

**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

## POLICE & FIRE MILLAGE *RENEWAL* ON AUGUST 3<sup>rd</sup> PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

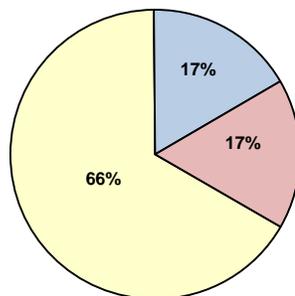
Since 1977, DeWitt Township voters have approved a special voted millage for police and fire protection services. These millage requests have always had an expiration date on them. The most recently approved millage was for four years, from 2006 through 2009. In August, a police and fire millage **renewal**, for years 2010 through 2013, will be placed before the voters of DeWitt Township to help offset the cost of providing police and fire services. This renewal is the same levy that has been in place since 1977.

The amount of revenue generated by the millage varies from year to year, based upon the taxable value of properties within the Township. In the past, as taxable values increased, so did the revenue generated by the millage. Because of recent decreases in taxable value, it is projected that in 2010 and 2011, the Township will see a decrease in revenue generated by the police and fire millage.

In 2009, the special voted millage funded approximately 30% of the Police Department's \$1,504,935 budget and approximately 80% of the Fire Department's \$575,110 budget. The combined 2009 budgets for police and fire services was \$2,080,045, and the special voted police and fire millage raised slightly over \$900,000. The remaining funding for the Police and Fire Department budgets comes from the Township's general operating millage, state revenue sharing, and miscellaneous other sources.

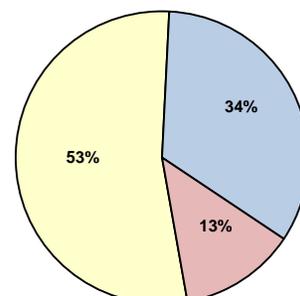
Historically, police and fire protection services have been a significant portion of the Township's general fund budget. The following graphs show revenue and expenditure percentages, both special voted police and fire and general operating.

Property Tax Revenues  
2009



□ Operating   □ Police   □ Fire

General Fund Expenditures  
2009



□ All Other   □ Police   □ Fire

The Township, by law, cannot spend Township funds to campaign for passage of the millage. However, the Township is allowed to provide voters with factual information regarding the ballot proposition. The Township Board voted, on April 12, 2010, to place the following Police and Fire Millage Renewal Ballot Question before the qualified voters of DeWitt Township at the August 3, 2010, Primary Election.

**MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

**This Proposal will allow the Charter Township of DeWitt to maintain mills levied for Police and Fire Department purposes on all taxable property and renews the millage that expired within the 2009 tax levy.**

Shall the previously voted increase in the authorized charter millage for the Charter Township of DeWitt which may be assessed on all property as defined by law within said Township be renewed at one (1) mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for four (4) years, 2010 through 2013, both inclusive, for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of operating the DeWitt Charter Township Fire Department and for acquisition, repair, replacement, maintenance and housing of the equipment and apparatus of said department, which levy will raise, in the first year of the levy, an estimated \$446,608.00? This is a renewal of previously authorized millage which expired with the 2009 tax levy.

In addition, shall the previously voted increase in the authorized charter millage for the Charter Township of DeWitt which may be assessed on all property as defined by law within said Township be renewed at one (1) mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for four (4) years, 2010 through 2013, both inclusive, for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of operating the DeWitt Charter Township Police Department and for acquisition, repair, replacement, maintenance and housing of the equipment and apparatus of said department, which levy will raise, in the first year of the levy, an estimated \$446,608.00? This is a renewal of previously authorized millage which expired with the 2009 tax levy.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

The Township Board approved a fact sheet which provides information about the police and fire millage renewal. A copy of the fact sheet is available at the Township Hall or can be downloaded from the homepage of the Township's web site at [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org).

**Important – the Police and Fire Millage Renewal Question will appear on the ballot at the PRIMARY ELECTION – AUGUST 3, 2010. Polls are open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. If you have questions about the Primary Election or want to request an absentee ballot, please contact the Township Clerk's Office at 668-0270.**

## HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

DeWitt Charter Township and the City of DeWitt have partnered to sponsor a Sister City relationship with the City of Koka, Shiga Prefecture, Japan.

This year, the delegates from Koka will spend a week in Michigan. We are looking for families to host our guests from September 11 through September 15, 2010. If you would like to share our American culture and heritage with the Japanese visitors, you may want to serve as a host family. During the day, the City and Township have planned special activities for our guests.

Many lifelong friendships have been formed as a result of this program. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and experience the joy that many of our citizens have already experienced. If you are interested in participating on the planning committee or serving as a host family for one of the visitors, please call Larry or Peggy Arbanas at 669-1239.

## 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEADOWS CELEBRATION *A BLAST IN THE MOONLIGHT*

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meadows Celebration is set for **Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendars. It's sure to be an afternoon of family fun and a night of entertainment and fireworks at Granger Meadows Park. Look inside this Newsletter for an event flyer listing all the exciting activities. The date is right around the corner; hope to see you there. Check out our blog:

[www.meadowscelebration.blogspot.com](http://www.meadowscelebration.blogspot.com). This event is funded, in part, by sponsorship donations. We would like to thank Granger and the other companies' donations that make this event possible. If you or your business would like to make a donation, please let us know.



Volunteers are still needed. If you would like to come join the fun and help out, contact Linda Parkinson at 669-6576.

## SEWER LATE FEES AND PENALTIES

The Township often gets inquiries about how delinquent a sewer account can go before service to a home is shut off, and whether or not the Township will set up a payment plan. The quick answers are – the Township does not shut off service to a home for lack of payment; and yes, a payment plan can be established. Payments are always accepted toward a delinquent sewer account, whether at a traditional due date, or alternate date of the homeowner's choice. Sewer is billed quarterly; however, homeowners may choose to make monthly payments. Late fees (10% of the current billed amount) are assessed after the due date of each quarterly statement.

If an account becomes overly delinquent, instead of turning off service, the Township assesses the account balance to the winter tax bill. On September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, accounts that have balances remaining from the March 15<sup>th</sup> billing, or earlier, will have those balances removed from the sewer account and assessed to the tax roll. That amount will then appear on the Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> tax statement. **NEW THIS YEAR** - sewer accounts that are turned over to the tax roll will be charged an additional fee of \$10.

If you would like help in calculating a payment plan that can bring your account up-to-date to avoid having your sewer balances due on your tax statement, please call the Treasurer's Office at 668-1411 to discuss available options.

## 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 517-482-5117. You may register for programs in person at the DARA office (16101 Brook Road, Lansing), the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) or DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt). Registration forms and program descriptions are also available on DARA's website, [www.dewittrecreation.org](http://www.dewittrecreation.org). You may also find DARA on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation>.

Program Name	Dates	Time	Registration	Age	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Summer Fun Club	6/14-8/27 spots may be available	7:30 am-5:30 pm	Began 4/16 call for availability	5-12	\$95/\$100
Youth Golf @ Hawk Hollow	7/13-8/12	6:00-7:00 pm or 7:00-8:00 pm	Begins 5/28	8-15	\$50
Drop Your Kids Off	7/23, 9/24, 10/22, 11/19	6:00-11:00 pm	Begins 6/4, 8/6, 9/3, 10/1	4-12	\$15/child or \$10/each additional
Fall - Adult Softball Men's Co-Ed	8/16-9/20 8/15-9/19	Monday Evenings Sunday Afternoons	Begins 6/25	18+	\$200/team \$5 res/\$10 non-res player fees + umpires
Fall Tennis	9/13-10/11	Scheduled by participants	7/30-8/20	18+	\$8/\$13-singles \$15/doubles team
Fall Flag Football	9/11-10/16	1:00-5:00 p.m.	7/30-8/20	Grades K-3	\$33/\$38
Fall Soccer	9/11-10/16	9:00 am-1:00 pm	7/30-8/20	4-6	\$33/\$38
Basketball University	9/23-10/14 10/21-11/11	5:45/6:45/7:45	8/6-9/16	Grades 1-2/3-4 5-7	\$35
Fall Floor Hockey Clinic-outdoors at Granger Meadows	9/28-10/19	5:45-6:45 pm & 6:45-7:45 pm	8/6-9/17	Grades K-2 & 3-5	\$20/\$25
Preschool Sports Starter	10/23-12/4 skip 11/27	9:30 am-Noon	9/3-10/1	3-5	\$33/\$38
Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt	10/25	6:00-7:30 pm	9/3-10/18	3-5	\$6/\$8
Girls Basketball- Grades 5 & 6	10/30-12/11 skip 11/27	9:00 am-Noon	9/3-10/8	Grades 5-6	\$33/\$38
Youth Basketball Grades 1 & 2	10/30-12/11 skip 11/27	9:00 am-1:00 pm	9/13-10/8	Grades 1-2	\$33/\$38
Youth Volleyball	11/10-12/15	5:30-8:30 pm	9/25-10/16	Grades 3-6	\$33/\$38
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Begins 9/8	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop In	18+	\$2

To register online, you must first call the DARA office to receive a username and password. Visit our website at [www.dewittrecreation.org](http://www.dewittrecreation.org), select the sports, special events or classes tab on the home page, select your program and complete the required information. DARA accepts Visa and MasterCard payments online. You may also print registration forms by clicking on the forms tab and mail them.

## ANNUAL STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENTS

In mid-August, many of our Township residents will receive a notice of a public hearing for a streetlight district and assessment. The letter is sent annually to give notice of the public hearing – the when, where, and why. However, even with this notice, residents can still be confused about what the streetlight assessment is all about and how it will affect their winter tax bill. By law, the Township must hold a public hearing on streetlight assessments in September. The purpose of the annual public hearing is to notify those residents who have streetlights in their neighborhoods of the estimated annual cost for the electricity used to operate the lights.

In DeWitt Township, developers generally pay for the installation of the poles and lights within a subdivision (usually done when the subdivision is developed). It is the responsibility of the residents of the subdivision to pay for the on-going electric costs, which show up on the winter tax bill as a “streetlight assessment.” A separate “streetlight district” is established for each specific subdivision or neighborhood.

What determines the amount billed on my taxes for streetlights? The cost is an estimation based upon rates provided to us by the electric company involved.

Why does the cost for streetlights vary from one subdivision to another? Costs for streetlights vary based upon: ►The provider – Consumers Energy or Board of Water & Light (i.e. rates vary between the two providers) ►The type of bulb installed (i.e. mercury vapor or high pressure sodium) ►The strength of bulb (i.e. 7500 lumens or 8500 lumens) ►The number of lights within the streetlight district ►The number of parcels or lots within the district.

The total district cost (which is the estimated cost per pole times the total number of poles) is spread equally over each parcel within the district. It is this cost that is billed on the winter tax bill.

### REMEMBER, YOUR DOG ISN'T JUST MAKING A MESS ON THE LAWN...



When our little friends leave those little surprises, rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. This waste then pollutes our waterways. It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It is also a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in a river, lake, or stream, the bacteria ends up degrading water quality. People who come in contact with the water can get very sick. Unless people take care of it, the waste enters our water with no treatment.

**How Can Picking Up After Your Pet Help Keep Our Environment Clean?** You can help keep our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater clean by applying the following tips. ●**Bring A Bag.** Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them. Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently. ●**Clean It Up.** Pick up after your pets before watering your yard or cleaning patios and driveways. Never hose pet waste into the street or gutter. ●**Dispose of the Waste.** Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard but keep it away from vegetable gardens!

In recent years sources of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like residential car washing, cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms, lawns, and gardens, pet waste and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too, and that adds up to a pollution solution!

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

## 2010 ELECTION INFORMATION

Election Dates: Primary Election August 3, 2010 General Election November 2, 2010  
Registration Deadlines: Last day to register to vote for the November election is October 4, 2010.

**Offices to be Elected in 2010:** Governor/Lt. Governor; Secretary of State; Attorney General; U.S. Representative in Congress (all 15 districts); State Senator (all 38 districts); State Representative (all 110 districts); State Board of Education (2 seats); University of Michigan Regents (2 seats); Michigan State University Trustees (2 seats); Wayne State University Governors (2 seats); Justice of the Supreme Court; Judge of the Court of Appeals; Judge of the Circuit Court; Judge of the District Court; Judge of Probate; Specified County, City, Township and Village Offices

**Political Parties:** Primary Election Ballot-Republican Party and Democratic Party  
General Election Ballot- Republican Party, Democratic Party, Libertarian Party, Natural Law Party, U.S. Taxpayers Party, Green Party

**Ballot Questions:** Primary Election – DeWitt Township Police and Fire Millage Renewal Proposal, DeWitt District Library Millage Renewal Proposal  
General Election – To be determined, several State Proposals have been approved for the November ballot

### Primary Election – Partisan Offices on the Ballot for DeWitt Township Voters in August:

State Office - Governor  
State Senator/33<sup>rd</sup> District  
State Representative/93<sup>rd</sup> District  
Federal Office - Representative in Congress/8<sup>th</sup> District  
Clinton County Commissioners-Districts No. 5 and No. 6  
Precinct Delegates

**New this year:** Some new provisions are in place to assist military and overseas voters. Contact the Clerk's Office if you have a friend or family member who might need assistance. Also, the Township will be utilizing computers in all precincts in August. These computers are being paid for with Federal Grant Funds through the Help America Vote Act.

### DeWitt Township Precincts and Polling Locations

Precincts 1 & 2	Herbison Woods School (access from Schavey or Herbison Roads)
Precincts 3 & 4	Herbison Road Fire Station, 1445 W. Herbison Road next to Twp Hall
Precincts 5, 6, & 7	DeWitt Township Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing

As always, please call the Clerk's Office at 668-0270 if we can assist you with any voting question or procedure.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

July 1	Summer Taxes Mailed
July 16	Meadows Celebration
August 3	Election Day
September 14	Summer Taxes Due
September 25	Clean Community Event
November 2	Election Day

## COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

The Assessing Department staff has begun conducting on-site property inspections for Commercial and Industrial classed properties located in DeWitt Township. These inspections are being done as required by the State of Michigan Department of Treasury to maintain accurate property record information. During the visit, the Appraiser will verify the exterior measurements and property features, as well as take a new digital photo of the building(s). Most inspections and re-measuring should take less than 15 minutes. The last Commercial and Industrial property reviews were done in 1990.

If you are a corporate business that has a local branch or business site in DeWitt Township which does not receive local mail, it will help us if you will notify the local branch of business of our planned site visit.

We plan to have all site visits completed by the end of September. The Assessing Department staff will have pictured identification with them at all times. Please call the Assessing Department at 669-6494 if you have any questions. You may also e-mail the Assessor at [ltafelsky@dewittwp.org](mailto:ltafelsky@dewittwp.org).

## DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY FACTS

On August 3, 2010, the DeWitt District Library (DDL) Board of Trustees will ask voters to renew the existing .5 (1/2) mill library levy to fund library operations for four years. The millage **renewal** will be used to continue providing library services to residents of the DeWitt Library District. **This millage is not a new tax or a tax increase.** This millage **renewal** continues the same level of taxation that property owners have been paying for the Library for the last 12 years. Questions about the millage? Contact Jennifer Balcom, DeWitt District Library Director at (517) 669-3156 or [jbalcom@dewittlibrary.org](mailto:jbalcom@dewittlibrary.org).

- More than 250,000 items are checked out from the DeWitt District Library each year
- Circulation has increased by 50% in the last 12 years while the Library millage rate has remained the same
- On average, 7,000 people visit the DeWitt District Library each month
- The Library offered 500 programs last year to 7,000 program attendees
- Library computers have been used by the public more than 12,000 times in the last 12 months
- In 2009, 1,000 children and teens participated in the Summer Reading program

## ART IN THE PARK EVENT

The DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its first annual **Art in the Park** event to be held on Sunday, July 11, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Riverside Park in downtown DeWitt. The Chamber is eager to compliment the DeWitt Garden Walk with an equally awesome art fair which will showcase the works of creative artisans. A visit to the Art Fair is free. To participate as an artist, a single 10'x12' space is \$15 and a 20'x12' space is \$25. Concessions and bathrooms will be available on-site all day. For additional information, contact Loretta Spinrad at 517-668-3635.

## MIDSUMMER BLOOMS GARDEN WALK

The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club will host the second annual **Midsummer Blooms Garden Walk** on Sunday, July 11, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., rain or shine. See six lovely private gardens: a country/cottage garden, country garden, cascading waterfall & pond garden, woodland garden, alpine/shade garden, and a manicured woodland garden on Lake Geneva featuring a unique creation by glass artist Craig Mitchell Smith. Enjoy artists and musicians. Walk the sample labyrinth. Proceeds from the event will help to build a community labyrinth near the Healing Garden in the City of DeWitt Cemetery. Advance tickets are \$6, or \$8 the day of the event and are available in DeWitt at DeWitt Pharmacy, Enchanting Farms Garden Center, Hammond Farms Landscape Supply, Sandywood Gardens, Twiggies, or call Linda at 517-669-1628 or Diane at 517-371-2589. Tickets are also available the day of the event at Riverside Park.

## NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Are you interested in having a walkable community? Do you wish to have more biking or walking trails? Would you like to see our sidewalk system extended? The Township would like to set up a committee to help develop a non-motorized transportation plan that would connect our parks, schools, neighborhoods and shopping areas. We need your help. If you are interested in any of these areas, please join our committee. Download a committee and commission application form from the Township's web site (found under the documents & forms tab).

## NEWS BITES

**THANK YOU** – to Cadgewith Farms and King Arthur's Court for their contributions towards the installation of an early warning siren located at 16050 Wood Road (the eastern edge of Granger Meadows Park).

**LEGAL PUBLICATIONS** - DeWitt Township utilizes the DeWitt Bath Review and the Lansing Community News for legal publications. Also, the Township's website [www.dewitttownship.org](http://www.dewitttownship.org) is a good source for information about public hearings, zoning issues, and general information when we are required by law to keep the public informed.

**COMMUNICATION LIST** - The Township has compiled a list of email addresses of residents who want to receive email blasts on important or time sensitive issues, like crime alerts, road closures, etc. If you want to have your email address added to this list, please call Laurie at the Township Hall.

**RECYCLE** – You can drop off old household batteries, glasses & hearing aids, cell phones & chargers, and mercury thermometers at the Township Hall for recycling. Athletic shoes are no longer accepted.

**DO 1 THING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** - (choose one thing to do this month) visit [www.do1thing.com](http://www.do1thing.com).  
●Designate an "outside the area" contact and make sure all family members have the number. ●Program ICE (In Case of Emergency) numbers into all family cell phones. ●Have an old-fashioned phone (not cordless) standing by in case of power failure. ●Have a car charger for your cell phone for extended power outages. ●Designate an evacuation reunion site and make sure family members know where it is.

**FOLLOW US** – As a result of our recent communication meetings, we have already implemented one new enhancement. Along with Twitter, our web page and newsletter, we have added a **Facebook** page as an additional communication tool. If you are using Facebook, visit us at [www.facebook.com/dewitttownship](http://www.facebook.com/dewitttownship). The Township posts information such as community events, up-to-date public safety information and planning notices.

**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/public\\_education.html](http://www.mywatersheds.org/public_education.html).

**OUTDOOR FACILITY RENTALS** – If you would like to rent a park picnic pavilion, softball field, inline skating rink, or soccer field, call the Treasurer’s Office at 517-668-1411. **INDOOR FACILITY RENTALS** - (Community Center gym or activity room) are handled through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority at 517-482-5117.

**DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY SATELLITE at the Township Community Center** on Brook Road is open during the following hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 2-5, and Saturday 10-2.

**REDEEMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DEWITT’S FOOD BANK** - you can now drop off non-perishables any time of the year at the DeWitt Township Hall. A box is located in the Police Department’s lobby. The lobby is open 24 hours.

## **SOUTH CENTRAL AREA PLAN UPDATE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY INITIATIVE**

In April 2009, the DeWitt Charter Township South Central Area Plan, a sub-plan of the DeWitt Charter Township Comprehensive Plan, was adopted by the Planning Commission and endorsed by the Township Board of Trustees. In that document, strategies for the future of our southern tier were presented which relied on a few implementation programs in order to create the environment envisioned by our residents, business owners and local elected officials. One of the first priorities in this process identified was a “Reorganization (Rethinking) of Old 27” focusing on the neighborhoods as the foundation for area wide redevelopment and US 127 BR (Old 27) becoming the connection between the neighborhoods and less of a traditional regional arterial. Reorganized in this fashion, the US 127 BR (Old 27) Corridor would be considered the focal point or commercial core with a defined commercial district and attached neighborhoods serving as the *gateway* into the Township.

One of the first strategies implemented was the Commercial Rehabilitation Tax Abatement Policy, which was established in October of 2008 and later expanded in November of 2009. Now in 2010, there is another strategy that the Township is looking to establish known as the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA), Public Act 280 of 2005 as amended, which is designed to assist communities with funding public improvements in commercial corridors outside of their main commercial or downtown areas, such as along US 127 BR (Old 27) from Sheridan Road to Northcrest Road. The enhancement and redevelopment of the US 127 BR (Old 27) Corridor could potentially include improvements such as structural parking lot screening, streetscape, pedestrian improvements, corridor lighting, corridor signage and graphics, and other public infrastructure.

So, before we proceed any further, here are a few things you should know about CIAs:

### **What is the purpose of a CIA?**

The Act is a tax increment financing (TIF) tool to promote economic development. A CIA is designed to assist economic development and redevelopment in established commercial districts. It allows communities to combine tax dollars from a variety of sources to leverage economic development dollars.

### **How does a CIA work?**

The provisions of the CIA generally mirror those of the Downtown Development Authority Act, Public Act 197 of 1975. The Authority would be created and operated in a similar manner to a Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Once created, corridor improvements may include improvements to the land, as well as constructing, rehabilitating, preserving, equipping or maintaining buildings within an

established "development district" for public or private use. These improvements would be financed through the capturing of property taxes. The capture of these taxes would be for a predetermined period to be decided by the CIA and subsequently the Board of Trustees.

### **What are the Next Steps?**

- 1) Continued education and communication with Township residents/businesses within the proposed CIA District (through the mailing of this Newsletter).
- 2) Encourage Township residents/businesses within the proposed CIA District to contact the Township with comments or questions (as a result of receiving this Newsletter).
- 3) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to create a CIA and establish the date for public hearing (held on June 14, 2010).
- 4) Hold a public hearing during a Township Board Meeting (to be held on July 26, 2010).
- 5) The Township Board would take final action on the creation of a CIA (tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2010).

In summary, the establishment of a CIA would be a continued step forward in achieving the goals of the South Central Area Plan. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Trent, Community Development Director, at 517-669-6576 in the Planning Department.

## **WHO IS DRIVING THE DECISIONS ON LOCAL ROAD PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE?**

As you're taking a leisurely drive on a lovely summer day in Michigan, you may have experienced a rough patch of road or questioned why the speed limit is the rate it is for that particular stretch of road. Although the road may be located within a township, did you know that the township does not have authority over that road?

Many residents do not realize that local roads, including construction and maintenance of these roads, are under the jurisdiction of the county where the road is located. Since the 1930s, townships have had little road authority, and they receive no transportation funding (Public Act 51 of 1951). However, over 95% of townships in Michigan *do* contribute money to the road commission in the county in which their township is situated. In fact, it is common for counties to strongly urge townships to contribute to roads at a high level of matching funds.

About 10 years ago, many counties requested a 50-50 match from townships for construction, repair and maintenance of local roads. Due to changes in funding over the last decade, it is now common for counties to ask townships to pick up 75% of the cost in order to receive a 25% funding match from the county. In some cases, counties require that 100% of the cost of the project be funded by the Township. During the past year, DeWitt Township has spent \$114,999 on roads and matching funds with the Clinton County Road Commission.

Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has provided significant funding for roads, that money is primarily being spent on federal highways and roads under state jurisdiction, rather than local roads. Meanwhile, transportation funding at the state level has not increased, and there has been a sharp decrease in state shared revenue to local units of government. The result? Local roads are being shortchanged.

While funding of roads at the local level is likely to be an ongoing issue for Michigan for some time to come, it is important for residents to be aware of the Township's limited role in road projects and maintenance. Issues related to local roads are best addressed by the county road commission, which has both the authority and responsibility to handle these matters. For more information, contact the Clinton County Road Commission at 989-224-3274.

## CLINTON COUNTY TO OFFER SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management is proud to partner with key agencies and individuals to offer unique summer environmental education programs at low or no cost. Programs focus on connecting participants to the local natural environment in ways that promote caring on a personal level. We call this creating "A Sense of Place" where participants interact with nature in ways that actually motivate sustainable and conservation-minded behavior choices. Programs are held at Sleepy Hollow State Park. To register for a program or for more information, contact Environmental Educator Kathleen Donahue at 989-224-5177 or [donahuek@clinton-county.org](mailto:donahuek@clinton-county.org).

All programs are one day in length. Participants must be registered for a program at least one week in advance. Any fees need to be sent in with the registration via check made payable to Clinton County. Cancellations with full refunds are available up to the registration deadline. Field trip programs have minimum enrollment requirements. Bus fares may apply. A registration form for each program is required.

There are two ways to travel to Sleepy Hollow State Park. Families that use their own vehicles will need to purchase either an Annual State Park Motor Vehicle Permit (\$24) or a day use motor vehicle permit for \$6 to enter the Park. Families or kids can also ride the Clinton Transit "Blue Bus." The bus will pick up and drop off program participants for a special fare of \$.50/passenger for each one-way ride from a central location in Bath, St. Johns or DeWitt. There are no additional park fees for people that ride the bus.

### **Junior Ranger Program – (Ages 7 to 14)**

Mondays 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. July 12, 19, 26, August 9, 16, 23 (Pick a day)

The Junior Ranger Program is an in depth look at the water cycle and effects of pollution on our Michigan water resources, the plants and animals that live in our local environment, forensics and how wildlife crimes are investigated and environmental careers.

### **Family & Friends Nature Club – (All Ages)**

Morning Programs 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on July 29, August 4, 11, 18 (Pick a day)

Afternoon Programs 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. on July 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 29, 30, August 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20

This program is a nature club for families interested in connecting children with nature, and all county residents interested in sharing outdoor adventures and experiencing the benefits of being outside.

### **Field Trip: A Day at Hazel Ridge Farm – (Ages 7 to 14)**

10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on July 8, 28 or August 5 Fee: \$10 + bus fare (\$.50 each way)

Spend the day with Gijsbert (Nick) van Frakenhuyzen (artist, muralist, naturalist, and teacher) and Robbyn Smith-van Frakenhuyzen (author, wildlife rehabilitator, and storyteller) at their home at Hazel Ridge Farm.

### **Field Trip: Wildlife Rehabilitation – (Ages 7 to 14)**

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on July 7 or 22

Fee: \$10 (Transportation arrangements provided with registration confirmation)

Experience firsthand the challenges of wildlife rehabilitation at the Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center in Eaton Rapids. Learn how you can help local wildlife through habitat restoration and taking part in citizen projects like Feeder Watch, Frog surveys and Monarch Watch.

### **Field Trip: The Raptors: Birds of Prey – (Ages 7 to 14)**

Thursday, August 19 (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center

Fee: \$10 (Transportation arrangements provided with registration confirmation)

Explore the world of raptors – the birds of prey. Participants will visit the Wildside Rehabilitation and Education Center in Eaton Rapids and discover the differences between owls, falcons, hawks, and other raptors.

## *TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER*

### **CLEAN COMMUNITY EVENT SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 IN DEWITT TOWNSHIP**

Clinton County proudly offers special collection events twice a year to assist residents to manage problem waste materials. Clean Community Events provide residents with unique services and “one-stop shopping” to manage just about any unwanted household item. To attend the event planned for September 25<sup>th</sup> in DeWitt Township, please make an appointment by September 10<sup>th</sup> by calling 989-224-5186 or e-mailing [conserve@clinton-county.org](mailto:conserve@clinton-county.org).

Items accepted include household hazardous waste, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil and antifreeze, unwanted and expired medications, electronic waste such as televisions and computers, bulky waste or junk items, scrap metal, appliances, tires, yard waste, clothing, textiles and reusable household items and building equipment for donation. Fees apply.

Clean Community Event services continue to grow each year both in the number of residents served and the amount of material collected. A great deal of collaboration is required, and the success of the events is in large part due to the excellent contributions made by local agencies, event contractors, site hosts and volunteers. For more information, visit at [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org).

**THANK YOU** – to Northpointe Community Church for planting flowers at the Township’s Community Center and Valley Farms Park.

