

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
Jeffrey Baumann
Max Calder
Steve Musselman
David Seeger

Manager
Matt Kulhanek

www.dewitttownship.org

WINTER FUN AT THE PARK



Are you tired of being cooped up over the winter? Looking for something fun to do? The December snow that Mother Nature left allowed many residents to take their first runs down the new sledding hill at Granger Meadows Park. The Township's newest park boasts the Lansing area's tallest sledding hill. The 70 foot high hill offers three different slopes for different ages and levels of adventure. The kiddie slope offers a 40 foot vertical drop over a more sedate slope. This is a great place for the youngsters to start or for those looking for a little less excitement. The intermediate and the "black diamond" slopes both offer 70 foot vertical drops with different degrees of steepness for those looking for more of a thrill.

Did you get a new sled or saucer for Christmas? Are you learning to snowboard? What a great place to try it. The sledding hill is open until 10:00 p.m. each night. Lighting on the hill allows for the winter fun to continue even after the sun goes down. The restrooms at Granger Meadows Park are open daily during normal park hours. The facility also features a warming house that is open during peak sledding times. Parking is close to the hill for those parents who want to stay in the warmth of their vehicles.

The rules for the use of the sledding hill are well posted. Encourage your children or other users of the hill to follow the rules and be respectful to other sledders. Please treat the park facility like you own it. Your tax dollars are used to maintain the park and repair any damage or vandalism that occurs. If the smiles and laughter seen in December are any indication, then the sledding hill should be a hit for years to come.

K9 PROGRAM RECEIVES NEW FACES



K9 Wito received a new partner in 2005 when Officer Jason Jones was selected to become his new handler. The new partnership is a success as both parties are doing well in their crime fighting efforts.

Due to a degenerative joint disease in his right and left elbows, K9 Mexx was retired in 2005. Mexx now lives in the home of his former K9 handler Officer Travis Rawson. Mexx's retirement left Rawson without a partner. In November, 2005 the Township acquired Bruno to fill that spot. Bruno is a 2 year old German Shepard from the Czech Republic. Officer Rawson and K9 Bruno make a great team!



VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provides free income tax preparation for low income families, senior citizens and students. Many clients depend on VITA to provide their income tax preparation and many depend on any credit (earned income credit) they are entitled to receive as a critical source of income. Tax returns are prepared by volunteer students from MSU and are reviewed by a professional accountant.

VITA runs from February 6, 2006 to April 14, 2006. VITA has sites around the Lansing area on different weeknights from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. VITA representatives will be at the DeWitt Charter Township Community Center (16101 Brook Road, Lansing) on Thursday evenings. Call the Township Hall at 668-0270 to schedule your required appointment.

CLEAN SWEEP IS HERE!!!

Get rid of that junk taking up space around your house and haul it down to the Granger Landfill on Saturday, May 6, 2006 for the annual Spring Clean Sweep Project. This is a free program to DeWitt Township residents that allows you to haul a load of junk to the landfill with DeWitt Township picking up the bill. **You must be a Township resident and must make an appointment to participate.** For more information or to make your required appointment, please call the Township Hall at 668-0270 **BEGINNING APRIL 1st**. Space is limited.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE TOWNSHIP?

2005 ended with roughly a 24% decrease in new single family housing starts within the Township. However, we still added 77 new residences.

Commercially, several new businesses have elected to make DeWitt Township their home. It's a great place to live and do business. You may have noticed construction activity at several locations in the Township. The following are new to our area and if not already, will soon be providing some type of service to our community and the surrounding areas.

- ✓ Several new businesses in the Clark Corners Mall at 1161 E. Clark Road:
 - Comprehensive Receivables - a collection agency
 - R.G.'s Pool & Billiards - offering the public all that the name implies
 - Goodwill Industries - collection site and retail outlet
 - All American Ice Cream & Donut Shop - deli/restaurant
- ✓ Hammond Farms – a landscaping and garden supply business currently under construction at the northwest corner of Clark Road and U.S.-27
- ✓ Gilbert's True Value Hardware – located at 12900 U.S.-27 in the Northway Shopping Center
- ✓ MOR FOR LESS, a grocery store, located at 16795 S. U.S.-27 (the former Apple Market)
- ✓ Northern Home Improvement has a new building under construction at 1040 Mac-Tech Drive (a new road just north of Carter Lumber on Business 27)
- ✓ Vidcom Solutions, a security systems specialty business located at 15559 S. U.S.-27 (the former Northern Home Improvement building)
- ✓ Consolidated Electrical Contractors will soon occupy a new commercial building under construction at 1095 Mac-Tech Drive

Finally, plans have been received and are currently under review for a new Meijer Retail Store and Gas Station/Convenience Store that will be located north and east of the Herbison Road and U.S.-27 intersection. It is anticipated that this project will be under construction in late February or early March of this year and will take close to a year to complete.

BOOK & MEDIA RECYCLING EVENT

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management will sponsor two **FREE** Book & Media Recycling Events this year. The first will be held on April 6th, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m., at the Clinton County Courthouse. The second will be held on June 10th, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m., at the DeWitt Charter Township Hall parking lot. Materials accepted include all hard covers, paperbacks, magazines, phone books, compact discs, DVDs, and video cassettes. **All items must be placed in boxes. Please box your books/media by category, i.e. hard cover, paperback, magazines, media products, etc. No wire bound books will be accepted.** For more information, call the Clinton County Department of Waste Management at 989-224-5186 or go online to www.Clinton-County.org/Waste/CurrentEvents.htm.

Information is the Key

Sometimes it's those little assumptions that confuse us. The things we don't really think about, that may lead to misunderstandings or confusion. In future Newsletters we hope this section will be useful to our residents, clearing up those misunderstandings, eliminating confusion, or just providing useful information.

Let's clear up some confusion regarding issues relating to VOTER REGISTRATION AND WHY YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS IS IMPORTANT.

For voter registration, you are required to use the address shown on your driver's license. This seems fairly straight forward, but in today's lifestyle, many people travel south for the winter or own more than one home. Your driver's license address is required to reflect the residence that you primarily occupy. Your address relates not only to voter registration, but your property taxes, since it also helps to verify a taxpayer's eligibility for a principal residence (homestead) exemption.

A voter's address can lead to confusion. Just because you have a "Lansing" mailing address, you cannot assume that you can cast a vote for Mayor of the City of Lansing. If you have a "DeWitt" mailing address, you cannot assume that you can cast a vote for Mayor of the City of DeWitt. Local issues and candidates appearing on a voter's ballot are specific to the government where the voter resides. If you live in DeWitt Township, you select, through the election process, the members of the DeWitt Township Board. Depending on where you live in DeWitt Township, you could have a Lansing, DeWitt, East Lansing, or Bath mailing address. The same scenario applies to school districts. Your ballot will include, when appropriate, members of the School Board for the school district in which you reside and are registered to vote.

Your mailing address determines what post office you are served by, not which municipality you reside in. Your mailing address can be a source of confusion if it is used in your thought process relative to voting, taxes, or schools.

NEWS BITES

THANK YOU to Koreen Smith, Robert Miller, Chuck & Barb LaMacchia, Doug & Mary Bowers, Bob & Jean Gesler, Phil & Joan Patriarche, Jean Heathman, Helen Parker, and Ilse King for their help labeling and sorting the Newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.

ASSESSMENT NOTICES – Residents and taxpayers should receive their 2006 assessment notices the first week in March. For 2006, unless there has been new construction or a transfer of ownership during 2005, your taxable value will not increase more than **3.3%**, which is the rate of inflation. The notice will show an equalized value and a taxable value for your property. The **equalized value** is adjusted annually to reflect 50% of fair market value. The **taxable value** is the actual amount on which your property taxes are based.

BOARD OF REVIEW – Will meet the week of March 13, 2006. The specific times for appointments will be printed on the assessment notice, as well as published in the DeWitt Bath Review. If you have a question regarding your assessment, or wish to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review, please call the Assessing Office at 669-6494 after March 1st. Often we are able to answer your questions and an appointment isn't necessary.

INTERNET ACCESS – On-line property information can be accessed through the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org. Click on "Assessing Dept," then "Property Records." Follow the link that says "Go to Property Records." You no longer have to enter a username or password. You are able to browse basic property record information, such as sale information, assessment and taxable value data,

legal descriptions, and general tax information. Parcel information is now updated daily to reflect the most recent transfers and current sales.

Our **DROP BOX** is located around the corner to the right of the main entrance. You may drop payments off after hours. Please be sure to pay by check/money order. Do not deposit cash.

HURD & GUNNISONVILLE CEMETERIES – Winter decorations, such as grave blankets, and other artificial ground ornamentation must be removed by March 15th. If not removed, our maintenance personnel will remove and discard the items as soon as weather permits. With Spring just around the corner, we encourage anyone who plans to spruce up a grave site to call the Clerk’s Office to get a complete copy of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations, or you can find them on the Township’s web site. Certain items, such as shepherd’s hooks, and plantings, such as rose bushes, are prohibited. It is always best to know the rules prior to making an investment of time or money.

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION APPLICATIONS are available from our web site. In the alternative, call the Clerk’s Office and an application will be mailed to you. Applications are kept on file and used to fill vacancies as they occur on various committees and commissions.

WELCOME ABOARD to our new employees: Keith Stewart and Bill Darnell - Police Department; Sue Stiles – Assessing Office; Harmony Gmazel – Planning Office.

CLEAN COMMUNITY COLLECTION EVENT

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management will again sponsor two Clean Community Collection Events this year. The first will be held on April 29th in St. Johns; the second will be held on June 10th in DeWitt Township. **You must be a Clinton County resident or business owner to make your required appointment.** Materials accepted include household and small business hazardous waste, farm and landscaping chemicals, electronic waste, bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, tires, reusable household items, furniture, and clothing. Fees will be charged for the disposal of some materials.

For more information, call the Clinton County Department of Waste Management at 989-224-5186 or go online to www.Clinton-County.org/Waste/CurrentEvents.htm.

MORE ABOUT DTFD MEMBERS

The smooth operation of any organization requires a strong dash of experience in order to achieve the desired results. The DeWitt Township Fire Department is fortunate to be the benefactor of many experienced volunteers and two such Department members are Mike Bush and Bill Kost. What follows is a closer look at the experience that Bill and Mike bring to the DeWitt Township Fire Department.



Bill and his wife, Patti, have been married 36 years. They have two grown children and are also proud grandparents. Bill has been employed by GM for 37 years and is a General Supervisor in Material Handling. If those lifetime commitments weren’t enough to build a strong foundation of experience and wisdom, Bill is also a retired Major from the US Army with 27 years of service. It is no wonder that Bill is passionate about the idea of retirement and travel. To that end, Bill and Patti have purchased a new travel trailer in order to continue their travel experiences. Most recently, they traveled to Alaska to visit their daughter and her family. Bill also traveled to Saudi Arabia via the US Army during Desert Storm. In his down time, Bill enjoys woodworking, riding motorcycles and hunting. Bill serves on the Fire Department in an auxiliary role, helping out wherever needed.

Mike and his wife, Cyndy, are the proud parents of two young children, Ashley and Michael. Following his heart, Mike moved to DeWitt in 1999 to marry Cyndy. Ironically, Cyndy is a nurse just like Mike's mom. The firefighter and nurse combination seems to work in the Bush family! Mike and Cyndy's family enjoy camping together as well as attending NASCAR races. In his free time, Mike enjoys working on small building projects like decks and swing sets. These buildings skills serve Mike well in his full time job as Supervisor of Professional Building Accounts at Home Depot in Okemos.



Mike is a 15-year veteran of the firefighting field and was honored as the Civilian Firefighter of the Year in 1996 for the East Grand Rapids Department of Public Safety – Fire Division. Mike achieved the rank of Sergeant while at East Grand Rapids and was their Ladder Truck Training Officer. This is, of course, a benefit to our Fire Department in the operation of DeWitt Township's new ladder truck. Mike has been a member of the DeWitt Township Fire Department for nearly three years.

DARA RECREATION NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) is located at the DeWitt Township Community Center (DTCC), 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, MI), DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt, MI) or the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI). Registration forms are also available on the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org.**

Drop Your Kids Off (DYKO) -

Nights-Drop your kids, ages 4-12, off at the DTCC for a night of fun and games. Upcoming drop your kids off nights will be held on February 10th, March 17th, and April 21st from 6:00-11:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Kids will play gym games, complete arts and crafts projects, watch movies and have pizza and pop for dinner. The cost is \$15 for one child or \$25 for two children. Your kids will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to leave the building.

All Day-School's out and your kids need something to do? Drop your kids, ages 4-12, off at the DTCC for an entire day full of programmed activities and games. All Day DYKO will be offered on February 17th and April 28th when the DeWitt Schools are closed to students. Kids can be dropped off anytime after 7:30 a.m. and must be picked up by 5:30 p.m. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. The cost is \$25 for one child and \$40 for two children. Pre-registration one week in advance is required.

Wiggle Worm Olympics - Boys and girls, 3-5 years old, are invited to test their skills in events like the marshmallow shot put or the paper plate discus throw in a 7-event mini Olympics. The Wiggle Worm Olympics will take place on Wednesday, February 22nd from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the DTCC. The cost is \$5 per DeWitt City and Township resident and

\$8 for all others. Registration fees include a medal and snack for all participants with special prizes for event winners. Registration is open from January 6th - February 10th. Register early so you don't miss your chance to compete. Please call the DARA office at 482-5117 to register your child.

DNR Hunter Safety Class - Back by popular demand, this DNR sponsored course will be offered Monday-Thursday, February 6th - 9th for those 12 years and older. Class will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the DTCC and you must attend all 4 sessions to receive your certification. The cost is \$10 per person which includes all of your materials. Registration is on-going. Space is limited to the first 30 participants.

MRPA Hoop Shoot - The Hoop Shoot is a free competition open to boys and girls, ages 8-15 (as of 12/31/06). Participants will have 60 seconds to score as many points as they can from designated shooting spots. Top scorers in each age group will advance onto a sectional competition and possibly a state competition. The Hoop Shoot will take place on February 20th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the DeWitt Junior High School Large Gym. Participants may register at the competition.

Open Volleyball - Open Volleyball is available on Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for those ages 18 and up. The final date for open volleyball is Wednesday, April 12th at the DTCC. The cost is \$2 per person.

Spring Indoor Yard Sale - Are you tired of things piling up in the basement and garage and worried that bad weather will ruin the early yard sale? Haul your items down to the DTCC on Saturday, April 8th for the fourth annual indoor yard sale. The sale will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and is free to shoppers. Registration begins February 17th. Space is limited so register early - 8' X 16' booths are \$10.

Easter Egg Hunt - The Easter Bunny will be visiting Valley Farms Park on Saturday, April 8th for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids ages 1-10 should bring a basket for collecting eggs and prizes. The Egg Hunt begins promptly at 3:00 p.m.--so don't be late! The Egg Hunt will be at Valley Farms Park if the weather cooperates or inside the DTCC in the case of bad weather.

"Little Kickers" and Youth Zone Soccer - Our youth soccer programs for ages 4-6 are fun and instructional programs designed to teach our youngsters the basics of soccer. "Little Kickers" for age 4 and Youth Zone for ages 5-6 will be offered for 6 weeks this spring beginning on Saturday, April 8th. Players will have one Saturday game and a one-hour practice each week of the season. The cost is \$28 for DeWitt City/Township residents and \$33 for all others. Every player receives a team t-shirt and participation medal. Players are required to provide their own shin guards. Registration runs from February 17th - March 17th. Late registrations will be accepted through March 24th with a \$10 late fee.

Adult Golf at Hawk Hollow - DARA and Hawk Hollow have teamed up to offer an adult golf program for those 18 years and older. Instruction is geared toward those with beginner/intermediate golf skills. Wednesday night and Thursday night sessions beginning April 19th/20th are available. The program will run for 5 weeks from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$60 per participant and rental clubs are available. Kirk Sherman, Hawk Hollow's golf professional and members of his staff will be instructing the class.

Adult Softball Leagues - Our spring/summer adult softball leagues will be offered for both Coed and Men's league teams. Coed teams will play 12 games on Wednesday evenings beginning May 10th and will end with a single-elimination league tournament in mid-July. Men's league teams will play 12 games on Thursday evenings beginning May 11th and will end with a single-elimination league tournament in mid-July. All games will be played at the DeWitt Sports Park, Valley Farms Park and the new Granger Meadows Park. The team fee of \$260 includes all game balls, team score book, line up cards and awards for both the league and tournament champions and runners-up. Both leagues follow ASA rules and will use ASA certified umpires. Registration for adult softball leagues begins on April 3rd. Register your team early as space is limited.

Dining Site - This year-round program is offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the DTCC. The meals are brought in through the Tri-County Office on Aging Meals on Wheels program and are always well-balanced. Prior to the meal, participants play cards, exercise and socialize. After the meal, there is often bingo or special programming. This program is geared towards senior citizens, but everyone is welcome to participate. The cost of a meal is a suggested donation of \$2.25 for those over age 60 or \$4.00 for those 60 years and younger. Please call 482-5117 to reserve your meal.

Community Center and Park Pavilion Reservations - The DARA office is accepting reservations for the DTCC, Valley Farms Park pavilions, and Granger Meadows Park pavilions. If you would like to make a reservation, please call the DARA office at 482-5117 to check on available dates and to request the necessary paperwork.

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

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