

## WELCOME TO RODNEY H. TAYLOR, MANAGER

Rod Taylor started his new job as Township Manager on March 5, 2007. He has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and comes to us from Ingham County where he was their Director of Information Systems.

Mr. Taylor has been a life long resident of the Mid Michigan area, and will be moving his wife and two young children into the Township. His oldest will be starting kindergarten in the fall. His wife of eleven years is employed as a Registered Dental Hygienist.



Rod spends most of his free time with his family. In addition, he enjoys camping, gardening and landscaping, wood working, metal working, and old cars. In fact, this summer you might notice him driving to work in his 1956 Ford Thunderbird.

Rod will be managing the day to day operations of the organization, developing new internal systems to help make improvements, and most importantly, helping the community to maintain and grow its quality of life. After being on the job only one week, he had the following to say, "It is very clear that DeWitt Charter Township is a very well run organization, with a great set of devoted hardworking elected officials and employees. With such a dedicated organization, it will be a pleasure to assist citizens and continue the great work that the Township has achieved over the last several years."



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS Granger Meadows Park Celebration Friday, July 20, 2007

Activities for all ages will begin at 4:00 p.m. and conclude with a live concert and a spectacular fireworks display. Watch the DeWitt Bath Review for more details. Your next Newsletter will also contain additional information. Activities include: family olympics, kids candy bar bingo, interactive library store time, cardboard canoe race, rock climbing wall, inflatables, basketball shootout, pie baking contest, walking trail poker run, family entertaining lumberjack show, face painting, carnival games, DeWitt Township Fire Safety Trailer, watermelon eating contest, and much more.

This event is sponsored by DeWitt Charter Township, Granger, and the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority. For additional information or to volunteer, please contact the Township at 668-0270.

### 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  
Max Calder  
Steve Musselman  
Brian Ross  
David Seeger

Manager  
Rodney H. Taylor

### **\*\*\*SENIORS\*\***

Seniors: We would like to hear from you!! DARA has set up 3 focus group meetings to talk to our local seniors about recreation programs they would like to see offered. Please join us in a discussion to talk about senior recreation in the DeWitt Community and enjoy some refreshments with your neighbors. Focus group meetings are scheduled for Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the DTCC; Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the DTCC; and Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the DeWitt Township Hall.

### **BURNING PERMIT INFORMATION**

If you are planning to do any open burning in DeWitt Township, please familiarize yourself with the Open Burning Ordinance 45.11. This Ordinance is detailed on your Burning Permit. You don't have a Burning Permit? We will be happy to provide you with this free permit, which can be obtained from the DeWitt Township Fire Department or the Clerk's Office at the DeWitt Township Hall. ***You must have a Burning Permit to burn yard debris or have a recreational fire in DeWitt Township.***

In part, the Burning Permit allows the open burning of brush, twigs/branches, leaves, and garden and yard debris. Burning of any other materials is prohibited. The permit also allows the burning of recreational fires in a ground pit made of non-flammable materials. The Ordinance does not regulate recreational fires in portable fire pits.

The Burning Permit also describes the time of the year that burning is allowed in your neighborhood and the weather conditions under which a safe burn can be conducted. It is important to familiarize yourself with these, as well as the other regulations described within the Burning Permit.

Over the last several years, the Fire Department has seen a steady decline in open burning violations, which results in a much safer community. If you have any questions about burning within DeWitt Township, please feel free to contact the Fire Department at 669-0071.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE MINDED PEOPLE WANTED**

- Have you ever had the desire to be able to perform Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)?
- Have you wanted to be able to take someone's blood pressure and pulse?
- How about treat someone who is having chest pains, difficulty breathing, or fallen and broken a bone?
- Are you available during the daytime, in the evening, during the night, or even on weekends?
- Are you willing to get up at three o'clock in the morning and help your neighbor who is complaining of chest pain or has fallen and needs help getting up?
- Do you have time to serve your neighbors, friends, and community with valuable life saving capabilities?

If you answered "yes" to any or all of the above questions, then check out the DeWitt Township Fire Department and become a Medical First Responder. As a Medical First Responder and a member of the DeWitt Township Fire Department, you can serve your community and get paid for your service. If you are willing to perform these functions as a service to your community,

the DeWitt Township Fire Department will pay for your schooling, provide you with continuing education, and provide you with the equipment necessary to perform this valuable service for your community.

If this is for you, then take the first step. Stop by the Herbison Road Fire Station at 1445 W. Herbison, and find out what we offer the community and how you can be a part of this exciting profession.

## **SLOW DOWN IN CONSTRUCTION ZONES**

Construction is planned to start in mid April on I-69 between Airport and Chandler Roads. The DeWitt Township Police Department, Clinton County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police will be strictly enforcing the construction speed limit zone in that area. So plan ahead and take a little extra time to get to your destination or use an alternative route.

Go to [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) or call 1-800-381-8477 to find out about lane closures, road projects, and bridge construction projects in Michigan that may affect your travel plans.

## **CEMETERY NEWS AND NOTES**

**FOUNDATIONS:** All foundations for headstones in Gunnisonville and Hurd Cemeteries are required to be installed by Township staff. These installations are typically 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 May 1st. Arrangements for the installation of a foundation are made through the Clerk's Office.

Hurd and Gunnisonville cemeteries are busy places in the spring – planting flowers and sprucing up is an annual tradition for many families. Our cemetery staff is rightfully proud of the high standard to which our cemeteries are maintained, but staff also recognizes the role that families play in the beautiful appearance of our cemeteries. Following a few simple rules is important, and the following rules warrant springtime review:

- 1) driving off the established roadways is prohibited
- 2) all trash, dead flowers, etc., are to be disposed of in the containers provided
- 3) no artificial ground ornamentation is allowed between March 15<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>
- 4) planting of trees or shrubbery requires pre-approval by cemetery staff
- 5) placement of any of the following is prohibited: woodchips or decorative stone; any type of edging; shepherd's hooks, fences or benches; thorned plantings; glass, plastic or clay containers
- 6) flowers may be planted in urns or in the ground within 12 inches of a monument or marker, but never outside the boundaries of the owner's burial space
- 7) the Township reserves the right to remove and dispose of, without notice, any unsightly, deteriorated, neglected, or prohibited item

We encourage anyone who plans to do planting within the cemeteries to call the Clerk's Office at 668-0270 to obtain a complete copy of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. They can also be found on the Township's website, [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org) under Documents and Forms.

## ELECTION DAY – MAY 8, 2007

May 8<sup>th</sup> is Election Day for DeWitt Township residents who live within the Bath School District, DeWitt School District, and East Lansing School District. **Note: Lansing School District and Lansing Community College elections will be held on November 6, 2007.** Your school district polling location is the same as for governmental elections. Your voter identification card shows whether you vote at Herbison Woods School, the Township's Herbison Road Fire Station, or the Township's Community Center. If you have misplaced or never received your Voter Identification Card, please contact the Clerk's Office and we will mail you one.

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** The Township maintains a list of voters who have requested to automatically receive an Absentee Ballot Application prior to each election. If you are on this list, you should have already received an Absentee Ballot Application for the May 8<sup>th</sup> Election. If you believe you have requested to be on the list, but have not yet received an application, contact the Clerk's Office.

**WHO QUALIFIES FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:** If you are 60 years of age or older, or expect to be absent from the community, you qualify to vote by absentee ballot. You can make arrangements to get an Absentee Ballot by calling or visiting the Clerk's Office.

**IF YOU PLAN TO VOTE IN THE POLLS,** it is often useful to view the ballot before Election Day. Sample ballots are available from the Clerk's Office.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MAY 8<sup>th</sup> ELECTION:

April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Last day to register and qualify to vote in the May 8 <sup>th</sup> election
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Absent Voter Ballots must be available for issuance to voters
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Clerk's Office open Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm. Last day ballots can be mailed out.
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Absentee voting in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	ELECTION DAY

**ALL ELECTION AND VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE. For assistance call 668-0270.**

## ***SEWER PAYMENT OPTIONS INCREASE – ACH NOW AVAILABLE***

A popular request heard at the Treasurer's Office window is: "*When will you have automatic withdrawal available for our sewer payments?*" Well, that time is ***NOW***. We are taking sign-ups, effective for the quarterly billing to be mailed on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Payments are scheduled to be removed from the checking/savings accounts on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month that the payment is due. Benefits to the program include:

- \* There is no fee.
- \* You will never be late, as long as funds are available in the account.
- \* You won't have to do a last minute scramble to our office to pay on time.
- \* Snowbirds – if you have signed up, there's no need to have your bill forwarded.
- \* Online payment enthusiasts - no more fees from your online service for this payment.

If you would like to sign up, complete the form below and drop it off at the Treasurer's Office. If you have any questions on this new program, contact the Treasurer's Office at 668-1411.

**DeWitt Charter Township  
Sewer Automatic Payment Authorization Form**

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Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

DeWitt, 48820                      or                      Lansing, 48906

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: Checking    or    Savings

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize DeWitt Charter Township to withdraw sewer payments from the above-stated bank. This authorization is to remain in full force until DeWitt Charter Township has received written notification from me of its termination, with a minimum of five (5) business days prior to the termination effective date.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A bill will be sent to you each quarter stating the amount that will be withdrawn. Payment will be withdrawn on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following months: January, April, July and October (or, in the event of weekend/holiday, the next business day).

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**NEWS BITES**

**OUTDOOR FACILITY RENTALS** – Beginning May 1, 2007, if you would like to rent a park picnic pavilion, softball field, inline skating rink, or soccer field, please contact the Township Hall at 668-0270. **INDOOR FACILITY RENTALS** (Community Center gym or activity room) will continue to be handled through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority at 482-5117.

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** met the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>. A big **THANK YOU** to Board members Norm Farnum, Al Harrison and Concetta D'Agostino for their time and commitment given in service to the residents of the Township.

**2007 ASSESSMENT ROLL** shows 5,507 real property, 385 personal and 233 exempt parcels. The Township's 2007 tentative State Equalized Value (SEV) is 527,873,700. Our 2007 Taxable value is 456,201,076.

**WELCOME ABOARD** to Monica Nickovich, Luis Torrez, and Nicole Kitson joining our Fire Department.

**THANK YOU** to Ione Berg, Brenda Underwood, Jean Heathman, Lora Mae Higbee, Al Harrison, Koreen Smith, Helen Parker, Robert Miller, Isle King, and Elizabeth Walsh for their help labeling and sorting the Newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, contact the Township at 668-0270.

## **BUILDING SAFETY WEEK                      MAY 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

With Spring comes the "Tornado Season." Tornadoes can occur at any time, day or night, and in any month of the year; however, most occur in the months of April, May, June and July in the afternoon and evening hours between 3 - 7 p.m.

What does this have to do with Building Safety Week? You will need to seek shelter when threatening weather occurs. We should all take a few minutes to select a shelter that provides adequate protection against the effects of a storm or tornado. Is the area of shelter selected in your home sturdy or strong enough to provide an adequate degree of protection? Herein lays the tie to building safety.

In a home, a pre-determined location should be selected. Generally, the safest place in a residence is the basement or a storm cellar. If there is no basement or cellar, a small closet off an interior hallway is the next best alternative. Your selected area should be away from windows, doors, outside walls or any place where falling objects or flying debris could be a threat to your safety. The selected area should also be stocked with a radio, batteries, flashlights, blankets, food, a fire extinguisher, food and water.

**Tornado watches** are alerts, intended to give you advance notice that conditions are ideal for tornadoes to develop. During an alert, you should monitor radio and television reports for dangerous weather advisories. **Tornado warnings**, on the other hand, indicates a tornado has actually been sighted. You should take shelter immediately.

In summary, it is imperative that the designated area of shelter selected also be sturdy from a "building safety" perspective; and if not, take steps to strengthen it so that it will have a reasonable chance of withstanding the effects of a storm or tornado. Also, check with your local authorities to see if a school or other public building has been named a designated shelter.

**Building safety, in this case, is about being prepared!**

## 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 482-5117. **You may register for programs in person at the DARA office (16101 Brook Road, Lansing), DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt) or the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt). Registration forms and program descriptions are also available on DARA's website, [www.dewittrecreation.org](http://www.dewittrecreation.org).**

Program	Dates	Time	Registration	Age	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Big Truck Day	5/12	12:00-1:30	n/a	All	Free
Youth Cheer Camp	5/29 thru 5/31	5:30-6:30 pm 6:45-7:45 pm	4/13 thru 5/23	3-5 6-12	\$39
Adult Softball-summer	5/9&10 thru 8/1&2	Evenings	Begins 3/16	18+	\$290/team + ump fees
Drop Your Kids Off-All Day	4/27	7:30 am-5:30 pm	3/23 thru 4/20	5-12	\$25/1 child \$40/2 children
T-ball/Pee Wee Baseball	6/11 thru 7/19	Evenings	4/20 thru 5/11	4-7	\$38/\$43
Adult Tennis Leagues	6/11 thru 8/3	Schedule on own time	5/11 thru 6/1	18+	\$12/\$15
Summer Day Camps	6/18 thru 8/17 (weekly)	7:30 am-5:30 pm	Begins 4/27	5-12	\$90/\$95 per 5 day session
Youth Golf @ Hawk Hollow	7/17 thru 8/16	6-7 pm or 7-8 pm	Begins 6/1	8-15	\$50
Adult Softball-fall	8/12&13 thru 9/17&18	Evenings	Begins 6/29	18+	\$200/team + ump fees
Inline Hockey-fall	7/30 thru 9/28	Evenings	6/8 thru 7/13	5 +	\$45-\$60/\$50-\$65 (depending on age)
Open Volleyball	Wed. & Sun. thru 5/27	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop In	18+	\$2
Discount Cedar Point Tickets	Sold 5/7 thru 8/31	Use during 2007 season	n/a	All	Varies by age \$11.95 to \$66.25
Discount MI Adventure Tickets	Sold 5/7 thru 8/31	Use during 2007 season	n/a	All	\$22.50

### WHAT IS A VARIANCE? WHY WOULD I NEED ONE?

The Township's Zoning Ordinance includes certain minimum standards for the size and placement of buildings on lots within the Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) can grant special permission, or a "variance," to build on land when one of the "dimensional" or measurable standards in the Ordinance, such as lot size, setbacks, or building height cannot be met.

**The Role of the ZBA** – Ordinances are written to make sure that buildings are placed a safe distance from the street and one another and to allow reasonable amount of open front, side, and

rear yard areas. The ZBA will want to understand the *practical difficulty* that you have in complying with the Ordinance requirement. Such difficulties might include an odd-shaped lot, natural features such as water or steep slopes, or the location of structures built under earlier regulations. The ZBA will expect that the difficulties are unique to the property and that granting the variance will not change the character of the area. They will want to know that the variance request is the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the project and will review your request to see if there are alternatives that would allow you to complete your project without needing a variance.

**Before You Begin a Project** – There are steps that you can take to avoid the time and cost associated with unnecessary variance applications. First, call the Planning Department before you begin to design a project to learn about the standards that might apply. Remember that the rules can vary depending upon whether you are building a new home, an addition, a deck, a covered porch, a pole barn, etc. The more information you can provide about the type of project you are considering, the better the Department will be able to answer your questions. Often, the Department can offer options to help you design a project that might not require a variance.

**Application Process** – If you find that a variance cannot be avoided, you will need to budget both time and money to complete the process. Applicants for a variance must pay a fee to cover the cost to process the application. Also, drawings must be submitted with an application to show the proposed project; it may be necessary to hire a surveyor to complete the drawing. Regular meetings of the ZBA are held on the third Wednesday of every month. Complete applications must be submitted at least four (4) weeks prior to the meeting to be placed on the agenda. This lead time is necessary to assure that the application can be processed, reports written, and notices sent to all persons who own property within 300 feet of the property subject to the application.

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

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LANSING MI

**TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER**