late Reg. 5/23-27	4-5 yrs.	\$48/res \$63/non res Additional \$10 for late reg.
Spring Sports Starter	Wednesdays 4/6-5/11	Morning Sessions: 10:00 AM -10:45 AM Evening Sessions: 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM Time varies within	3/7-4/27 Late Reg: 5/2-5/6	3-5 yrs.	\$38/res \$53/non res Additional \$10 for late reg.
Coach Pitch Softball/Baseball	Baseball: Tues/Thurs 6/7-6/30 Softball: Mon/Weds 6/6-6/27	5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Start times vary within	4/25 – 5/20 Late Reg. 5/23-27	5-7 yrs.	\$48/res \$63/non res Additional \$10 for late reg.
Drop Your Kids Off	Friday, 3/18	6:00 -11:00 pm	Registration due one week before event	5-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Little Kickers PreK Soccer League	Saturdays, 4/23-5/28	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	Registration ends 4/8 Late Reg: 4/11-4/15	4 yrs.	\$38/res \$53/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
Kindergarten Soccer League	Saturdays, 4/23-5/28	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	Registration ends 4/8 Late Reg: 4/11-4/15	Kindergarten	\$38/res \$53/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
1 st Grade Soccer League	Saturdays, 4/23-5/28	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	Registration ends 4/8 Late Reg: 4/11-4/15	Kindergarten	\$38/res \$53/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
2 nd -3 rd Grade Soccer League	Saturdays, 4/23-6/4,	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (time varies within)	Registration ends 4/8 Late Reg: 4/11-4/15	2 nd -3 rd grades	\$42/res \$57/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
K-7 th Grade Flag Football	Tuesdays & Saturdays, 5/10-5/28	Tues: 5:30-8:00 pm Sat: 1:00-4:30 pm (times vary within)	Registration ends 4/28 Late Reg: 5/2-5/6	K-7 th grades	\$38/res \$53/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
Summer Fun Club & Double Digit Day Camps	Begins Monday, June 13, 2022	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Registration opens Monday, March 21	5-9 yrs. 10-14 yrs.	\$130/res per week \$145/non-res per week

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!

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



DeWitt Township Firefighter/Engineer Jason Rogers was selected as the 2021 Firefighter of the Year by his peers. Engineer Rogers joined the DeWitt Township Fire Department in 2009. He is a valuable asset as a paid-on-call member of the department. Engineer Rogers always has a positive attitude and willingness to get out of bed in the middle of the night to assist with calls. He does this while working as a full-time employee with the State of Michigan and juggling the activities of his wife Stephanie, their three daughters (Addison, Elliana, Jillian) and son (Benjamin). Engineer Rogers is very polite and respectful to the public as well as his co-workers. He is always an advocate for the DeWitt Township Fire Department. We are proud to have him on board! Congratulations Jason!

TIPS FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Being able to walk into a warm home from the brutal outdoor winter conditions or into a nice cool home after working in the yard under the hot summer sun is one of the best feelings in the world! Our homes not only provide shelter, they also house various appliances that assist in making our everyday lives easier. Whether it's being able to turn the thermostat up or down a few degrees, or being able to have healthy and safe options for doing laundry within our homes, preventative maintenance assists in the efficiency and lifespan of those systems. Here are a few tips to assist in the maintenance of your home:

Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems

- Standard filters should be changed every month and specialty filters should be changed per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Clean your return and supply registers using warm soapy water, as well as pull up and clean floor covers. Supply covers are typically fastened in the wall with simple Phillips' head screws. Once the screws are removed, the covers should be washed with warm soapy water and reinstalled.

HVAC systems should be serviced and inspected by a licensed professional every three to five years.

Washing Machines

- Filters should be removed and cleaned once every three to five months. Once removed, clean the filter with warm soapy water and reinstall per your manual. Your manual should provide the location and removal instructions to get to the filter. If not, an internet search for the make and model can usually provide the information you need.
- You can purchase cleaning solutions or search for household solutions to clean the inside of your machine; these are typically added to an empty machine and ran on a hot cycle.

Dryers

- Clean your lint filter before every load; these filters collect the lint from clothing before it can get to the vent piping. The location of the filters is typically up front on the bottom of your unit. If not, you should be able to find the location and removal process in your manual.
- Although the filter inside the unit should collect most of the lint before getting to the vent pipe, some lint will make its way through the vent pipe. All dryers should be cleaned at least once a year. Make sure the power source to the unit is disconnected before you remove any piping.
- Always check the outside vent cover to make sure it allows free flow of air from the dryer. Your local hardware store should have tools that will help you clean these pipes and filters.

These tips should help ensure that your HVAC system, washing machine and dryer run efficiently and will last for several years to come. If any of these items require replacement or technical repairs, we recommend that you hire a licensed contractor. For more tips or resources, please contact the Building Department at (517) 668-0278 or via email at building@dewittwp.org.

TAX PREP, ELECTION INSPECTORS, CLEAN SWEEP AND MORE

This month finds the Clerk's Office coordinating a variety of helpful programs and opportunities for our residents. Please contact the Clerk's office at 517-668-0270 for additional information.

AARP Tax-Aide Program - If you need to have your taxes prepared, our office is managing the scheduling for the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program. The Tax-Aide program is available to anyone, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 or have low to moderate income. Appointments are still available for March and the first part of April. Please call our office at 517-668-0270 to schedule an appointment.

Election Inspectors - DeWitt Township needs Election Inspectors to work elections in 2022. If you enjoy working with people and would like to participate in the voting process first-hand, we encourage you to complete and submit the application available at <https://www.dewitttownship.org/176/Election-Information>. The application is also available at our office during regular business hours. Election Inspector training will begin soon. Election Inspectors are compensated for training and their work at the polls.

Clean Sweep - Get rid of your junk! The Clean Sweep program returns in 2022. The planning for this popular program has begun. The details will be available on our website and in our e-newsletter. Stay tuned! The Clean Sweep program is available to DeWitt Township residents only whose property is zoned residential.

Cemetery Foundations - Lastly, the Clerk's Office is taking orders for cemetery monument foundations through April 30th. The foundations will be installed in May. Arrangements for a foundation are made through the Clerk's Office, either by the owner of burial rights or by a monument company.

ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS THROUGH LOCAL ZONING

In addition to various commodities, the cost of housing seems to be an ever-increasing figure and has only been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic and recent monetary inflation that has hit decade-level highs. While material and labor costs have partially contributed to the increased price of new houses, the United States is still experiencing a housing shortage of approximately 3.8 million units¹. This general lack of supply is being strained by the increased demand for housing and has led to a rapid increase in the median home and rent prices across the country. To put it into perspective, the median sale price for a house in Q4 of 2021 was over \$408,000, an increase of over 12% from Q4 of 2020². This increase in housing costs, when coupled with rising food, energy and petroleum costs, have put working-class Americans in a financial strain and inhibits potential new homebuyers from entering the market. At this time, some are beginning to ponder if municipal zoning codes have played a role in creating this dilemma and if it could also be a potential solution.

Zoning codes are municipal regulations which seek to set what types of structures can and cannot be built on a particular piece of property. This general concept has been around since the early 1900s and was constitutionally upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1926 through *Village of Euclid v. Ambler Realty*. Today, it is a general trend for municipalities to devote sizeable portions of land within their borders for low-density single-family housing which limits the quantity of housing units that can be built, and encourages patterns of sprawled development. This can lead to higher housing costs from a smaller overall housing stock and creates increased costs for municipal infrastructure as water and sewer lines must be extended by large distances to accommodate geographically segregated areas. Additionally, road maintenance will also be impacted as more roads and pavement will need to be laid down to serve sprawled areas.

In order to address this issue, some municipalities are looking to limit low-density single-family zoning, or in some cases, remove it altogether. In doing so, this could open up more areas to different housing types such as duplexes, apartments, paired villas, townhouses and condominiums, all of which offer higher residential densities at a price point which is generally more affordable than lower-density single-family neighborhoods. This type of action could be crucial to addressing the rising cost of housing as higher-density residential areas allow for an increase in the housing stock, boost job opportunities in municipalities and allow for first-time homebuyers to have easier access into the market. There are also potential benefits for communities to

experience that may be often overlooked such as lower costs for municipal services, better preservation of municipal greenspace and reduced stormwater runoff from the reduction in impervious surfaces.

Whether or not an increase in residential density will completely solve the housing crisis and reverse the upward trajectory of new home prices is yet to be seen. Policies set forth by governments would obviously need to be carefully crafted to limit potential loopholes. Considering various alternatives as to how municipalities could potentially reap the benefits of alternative development styles can help arm local policy-makers with all the possible tools they need to make a well-informed decision which can provide residents a high-quality of life and create a vibrant community.

¹ Freddie Mac, 2021, *Housing Supply: A Growing Deficit*

² U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Median Sales Price of Houses Sold for the United States*

2022 ASSESSMENT NOTICES AND BOARD OF REVIEW

Assessment Notices - Every year in February, property owners will receive their assessment notice from the Assessing Department. This form states at the top, "THIS IS NOT A TAX BILL." This form is still important to review. There are a few items of importance for most property owners. First, along the left side of the form in the middle section, is the estimate of change in actual taxes from the prior year. This number is an estimate, but it should be close enough to determine if there is an error in your assessment. Your taxes will increase for a number of reasons, such as inflation (which this year is a 3.3% increase, as set by the consumer price index), adding something new to the property (adding a deck), or an uncapping after a purchase (removing the inflation cap, and taxing the property based on the full value).

Board of Review - Another important item on the assessment notice is a listing of the dates and times for the March Board of Review. The March Board of Review will be in person this year; however, mail-in petitions are accepted, and due to the current state of COVID, encouraged. Petitioners are reminded to provide the Board of Review with everything they want the Board to consider. The Board will not travel to your home or do extensive research on the property outside of what is provided. Dates and times for the Board of Review are listed on the assessment notice.

The assessment notices also include information such as the legal description, homestead status, and current assessed value. All of this information is important to review, as correcting errors is much easier in March than after tax bills are issued later in the year.

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY (DDL) NEW SERVICES AND EVENTS

Contact the DeWitt District Library at 517-669-3156 or visit www.dewittlibrary.org for information about programs and services. The Library is located at 13101 Schavey Road next to the Schavey Road Shopping Center.

Visit the StoryWalk®

Have you visited the newest location of our StoryWalk®? The Sarah Lago Memorial StoryWalk® begins at the library's property on DeWitt Road and follows the multi-use paved pathway to offer an interactive reading experience. Books are changed seasonally; stop by and check out the latest story the next time you go for a walk!

Upcoming Events

Cardboard Carnival – Thursday, March 31 @ 2 pm

Looking for something to do over spring break? Create an arcade game or maze out of cardboard and other recycled materials for our carnival! Drop in to the Annex on March 28, 29, or 30 to construct your game. Everything must be completed and installed by 12 pm on Thursday, March 31. The carnival will run later that day from 2 pm – 7 pm. Goody bags will be available during the carnival while supplies last.

DDL Egg Dash – Thursday, April 7 @ 7 pm

Adults and teens ages 16 and up, join us at our DeWitt Rd. property for a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt. Dash across the field in search of eggs filled with candy and vouchers for door prizes. Make sure to bring your own "basket." Registration opens March 10 on the library's website.

SAVE THE DATE: Chalk the Walk – Saturday, June 11

Help us kick off our 2022 Summer Reading Challenge! Enjoy sidewalk chalk, play some games, and register for the all-ages challenge.

DEWITT TOWNSHIP POLICE HONOR CITIZENS AND OFFICERS



At the January 24, 2022 Township Board meeting, Chief Gute presented Officer Ethan Rennaker and Officer Brian Brown the "Meritorious Service" award for their cooperative work in a narcotic investigation. Both officers were also presented with the "Distinguished Service" award for their work in solving several larcenies from automobiles and stolen car complaints that occurred across the Tri-County area.

Officer Ethan Rennaker was also presented a "Life Saving" award for his work in saving the life of an individual who was injured due to a firework explosion. Officer Rennaker utilized medical equipment to help control the bleeding and saved this individual's life. **Congratulations!**

Pictured (l-r) are Officer Ethan Rennaker, Officer Brian Brown, and Chief Mike Gute

At the January 24, 2022, Township Board meeting, DeWitt Township Police Chief Gute recently presented "Citizen Public Service" awards to Dr. Alexa Vitek-Hitchcock, Lynne Lindsay, and Mary Garver for their assistance to our department at the start of the Covid pandemic. Dr. Vitek-Hitchcock provided the DeWitt Township Police Department with many of her own medical supplies including face masks, safety glasses, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes at a time when supplies were extremely difficult to find for department personnel. Both Lynne Lindsay and Mary Garver handmade thousands of facemasks on their own time, using their own money and resources and provided free masks to both the DeWitt Township Police Department along with hundreds of other community members.

Thank you for your support!



Pictured is Lynne Lindsay and Chief Gute.

SPECIAL RECYCLING & WASTE COLLECTION

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management (DWM) provides special recycling and waste collection events each year for Clinton County residents. For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options, call 989-224-5186, send an email to recycle@clinton-county.org or visit online at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management.

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 special events which ensure safe disposal through incineration. *Please keep your medications in their original containers. Be sure to black out any personal information.*

Controlled medications (narcotics and behavioral medications) in pill, tablet or capsule form 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.capitalcountiescommit.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!

Clean Community Event

Saturday, April 30, 2022 - An appointment is required to attend!

Clinton County residents are encouraged to take part in this event. Please create an account and make an appointment up to one week prior on our website <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/clinton-county-parks-recycling/catalog>.

Acceptable items include household hazardous waste, unwanted medications, farm & landscaping chemicals, motor oil & antifreeze, electronics, bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, car & light truck tires, and yard waste. Most items are accepted free of charge; however, nominal fees may apply.

Medication disposal is also available at this event. Used needles, Epi pens, inhalers, aerosols and patches WILL be accepted at this event. *Please be sure to black out personal information; however, leave the drug name visible!*

Mercury Health Thermometer Exchange and Mercury Thermostat Collection

The DWM will accept old mercury health thermometers and old mercury containing thermostats year round at our office located at 100 E. State Street, Suite 1500 in St Johns (County Courthouse – First Floor). Residents are encouraged to transport their old mercury thermometers in a plastic ziplock baggie. The DWM will exchange your old mercury health thermometer for a new digital thermometer. *Limit one digital thermometer per person.*

Online search tool available

For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options, 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!



Waste
Wizard

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.

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

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

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NEWS BITES, continued

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>.