

March, 2019

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
Steve Musselman
Brian Ross
David Seeger

Manager
Andrew Dymczyk

www.dewitttownship.org

WELCOME POLICE CHIEF MIKE GUTE



The Township is pleased to announce that Mike Gute has been hired as Chief of Police. He has roughly 25 years of policing experience with a majority of that time spent with the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Office. Outside of work, Mike enjoys spending time in northern Michigan with his family.

2019 ROAD PROJECTS

Every year, the Clinton County Road Commission (CCRC) ranks the quality of roads in the County. While the County and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are responsible for funding "primary" and "MDOT" roads, the Township funds much of the maintenance for local roads (excluding winter maintenance).

Primary roads are major connectors between multiple jurisdictions such as Airport, Herbison, Webb, Clark, State, Turner, etc. MDOT roads are Old US-27, I-69 and US-127. All other roads are considered local roads.

CCRC and DeWitt Township have begun planning for transportation projects to be completed in 2019. Below is a tentative list of projects:

Primary

DeWitt Road from Cutler Road to DeWitt City limits - Asphalt resurfacing
Airport Road from West Herbison Road to Price Road - Chipsealing
Chandler Road from State Road to Round Lake Road - Chipsealing
Round Lake Road from BR127 to DeWitt City limits - Chipsealing
State Road from DeWitt Road to Chandler Road - Chipsealing
Turner Road from Sheridan Road to Herbison Road - Chipsealing
Wood Road from State Road to Round Lake Road - Chipsealing
Coleman Road from West Road to Wood Road - New Road Construction

Local

Springbrook Hills East - Mill and Asphalt
Luroma Park Subdivision between Clark Road and Schavey Road - Chipsealing
Norris Road from Howe Road to Gravel - Chipsealing
Granger Meadows from BR127 to Wood Road- Chipsealing

No-reason absentee voting is here! With the passing of Proposal 3 in 2018, the State of Michigan has adopted "no-reason" absentee voting which means every voter is now entitled to vote by absentee ballot. In fact, we want to make it even easier for you by placing you on the Permanent Absentee Application List. When on the list, you will automatically receive an absent voter application for every election. Fill it out and return it to receive a ballot. No calls, no lines, no hassle! Call the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270 to sign up.

DARA RECREATION NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) is located at the DeWitt Township Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing, MI 48906. Information regarding any event or program can be obtained by calling the DARA office at 517-482-5117. You may register for programs in person at the DARA office, the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) or DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt).

Program Name	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Adult Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Ongoing	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Drop in	18 yrs. & Up	\$2 per visit
Cardio Drumming	Mon & Wed Ongoing	6:15-7:15 pm	Drop in	All ages welcome	\$3 per visit
Pickleball	Sun, Tues, Wed & Fri; no Pickleball on 3/22, 3/25-3/29, 4/19, 4/21, 5/27	Sun: 3-5 pm Tues & Fri: 9-11 am Wed: 4-6 pm Wed: 3-5 pm 2/13-3/20 only	Drop in	18+ yrs.	\$2 per visit
Preschool Play – Open Gym	Tuesdays, 1/8-3/19	10:00 am-12:00 pm	Drop in	2-5 yrs.	\$2 per visit
Zumba Gold	Mondays, 4/8-5/13 Mondays, 5/20-7/1 no class 5/27	6:00-7:00 pm	March 4-April 4 April 15-May 16	18+ yrs.	\$30 for 6 week course OR \$7 drop-in per class
All Day Drop Your Kids Off	3/22	7:30 am-5:30 pm	Registration due one week before event	5-12 yrs.	\$25/child; \$20/each additional child
Spring Break Camp	3/25-3/29	7:30 am-5:30 pm	2/18-3/18	5-12 yrs.	\$120/res; \$135/non-res
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, 4/13	3:00 pm Hunt begins	3/11-4/12	1-10 yrs.	FREE
Drop Your Kids Off	4/12, 5/17	6:00-11:00 pm	Registration due one week before event	4-12 yrs.	\$15/child; \$10/each additional child
3v3 Co-ed & Men's Basketball Leagues	Co-ed: Mon, April 8-May 20 Men's: Tues, April 9-May 21	Co-ed: 7-10 pm Men's: 6-10 pm	3/3-3/31	18 yrs. & Up	\$150 team fee and Player Fees: \$5/res; \$20/non-res
Spring Sports Starter	Wednesdays, April 3-May 8	10:00-10:45 am 5:30-7:00 pm (45min sessions)	2/18-3/12	3-5 yrs.	\$36/res; \$51/non-res
Spring Soccer	Saturdays, April 27-June 8, no games 5/25	9:00 am-2:00 pm	3/11-4/5	PreK-3 rd grade	PreK, K, & 1 st : \$36/res; \$51/non-res 2 nd & 3 rd : \$40/res; \$55/non-res
Co-ed & Men's Softball	Co-ed: Wed, May 1-July 24 Men's: Thurs, May 2-Aug 1, no games July 4	6:00-8:30 pm	3/27-4/24	18 yrs. & Up	\$325 team fee and Player Fees: \$5/res; \$20/non-res and Ump Fees: \$15/game/team
Step Up: Counselor in Training Program	6/10-8/23; no camp 7/4 11 weeks	7:30 am-12:30 pm OR 12:30-5:30pm	3/18-5/17 OR until full	15-17 yrs.	\$70/res; \$85/non-res
Summer Fun Club & Double Digit Day Camps	6/10-8/23; no camp 7/4	7:30 am-5:30 pm	3/18- one week prior to the week chosen OR until full	5-14 yrs.	\$120/res/week; \$135/non-res/week \$25 non-refundable security deposit due at registration per week and per child. Balances due 5/31 for weeks 1-6 & due 7/5 for weeks 7-11

DARA Mission: DARA promotes community and quality of life through leisure services provided for the residents of the DeWitt Area. You can register for most DARA programs online by visiting their website at www.dewittrecreation.org.

SMART911

The Smart911 program is available to Clinton County residents. Smart911 helps facilitate data and communications in the event of a 9-1-1 call. With Smart911, Michiganders can create an extensive online profile, which displays to dispatchers when a 9-1-1 call is made. Critical information such as home address, bedroom location, pet information, medical details and whether households include people with dementia or children with autism can all be provided and can improve response.



Residents are encouraged to create free Safety Profiles on Smart911.com, a secure information platform that instantly tells 9-1-1 dispatchers vital information that can assist in an emergency. When an individual dials 9-1-1, their completed Safety Profile will automatically display. It is important to note that Smart911 is now a statewide deployment, so it can be a helpful resource when traveling anywhere in the State of Michigan, not solely in the County in which you reside.

More information is available at www.clinton-county.org.

RAVE ALERT SYSTEM



Rave Alert

The RAVE Alert system (which replaces CodeRed) is a part of the Smart911 system which will allow residents to tell the County how they would like to be notified (e.g. phone call, text message, email, land line) in the event of an emergency. Residents can also provide information about their home and family that will pop up on a Dispatcher's screen if they ever call 9-1-1. This could include information about family members with special needs (oxygen, mobility limited, autism, dementia, etc.), info about pets, how many people live in the home, preferred entrances, etc.— things that would help first responders in an emergency.

There are several ways to sign up:

- If you have a smartphone, download the Smart911 app and create your profile there. This will automatically direct you to the App Store or Google Play store, depending on what kind of phone you have (this link doesn't work from a computer).
- From a computer, the link to the app is available on the county's website. Go to the front page of www.clinton-county.org and click on the Red RAVE banner.
- Text "ClintonCounty" to 67283. This will sign you up for cell phone and text alerts but not for Smart911.

2019 PARK RENTALS

Warm temperatures and sunny days will be here before you know it! It's too soon to reserve park pavilions for your spring, summer, or fall events. The Township has an extensive park system which includes a number of sports fields and pavilions available for rent. Please contact the Treasurer's office at 517-668-1411 to check availability and book reservations. Rental information is also available online at www.dewitttownship.org.



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CEMETERY INFORMATION

Foundations

All foundations for headstones are required to be installed by Township staff. These installations are done twice each year, once in the spring and once in the fall. The deadline for ordering foundation placement for this spring's installation is April 30th. Arrangements for a foundation are made through the Clerk's Office, either by the owner of burial rights or by a monument company.

Removal of Winter Ornamentation in the Cemeteries

No winter ground ornamentation is allowed between March 15th and November 15th, so this is the time to remove your grave blankets, wreaths, etc. If we remove the ornamentation, it is disposed of and cannot be returned.

Prohibited Items

Woodchips or decorative stone; edging; shepherd's hooks; fences and unapproved benches; plants or shrubs with thorns; glass; and plastic or clay containers are all prohibited in the Township cemeteries. The Township reserves the right to remove and dispose of (without notice) any unsightly, deteriorated, neglected or prohibited item(s). Cemetery Rules and Regulations are available on the Township's website. It is recommended that you review the rules before planting in the cemetery. As always, you can contact the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270 with any question.

CLEAN SWEEP

It's Clean Sweep Time!

Get rid of that junk taking up space around your house and haul it to the Granger Landfill on Wood Road. This is a free program for DeWitt Township residents only. You will be responsible for unloading your own items.

Vouchers will be available at the Township Hall **starting April 1st**. You must provide proof of residency when picking up your voucher **and** when dropping off your items. Vouchers are valid from April 29th through May 11th. You are allowed to drop off one time during this two-week period. One voucher per household. One pick-up truck and one utility size trailer (4'X8' with no extra sidewalls added) is allowed. **If you bring a rented vehicle or have a load larger than 4'X8', you will be charged on-site for extra items.**

Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities needing assistance with unloading their items should request help when picking up their voucher. For these individuals, help will be available one day only on Thursday, May 9th at 10am.

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

NEW PAYMENT OPTIONS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

Online Payment Options

DeWitt Charter Township residents can now pay sewer and tax bills online. Payments processed online post to your account on the same day. Visit www.dewitttownship.org and from the QUICK LINKS menu (right-hand side of the home page), select either PAY SEWER or PAY TAX. From these links, users are provided the option to pay by credit card or e-check. There is a 3% fee (with a \$2.00 minimum) for the convenience of paying by debit or credit card. Residents paying by e-check are charged a flat fee of \$3 for transactions up to \$10,000; transactions over \$10,000 are charged a flat fee of \$10. The Township doesn't receive these fees or record them as revenue as it is charged by the service providers (Visa, MasterCard, settlement servicer, etc.).

Please remember that sewer and tax payments must be received by the due date to be considered on time. DeWitt Charter Township does not consider postmark dates as on time so please plan accordingly. A drop box is available in front of the Township Hall for residents' convenience and afterhours use. Payments made into the drop box after office hours on the due date are considered on-time. Payments are always accepted onsite, Monday through Friday, during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

It's Easy Being Green!

E-billings and ACH AutoPay are two **very** convenient and cost-effective ways to make paying bills easy. If you like the idea of saving trees and having your quarterly sewer bill emailed, we can make that happen. Taking it a step further, the bill can be paid automatically five (5) days before its due via ACH AutoPay. There is no fee for this service. To learn more about e-billings & AutoPay, visit www.dewitttownship.org or call the Treasurer's Office at 517-668-1411 for an ACH Authorization Form. Completed forms can be dropped off at our office or mailed. Easy as that!

Copies of Tax Receipts

The Treasurer's Office receives numerous inquiries this time of year for copies of tax receipts. Did you know you can access your current and historical tax records online through the Township's website (www.dewitttownship.org)? Under the QUICK LINKS menu (right hand side of the home page), navigate to BS&A Online-Property Information. Check it out!

Important upcoming dates:

- 3/15/19 Quarterly sewer bills sent covering April, May, June 2019 services
- 4/15/19 Quarterly sewer bills due
- 5/27/19 Township Hall closed for Memorial Day holiday
- 6/15/19 Quarterly sewer bills sent covering July, August, September 2019 services
- 7/01/19 Summer Tax bills mailed
- 7/15/19 Quarterly sewer bills due

PEDDLERS & SOLICITORS IN DEWITT TOWNSHIP

The Township regulates most peddlers or solicitors who come to your door. Applicants are screened with criminal history background checks and vehicles used within the community are documented. If a peddler or solicitor comes to your door, and you decide to answer your door, always ask to see a Peddlers/Solicitors Permit, issued by the Township. If the person at your door has no permit, politely tell them you are not interested in their product/issue and close and lock your door. Do not be confrontational. Then call 9-1-1 to report this activity. Never let a stranger into your home, and always report suspicious activity to the police by calling 9-1-1. In Clinton County, 9-1-1 is for both emergencies and non-emergencies.

Persons engaged in soliciting, peddling or vending under the direct supervision of any school, recognized charity or non-profit organization, political candidate or religious organization are exempt from the licensing requirements, but must still follow the hours established in the Township's Ordinance, which is 9am-8pm, Monday through Saturday.

Persons/Organizations with active permits are listed on the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org, on the home page.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE AND FENCE PERMITS

DeWitt Township regulates accessory structures (e.g. storage sheds) and fences under the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Building Codes. The intent and purpose of regulating accessory structures and fences are to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by establishing reasonable standards for the design, placement, size, and maintenance of all accessory structures and fences.

Building permits are required for the construction of all residential accessory structures in excess of 200 square feet and fences in excess of 7 feet in height. Residential accessory structures must be setback at least 5 feet from the side and rear property lines, and meet the front setback requirement for the Zoning District where the property is located. In addition, if an accessory structure is located closer to the road right-of-way than the principal structure, it must be constructed of similar materials as the principal structure it is accessory to.

Fences placed in a front yard closer to the road right-of-way than the principle structure shall be decorative in nature. However, privacy fencing shall be permitted closer to the road right-of-way than the principle structure in the following circumstances:

1. For corner lots, privacy fencing shall only be permitted to encroach in a front yard area that is located opposite from the primary building entrance along secondary street frontage.
 - a. Privacy fencing shall not extend beyond the front of the home where the primary building entrance is located.

- b. Privacy fencing shall meet the minimum front yard setback from the secondary street front lot line.
2. For through lots, privacy fencing shall be permitted in the yard area with secondary street frontage. Secondary street frontage shall be opposite from the designated front lot line and be considered a rear lot line.

If you are thinking about constructing an accessory structure or installing a fence, a zoning compliance application and fee of \$25.00 is required. Please contact the Township's Planning Department at 517-669-6576 to ensure that the accessory structure or fence complies with the Township's requirements.

ASSESSMENT NOTICES & BOARD OF REVIEW INFORMATION

2019 Assessment Notices and Board of Review – By the time you are reading this Newsletter, you should have received your assessment notice which was mailed the last part of February. The notice will show both the assessed and taxable values. The taxable value will reflect a 2.4% increase from the 2018 value unless the property was purchased or transferred in 2018 or if there was any type of new construction. The 2.4% increase is the inflation rate multiplier which has been determined by the Michigan Department of Treasury. The notice also indicates the property class and the principal residence exemption status (homestead). Property owners who have a question or wish to file an appeal of their assessed value should call the Assessing Department at 517-669-6494 to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review which meets March 11-13th. The specific appointment times are also printed on the notice.

Poverty Exemption Information –Residents who meet income limits as established by the annual Federal Poverty Guidelines and an established asset level may be eligible for a full or partial exemption of property taxes for their primary residence. Homeowners who believe they may qualify should contact the Assessing Office for an application packet. The Assessor can review the application and the submitted supporting documents to verify that all the required paperwork has been submitted and the information provided meets the Federal Guidelines. The Assessor will then present the application and documents to the Board of Review. Only the Board of Review has the authority to grant an exemption.

UPCOMING WASTE & RECYCLING EVENTS

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management (DWM) is sponsoring several collection events. For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, call 989-224-5186, send an email to recycle@clinton-county.org or visit online at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management.

Medication Disposal Program

Protect your family, pets, the community and the environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications through one of the 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 but be sure to black out any personal information.*

Controlled medications (narcotics and behavioral medications) 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 drop off locations can be found online at www.capitalcountiescommit.org and www.takebackmeds.org.

Saturday, March 9th, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Bath Township Senior Center at 14480 Webster Road in Bath. *Be sure to black out personal information but leave the drug name visible!* Please do NOT bring needles, Epi pens, inhalers, aerosols or patches - These items can only be handled at the annual Clean Community Event or Free For Fall.

Recycle Rama!

Saturday April 13, 2019 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Ingham County Health Department at 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing.



area residents are encouraged to take part in this FREE tri-county recycling effort. Acceptable items include electronics, books, unwanted medications, appliances & scrap metal, bicycles, dehumidifiers, room air conditioners, #1 to #7 plastics, glass bottles & jars, compact fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermostats, mercury thermometers, used household fats, cooking oil & grease, polystyrene foam (NO packing peanuts), fabric & yarn and eyeglasses. *Please note - there will be a \$20 fee (cash or check only) for all TVs and computer monitors.*

This event will also include a medication disposal program. *Be sure to black out personal information but leave the drug name visible!* Please do NOT bring needles, Epi pens, inhalers, aerosols or patches - These items can only be handled at the annual Clean Community Event and Free For Fall.

Meridian Township Spring Recycling Event

Saturday April 27, 2019 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Chippewa Middle School, 4000 Okemos Road in Okemos. This event is open to ALL area residents. More information can be found on their website <http://recycle.meridian.mi.us/>.

Clean Community Event

Saturday, April 27, 2019 - *An appointment is required to attend!* Clinton County residents are encouraged to take part in this event. Please make an appointment up to one week prior to the event at <https://www.clinton-county.org/329/Registration> or by calling the office 989-224-5186.

Acceptable items include household hazardous waste, unwanted medications, farm & landscaping chemicals, motor oil & antifreeze, electronics, bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, tires, yard waste, and books. Most items are accepted free of charge but nominal fees may apply on certain items (cash or check only).

This event will also include a medication disposal program. Please see information on previous page for details *Please be sure to black out personal information but leave the drug name visible!* The Clean Community Event **CAN** accept used needles, Epi pens, inhalers, aerosols and patches at this Clean Community Event.

Mercury Thermostat Collection

The DWM will accept old mercury containing thermostats year round at their office located at 100 E. State Street, Suite 1500 in St Johns (County Courthouse – First Floor). Residents are encouraged to transport their old mercury thermostats in a plastic ziplock baggie. You can also drop off your mercury thermometers at the Township Hall Clerk’s Office and exchange it for a digital one.

**CLINTON COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY (CCRESA)
MILLAGE COLLECTION**

For the 2019 tax rolls, CCRESA will be collecting its portion of taxes in the winter cycle vs. the summer cycle. This is a timing issue only. There is no increase in the tax rate; however, what was previously collected on the summer roll, will now be collected on winter roll. Taxes will decrease in the summer and increase proportionally in the winter for affected residents. This impacts our Bath, DeWitt, and St. Johns school districts only. For more information, residents may reach out to CCRESA directly at 989-224-6831. This is projected to be a one year change for 2019 only. Property owners and residents in the CCRESA district, will want to plan accordingly.

To illustrate the impact to your 2019 tax bills:

Example Taxable Value	Millage rate (2018)	Summer bill	Winter bill
\$50,000	3.74820	decrease of \$187.41	increase of \$187.41
\$100,000	3.74820	decrease of \$374.82	increase of \$374.82
\$150,000	3.74820	decrease of \$562.23	increase of \$562.23

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

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

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NEWS BITES

TORNADO SIREN TESTING: Clinton County Central Dispatch will test the sirens at **noon** on the first Saturday of each month, April through October. The tornado siren test consists of a 1-minute solid tone. For more information about being safe before, during, and after a tornado, go to www.ready.gov/tornadoes.

BURNING PERMITS - You can now obtain a burning permit on-line. Go to www.dewitttownship.org and find the "Quick Links" section on the right hand side. Just follow the directions. You can also visit the Clerk's Office or either fire station to obtain a permit in person.

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. Committee and Commission applications are available as a fillable form on the Township's website, under Documents & Forms, Clerk. 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 www.dewitttownship.org/OurDepartmentsServices/ManagersOffice/TownshipFinances.

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>.

TOWNSHIP E-NEWS – You can sign up to receive the Township's E-News which provides monthly Township and community news. Register your e-mail address at www.dewitttownship.org.