

July, 2015

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
Johanna Balzer
Steve Musselman
Brian Ross
David Seeger

Manager
Rodney H. Taylor

www.dewitttownship.org

DEWITT TOWNSHIP POLICE/FIRE CITIZEN ACADEMY

Do you have an interest or curiosity as to what the police and fire service is all about? Then the Police/Fire Citizen Academy is for you. Applications for the fall academy can be found on the Township's web site at www.dewitttownship.org. Apply soon as the academy is limited to ten participants. You must be a DeWitt Township resident to apply.

The academy is eight weeks long, meets one day a week, and covers many subjects. Here is a list of topics covered in the last academy:

- history of the departments
- fire prevention and how codes affect our lives
- fire extinguishers with live fires
- crime scene investigation
- traffic control and hands on vehicle extrication
- accident investigation and traffic stops
- fire suppression using a live fire mobile training unit
- 911 dispatch
- communications

Past participants appreciated the hands on experience of going through the academy and agreed that every citizen should take the academy class. The academy provided them with a better understanding of what it takes to become a police officer or firefighter and what their job entails.

Sign up for the fall academy now. Enrollment for the spring academy will open in January 2016.



Participants of the 2015 Spring Police/Fire Academy

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	Dates	Time	Registration	Age/ Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Summer Fun Club & Double Digit Day Camp	6/9-9/4 spots may be available	7:30 am-5:30 pm	call for availability	5-9 10-14	\$105/\$120
Mid-Michigan Family Theatre Drama Camp	8/24-8/28	8:00 am-2:00 pm	6/6-8/17	8-16	\$120
Youth Golf @ Hawk Hollow	7/7-8/5 Tues or Wed	6:00-7:00 pm or 7:00-8:00 pm	Begins 6/1	8-15	\$50
Adult Flag Football	7/18-8/22 Sundays	10:00 am -1:00 pm	Begins 6/17	18+	\$200/team +\$20 ref fee/game \$5 res/\$20 non-res player fees
Fall - Adult Softball Men's Co-Ed	8/9-9/20 8/10-9/21	Sunday - Co-Ed Monday – Men's	Begins 6/22	18+	\$200/team \$5 res/\$20 non-res player fees + umpires
Flag Football Leagues	9/12-10/17	1:00-5:00 pm game times vary	6/1-8/17	Grades K-5	\$34/\$49
Cheer Program (Flag Football Sideline Cheer)	9/12-10/17	1:00-5:00 pm game times vary	6/1-8/17	Grades K-5	\$34/\$49
Preschool Play	Beginning 9/16 Wed	10:00 am-Noon	Pay each day	1-5	\$2
Preschool Science	10/8-10/29	9:15 am-10:00 am	9/4-10/2	2-5	\$25/\$40
Fun Appetit	11/5-12/3	9:15 am-10:00 am	10/6-10/25	2-5	\$25/\$40
Haunted Halloween Trip	10/23	7:00 pm-12:00 am	9/4-10/19	Grades 6-8	\$40 covers bussing and admissions
Fall Soccer Leagues	9/12-10/17	9:00 am-1:00 pm	6/1-8/17	PK-6	\$34/\$49 \$40/\$55
Basketball University	10/8-10/29	5:45/6:45/7:45 pm	8/1-10/5	Grades 1-7	\$35
Preschool Sports Starter	10/24-12/5	9:30 am-Noon	9/4-10/2	3-5	\$34/\$49
Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt	10/20	6:00-7:30 pm	9/4-10/14	3-10	\$5/\$10
Youth Basketball Leagues	10/24-12/12 skip 11/28	Times vary depending on teams	9/4-10/2	Grades 3-6	\$50/\$65
Youth Basketball Leagues	10/24-12/5 skip 11/28	Times vary depending on teams	9/4-10/2	Grades 1-2	\$34/\$49
Youth Volleyball	11/10-12/15	5:30-8:30 pm	9/4-10/16	Grades 3-6	\$34/\$49
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Begins 9/8	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop In	18+	\$2

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. DARA accepts Visa and MasterCard payments for online registrations. You may also print a registration form by clicking on the newsletter link from the home page and then mail it with payment to 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. Registration forms can be dropped off at the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.) and DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street) as well. Call the DARA office at 517-482-5117 if you have any questions. Follow DARA on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation> to receive the most up to date information.

REGULATING PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS

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, always ask to see his 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 911 to report this activity. Never let a stranger into your home, and always report suspicious activity to the police by calling 911. Children fundraising, political activity, and religious affiliation door-to-door activities are exempt from the Township's Ordinance requirements.

RADAR SPEED DISPLAY SIGN

Last year, DeWitt Township replaced our larger trailer based speed display (radar) sign with a new small sign that is made to mount on an existing road sign. Because this new sign is lightweight, easy to use, and very portable, it makes it much easier for the Police Department to utilize this sign out in our community on a regular basis.

Most traffic problems and accidents in DeWitt Township happen between 6 am-9 am, and 4 pm-7pm, Monday through Friday.

If you feel you have a traffic speed problem on your street, please contact Chief Brian Russell or department assistant Regina Mixon at 517-669-6578. Please keep in mind that the sign does have some limitations on where it can be placed and may not work for every street or area of concern.



ON-LINE PROPERTY INFORMATION

On-line property information is available 24/7 through the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org. Residents are able to access basic property, tax, and utility billing information and history. Property record information includes assessed and taxable values, principal residence exemption status, and basic building and land information, including land and building sketches. Information can be found by searching by address, name, or parcel number. To access the property information from the Township's website, on the home page, click on the "Access My Gov" link on the right hand side of the page. Besides assessing, tax and utility billing information, you can also view the Municipal Performance Dashboard which provides a summary of the Township's Fiscal Stability, Economic Strength, Public Safety and Quality of Life information.

A FAMILIAR FACE WITH A NEW TITLE LAURIE KULHANEK, DEPUTY CLERK



With the recent retirement of Judy Martiny, the position of Deputy Clerk needed to be filled. Laurie Kulhanek, a 16 year employee of the Township, was selected and has been sworn in as the new Deputy Clerk. During her employment, Laurie has worked in the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Manager's offices. She has also worked elections during her tenure, and is currently our Electronic Poll Book Specialist, programming and setting up computers to operate in the precincts on Election Day.

Laurie is a resident of the City of DeWitt, where she resides with her husband, Matt. Together, they have three children. Laurie says: "I have enjoyed my 16 years at DeWitt Township, and I look forward to taking on new responsibilities as I continue to serve the residents of the DeWitt area."

COMMITTEE & COMMISSION MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bruce Keilen, Planning Commission



In the mid-80s, Bruce Keilen was recruited to serve on the Township's Salary Compensation Commission. The Commission was, and still is, responsible for establishing salaries for Township elected officials. Then, in the early 90s, Bruce agreed to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission and he continues to serve on the Planning Commission today. The DeWitt Charter Township Planning Commission advises and makes recommendations to the Board regarding planning and zoning issues. One of the most important responsibilities of the Planning Commission is the development and periodic revision of the Township's Comprehensive Development Plan which reflects the Township's goals

for the physical development of the Township.

Bruce has been a valuable asset to the residents of DeWitt Township over the past 30 years. He understands the importance of helping our community grow and develop, and wants to be an integral part of this community's current and future plans for success. One can imagine, and some even remember, what our community looked like 25 or 30 years ago, compared to today. That comparison leads to an understanding of the many important issues in which Bruce has been involved.

Bruce has worked with many Township Planners, and says that their professionalism has always aided the Commission in doing their work. He remembers, with some personal satisfaction, the process of working with a developer who purchased over 300 acres within the Township, a process that resulted in the creation of a new zoning classification, titled the Planned Office Development District (POD). He remembers the process of working with staff, the developer, the Board, and the Planning Commission, as productive and successful with an end result that was a benefit to those who live and work here. Those experiences, coupled with the many great people he has met during his service, have provided the incentive to continue to serve. He notes that the processes themselves have become less cumbersome over the years and easier for the developers, business owners, and Planning Commissioners.

Bruce has lived in DeWitt Township for his entire life and has been married to his wife Ann for 41 years. They have three adult sons and five grandchildren. Bruce says that he never imagined, when he was appointed to the Planning Commission, that he would still be there 25 years later. And we should all be glad he is.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Below are a number of new businesses and developments that are in progress for 2015.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Stage</u>
1100 E. Herbison Rd	Taco Bell	Site Plan Approval
3505 W. Clark Road	Quarry Apartments Phase I (76 units)	Open
3505 W. Clark Road	Quarry Apartments Phase II (190 units)	Site Plan Approval
13020 S. US 27	Walgreens	Site Plan Review
1031 Northcrest Road	Boynton Fire Safety Service Addition	Construction
1120 Commerce Park Dr.	Veterinary/Pet Grooming facility	SUP Approval
13191 Schavey Road	Diversified Insurance Group	Open
1161 E. Clark Road	Victory Apostolic Church	Open
13109 Schavey Road	Jackson Insurance Services	Open
15990 S. US 27	Linman Auction House	Open
1161 E. Clark Road	Capital Area Tactical, LLC	Open
1161 E. Clark Road	Michigan Asset Group, LLC	Open

GUNNISONVILLE COMMUNITY DAYS – AUGUST 29th and 30th

From Gunnisonville Historical Community Preservation



HISTORICAL COMMUNITY
PRESERVATION

The **Gunnisonville Historical Community Preservation (GHCP)** has planned a special weekend to celebrate the community of Gunnisonville, located at the corner of Wood and Clark Roads in DeWitt Township.

On Saturday, August 29th, the group is sponsoring a Sock Hop to take place from 7 pm to 10 pm at **Gunnisonville Meadows Assisted Living** (previously Gunnisonville Elementary School). Get out your poodle skirts and saddle shoes for an evening full of music from the 1950s and 1960s! Music provided by Whit's End. Light snacks will be available. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$15 per couple, and \$20 per family. Childcare will be available for children over 3 years of age. Special guests, Gunnisonville Meadows residents and Gunnisonville alumni will join us!

On Sunday, August 30, GHCP and **Gunnisonville United Methodist Church** will sponsor all day activities:

- a horseshoe pit for adults
- cookie walks
- children's games
- old cars and farm machinery
- spinning demonstrations by Diane Labut
- quilts on display at the church
- one-room schoolhouse will be open throughout the day
- a picnic luncheon with food available for purchase from Robin Hill Catering
- the Clinton County SOT (special operations team)
- two guided cemetery walks
- bingo in the Church
- music will be provided throughout the day with Doug Berch on the dulcimer and the Pretty Shaky String Band
- square dancing for all ages in the Gunnisonville Church parking lot



Parking for the Sunday event will be at Gunnisonville Meadows Senior Assisted Living (previously the Gunnisonville Elementary School) with free shuttle service. If you have any questions, email questions@clarkwoodconnect.com or see Gunnisonville Historical Community Preservation on Facebook.

DO I NEED A SIGN PERMIT? PERMITS AND WHEN THEY ARE REQUIRED

DeWitt Township regulates signage under the Township's Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of regulating signs is to protect health, safety, and welfare by establishing reasonable standards for the design, placement, size, and maintenance of all exterior signs and sign structures.

Sign permits are required any time a sign or sign structure is erected, replaced, structurally altered, enlarged, illuminated, changed, or relocated. There are some exceptions: no hunting or trespassing

signs, signs located in the interior of buildings, temporary political signs, community oriented events, historical markers, and agricultural seed/fertilizer advertising signs on farms.

The Township also permits temporary on-premises signs (signs for use over a limited period of time) without a permit for the following type of activities provided certain conditions are met: residential garage sales, for sale signs, building construction signs, and temporary political signs.

Temporary commercial, office and industrial (including portable signs) are allowed for a maximum of 30 days. However, the business is required to complete a permit application. These signs would include banners, posters, flags, signs, streamers, etc. that are not permanent structures.

Generally, with some exceptions, the Township does not allow off premises (on property that is not yours) signage. Signs that are placed within the road right-of-way are **not permitted** and will be removed by the Township.

If you are thinking about putting up a sign, please contact the Planning Department at 517-669-6576 to ensure that your signage complies with the Township's requirements. The Zoning Ordinance, which regulates signs, is also located on the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org. A link is provided on the right hand side of the home page.

DEWITT TOWNSHIP IS RECRUITING ELECTION WORKERS

Have you ever given any thought to working in the precincts on Election Day? Currently, it appears that there will be four elections in DeWitt Township in 2016. That means we have a need for additional election help. Please contact the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270 and we can answer your questions and provide you an application to complete, which is required in the State of Michigan. Both part-time and full-time shifts are available; and, we can often work around any special needs you might have.



From Tom Bailey, an election worker who has done various Election Day assignments for many years: "The process has been simplified over the years, with education and technology, which makes the job easier and the process more efficient. Working elections has been a pleasurable experience for me because I enjoy seeing friends and meeting people."

From Mary Bowers, an Election Chairperson who has been a valuable asset to our election process for many, many years: "It has been fun seeing friends and making new friends, all while serving my community."

From Al & Billie Gladstone, who have worked as a team on Election Day processing Absentee Ballots and working at the information table: "There is no better way to serve your community, get to do a fun job, see old friends, meet new friends, and then get a paycheck! We have always felt appreciated. We enjoy helping people and it is also something we can do together. "

REBUILDING TOGETHER

For the fifth year in a row on the last Saturday in April, the Township has had the privilege to be part of a national effort to help preserve and revitalize communities across the country through an organization called Rebuilding Together. Through volunteers and individual and corporate donations, the organization provides free home modifications and repairs to low-income elderly and low-income disabled



homeowners. This year, four homeowners in DeWitt Township were selected by Rebuilding Together to receive assistance. Modifications and repairs ranged from faucet replacement and general maintenance to deck repairs and walk-in shower installations. All the work was completed by community volunteers including Township staff.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer or be considered for this program scheduled to be held on April 30, 2016, please call Nicole in the Township's Building Department at 517-668-0278. Applications are accepted year round; however, house selections will be determined in March of 2016.

DOG PARK - COMMUNITY INPUT

Dog parks are becoming more and more common across the country. These community based parks are a great place for members of the community to spend quality time with their canine companions and meet others that share their love of dogs. Unfortunately, the DeWitt area currently lacks such a place designated specifically for dogs. A few community members have taken up an interest in pursuing the possibility of establishing a dog park in the DeWitt area. These community members have had preliminary discussions with Township and City officials regarding the possibility of developing a dog park.



Since the intention of the park is to be used by anyone who is interested, we are seeking other individuals to be part of a group to identify potential sites and features that would be needed to develop a dog park. If you are interested in becoming a member of this community dog park group, provide your contact information, by July 17, 2015, by posting to the group's Facebook page (Dog Park for DeWitt, MI) or directly contacting Sarah Spencley at peanutamelia@yahoo.com. Even if you are unable to volunteer to be part of this group, we welcome any input that you may have!

NEWS BITES

DOGS IN PARKS - Per Chapter 30-22, Section (V) of the Township's Codified Ordinances - Dogs and other household pets cannot be brought onto park property, unless it's posted otherwise. The only areas posted to allow dogs are Padgett Park and in the non-paved section of Granger Meadows Park (located on the south side of Granger Meadows Lane). Dogs must be on a leash of not more than six feet, be under control, and all feces must be immediately removed.

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.

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

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS - DeWitt Township utilizes the DeWitt-Bath Review for legal publications. Also, the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org, is a good source for information about public hearings, zoning issues, and general information when we are required by law to post legal notices.

FOLLOW US - www.dewitttownship.org, www.facebook.com/dewitttownship, <http://twitter.com/DeWittTownship>, <http://flickr.com/DeWittTownship>. Find Township agendas, minutes, community events, job openings, event photos, election information, ordinances, planning notices and much more.



TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

**CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES
"Where Development Begins" – 2015 Business Awards**



**Contributing to the Community Award
Peacock Road Family Farm**



**Benefiting the Community Award
Reed Insurance Agency**



**Community Excellence Award
DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Entrepreneurial Spirit Award
I.T. Right**



Not Pictured: Wacousta General Store & General's Smokehouse winner of the Food System Award